The next book we notice is also a republication by the same house: We allude to the Travels and Researches of Captain Loftus of the British Army in Chaldaea au Lusiana. Mr. Lofties has been engaged in his travels three or four years since 1850. Three or four times during that period has, he visited the ruins of Babylon and the Ancient Shushan spoken of in the books of Daniel and Esther. In this book also are embodied many of the results of investigations by himself and others in three or four other old cities on the Euphrates between Babylon and the Persian Gulf. Among these peculiar interest attaches to Warka, a buried city in which Mr. Lofties made extensive excavations. This place is undoubtedly one of the old cities belonging to Nimrod as mentioned in the tenth Chapter of Genesis. Babylon is Babel—not the tower, but city; Warka is Ereh; Accad and Calneh we may hope may yet be found in two other old cities in which excavations have been made or are yet to be made.

These discoveries are not so startling as those of Layard in Assyria, but they have already thrown important light on some portions of the Bible, and as the investigations proceed, doubtless we shall have still more. It seems as if God is thrusting proofs of his own Word upon the attention of all.

This work, as also another republication from the same house, "The Desert of Sinai by Bonar," besides giving us Bible light from Bible lands, is intensely interesting by reason of descriptions of the various countries and their inhabitants of the East, in particulars not so immediately connected with the Bible.

The last book of which we will speak is from the house of A. S. Barnes & Co of this city. "Logic, or an analysis of the lands of thought, by Rev. Asa Mahan." Mr. Mahan has made himself known as an able thinker by his religious and Metaephysical writing. His Intellectual Philosphy and Treatise on the Will, are every day gaiging upon public attention and will continue so to do. This work on Logic is, however, the work by which the author will be best known hereafter. There is no science more needing a courageous and able thinker as a reformer. Mr. Mahan in our opinion has fully proved himself competent to the work he has undertaken. While he greatly simplifies the whole subject, he quotes the student by easy steps to the profoundest parts of it.

March 17. The Steamer George Law yesterday brought from California over $1,000,000. No definite news from Walker.

Lord Napier was presented yesterday to the President. His instructions do not cover the amendments to the recent Nicaragua treaty, so it must be sent back for acceptation. As the amendments by the Senate are slight, we may hope the matter is now settled.

G.

Canada Correspondence.

The following letter from our Canada correspondent is the missing one, which we noticed last week. It came to hand after a sixteen days journey. We have omitted that portion refering to the Railroad disaster, the particulars being given last week.—Ed.

Lotteries—Religious Sanction—Political crisis in Nova Scotia—Romish influence—Canada Post office returns.

Montreal, March 14th, 1857.

Mr. Editor,—Perhaps your readers remember a law which came into operation last January, for the suppression of lotteries, passed at the last session, with very stringent provisions, and likely, if carried out, to completely overturn this mode of swindling. A member for Quebec, whose name I give that he may secure his share of fame, Mr. Evanturel has introduced a Bill to amend this act; and it would puzzle your readers to guess the nature of the amendment. Mr. E. proposes to exempt religious corporations from its operation. If this does not create a smile and an exclamation of surprise, your correspondent will throw his pen away in disgust. Lotteries are dealt with as immoral; the strong arm of the law comes in with a prohibitory measure to prevent crime; but the religious corporations—a very pretty phrase to designate the Romish priesthood—ask to be permitted to monopolize this vicious practise. It is well known that large sums are drawn from the pockets of the people by means of these lotteries, as they indulge a love of gambling, which if not inherent in the depraved human heart, is very easily developed; and make provision for its exercise under a religious plea. If this is not making provision for the flesh to fulfil the lusts thereof, it would be difficult to say what is; but to make such provision under the cloak of religion is infamous in the last degree. If this Bill passes, any measure introduced by the Romanist may anticipate success.

Perhaps I am too anti-Popish in my communications, but I cannot forbear noticing the chuckle of the Roman Catholic press over the change of ministry recently effected in Nova Scotia. A private letter from Halifax appears in yesterday's *True Witness*, giving the credit of this change to the Roman Catholic members, and holding them forth as worthy examples for *the faithful* in Canada. A ministry deriving its stability from such members is not to be envied, in your correspondent's opinion, whatever it may be in that of your Nova Scotia readers. We in Canada know something about Romanism, and its value.—We have learned, and are yet learning, the futility of conceding to superstitions and priest craft. Do not tread in our footsteps we pray you, as you prize freedom, morality and religion.

As the New Brunswick Post Master General occupies a considerable share of public notice in the Province whose postal arrangements he superintends, and by the way I wish he would give me some account of those letters I lost about New-Year's—perhaps I may give a few statistics connected with the Canadian Post-offices. In 1851 there were 601 offices in operation: in 1856, the number had increased to 1375. The average weekly transmission of letters in the former year was 41,000; in the latter, 15,474. The revenue for the las year was £114,4 2[illegible]; the disbursement £132,482. Since the introduction of the three-penny rate, ordinary letter postage has increased 122 per cent. The department bids fair to be self-sustaining at no distant date; and were it not for the burden of conveying gratuitously the entire correspondence of the government and parliament, it is probable that it would be self-sustaining at the present moment.

A. B.

Commercial School.

Mr. Editor,—I take the liberty to enclose you an essay, written by a pupil of the Commercial School, of the age of about sixteen years.

Since Mr. Millar left for England, two classes have been organized in composition.

This is a selection from among about thirty Essays which were written during this week's exercise, some of which were much more lengthy. But not wishing to trespass too far on your space, I send this as a fair specimen of what a youth may accomplish in a few months.

I do not send it for publication on account of its great excellence, but for the encouragement of the school, believing as I do that Teachers should hold out every inducement for the developement of intellect. This is a branch of education which has been hitherto too much neglected, and few Teachers, who have not made an effort, are aware what may be accomplished in this branch with comparatively little effort in a very short period.

This was written on the slate during the half hour allotted for the exercise, then copied into a book for Grammatical correction, and I may add that so far as correctness and style are concerned they are all his own.

If you give this a place in your columns you may again hear from us.

Your's, &c.,

E. C. Freeze,
Teacher in Commercial School.

March 26th, 1856.

AN ESSAY

On the Characteristics of a Good Boy.

The character of a good boy may be summed up in few words, he is obedient and respectful to his superiors, generous and obliging to his equals, kind affable and always ready to help or assist his inferiors, he is not proud and self-willed, but frank, open-hearted good tempered, mild, and unassuming, more willing to hear than to speak, always ready to assist as far as lies in his power any person in distress or difficulty. Ask his teacher and he will tell you that he is at once active, quiet, and persevering at his studies, friendly and civil with his fellows, obedient to the words of his teacher, and always in his place in proper time. Ask his employer and he will inform you that he is trusty and honest in doing business, steady, cheerful, and diligent at work, mindful of past favors, and forgetful of past injuries. A good boy is never found in bad company using bad language or doing mischief, while a bad boy is scarcely ever found in good company, but goes about with his wicked companions, swearing and profaning the holy name of Him who made all things; and who on Sunday instead of going to church loiters about the streets, or fields, playing at some foolish game, while the other is going to church, to Sunday school, or some other place of religious instruction, strving to learn more of that which pertains to his eternal welfare, rightly thinking that religion will serve him in time, by being his pilot through this stormy sea of life, and that when death comes it will have no terrors for him but only be the messenger sent to take him to that world of perfection where pain and sorrow cannot come.

R. A——s.

The Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., APRIL 3, 1857.

Duty of Christians towards the Ungodly.

There are numerous ways by which sincere and devout Christians may make themselves useful to the ungodly, and promote their eternal good. Admonition and example are means which may be successfully used by every believer, ho wever, humble or poor. And there is a power in these which but few men can long resist. They will at least acknowledge the truth and excellency of religion, even if they do not embrace it, and it will *restrain* them, if it does not *save* them. But among the means which may be employed to great advantage, and at the same time is greatly undervalued by many Christians, is the promotion and establishing of *public means of grace*—we allude particularly to the providing of proper places of worship and the maintenance of the faithful preaching of the gospel. It cannot be expected that men who are unreconciled to God will interest themselves to any great extent to provide for their own or others spiritual wants. Hence the duty of Christians to show a forwardness in this matter. How many communities there are without any regular means of grace, that will draw within its influence the impenitent and unconverted! How many churches that have forgotten,—or who never learned—that God will hold them accountable for the souls of the ungodly who dwell in their midst! It is the duty of every christian, and hence it follows of every church, to provide every means in his power to draw men to Christ And as the preaching of the gospel is God's appointed means for saving the world, it therefore is the duty of Christians not only to provide and sustain this means of grace—not merely for their own benefit—but for the benefit of the unconverted; and endeavour by their example and persuasions to draw them to it, to induce them constantly to attend to it, and to remind them often of what they have heard.

Many souls have been lost for the want of a little care on the part of professed christians to induce them to put themselves in the way of being saved. Neither is neglect the only fault. As men will never be benefitted by what they do not esteem, it is, therefore, important that both religious ordinances and the ministry should suffer no reproach. A word of contempt or an improper slur upon either in the ear of the ungodly by one who professes religion, may cut him off from religious influence forever, and be the means of the loss of his soul. We should beware how we speak lightly of any effort that may be made, or any means which may be adopted to draw souls from sin to holiness. We may not have the same view of all measures, but one thing is certain, the means which may be blessed to some, will not be to others—hence the necessity of different extra efforts, and the duty of the co-operation of all christians.

Lecture.—Mr. W. Wedderburn is to deliver a Lecture this evening in the Orange Hall, Portland, on—"The Bible in the common schools."

A BAZAAR

Will be held at North Head, Grand Manan in the month of July next, by the Ladies' Sewing Circle, for the purpose of raising funds to aid in the erection of a Free Baptist Meeting House, now building in said place. Any money, or suitable articles, for sale, (as donations,) will be thankfully received and acknowledged, if sent to the *Religious Intelligencer* Office—care of B. J. Underhill—who has kindly consented to forward all donations left with him for the above object. Notice will be given of the exact time when the Bazaar will be held.

Grand Manan, April 1, 1857.

We are glad to learn that the Church at Grandmanan is *determined* on building "a house for God." We have never visited that Island, but from the representations made to us, we believe it to be an interesting and promising field of labour. Brother Taylor visits there occasionaly and spends part of his time among them, but we think there is ample room for the entire labours of a brother who would be willing to go there, and we have no doubt but great good would be accomplished. Their zeal in the erection of a suitable place of worship is commendable, and will no doubt be owned of the Lord; it is also an important step toward obtaining a constant ministry, and we wish our brethren on the Island every success.—We cannot say that we always *approve* of all the ways which some good people adopt to raise funds for *religious* purposes. In the case at Grandmanan we do not know that a better plan could be adopted by the females to help forward the building of the house than by their industry preparing something for a public sale, and if any friends will aid them in their efforts, they will no doubt do a good work. We should like to see a number of good books sent as a donation, to be sold and the proceeds go the building fund. We think this would be doing a double good, first by distributing among the families who would purchase them, the means for moral and religious culture, and secondly by helping forever the house to the amount for which they were sold. Are there not brethren and friends in our churches who will help in this matter? We propose raising a sum not less than *Five Pounds*, to be expended in religious books, such as "Baxter's Saints Rest," "Pike's Persuasives to Early Piety," "Doddridge Rise and Progress," "Jay's Christians Contemplated," "James' Auxious Inquirer," and "Christian Progress," and other similar works, and forward them to the ladies at Grandmanan to be disposed off at their Bazaar. If any person will send us one, two or more dollars to aid in this effort we will acknowledge the donation in our columns, and see that the books are forwarded at the proper time. We should be glad to raise even more than this sum if the liberality of our friends would enable us to do so. We believe this to be a sound and healthy way of helping forward the building of the Lord's house."—Who will aid the struggling Church at Grandmanan?

News from our Churches.

Dover.

We learn with much pleasure that the labors of Brother G. A. Hartley continue to be blessed in the conversion of souls. Five persons were baptized by him at Dover on Friday last, and the church there, which through long neglect, had fallen into much decay is greatly revived, and a considerable number or additions have been made to its numbers. A system of church order has also been adopted, which will secure more efficiency and durability.

Carleton.

Elder J. Noble writes to us from Carleton on Monday last, as follows:—

"It is some time since I occupied any space in your paper, it may not be improper to let my friends know where I am. For the few last days I have been kept at home, by sickness in my family, which time I have been endeavoring to help my brethren here carry forward the good work. Yesterday four persons acknowledged Christ in baptism. There are others whose duty it is to follow in the same way, and who no doubt will before long. The baptism was a solemn time. Brother Clay pastor of the baptist church met with us at the water, and took a useful part in the service. The candidates were teachers and scholars in the Sabbath school. The evening service was interesting and solemn. After the candidates received the right hand of fellowship, the Sacrament of the Lord's supper was administered, and it was a time of love. The Lord was present to bless. How many days I may remain at home I cannot yet tell, I wish to go to Woodstock as soon as I can."

The Pictorial Sunday Book.—Part 25 is received. It contains a beautifully illuminstive map, and numerous illustrations, equal in beauty and interest to former ones. Another number completes the series. For sale by R. Hunter, Market Square.

The Present War with Russia.—Part 16 of this valuable history is published by the Lodon Printing and Publishing Company, is before us. We have before recommended it. Sold by R. Hunter, Market Square.

Report of the Board of Commissioners, and of the Superintendant of the Lunatic Asylum of New Brunswick for the year 1856.

The number of patients in this establishment during the ten months ending the 31st of October last, are thus set down in Dr. Waddell's report:

"On the 31st December, 1855, there remained on the record one hundred and forty-three patients. From that date to the present time—ten months—there were admitted eighty-one patients; making a total under treatment, two hundred and twenty-four. Of these, twenty-eight were discharged recovered. Nine much improved. Twelve improved. Six unimproved. Nineteen have died; and there remain one hundred and fifty.

The greatest number at any one time during the ten months, was one hundred and sixty-one, in August; the smallest number was one hundred and forty-two, in January; and the average one hundred and fifty.

The Bulwark.—The March number of this work was received by last mail, from England. From it we copy the following paragraph:—

Dublin Protestant Association.—This Association has petitioned against nunneries. It has also published a summary of its operations for the past year, from which it appears to have held fifty-four public meetings. It has also forwarded no fewer than 192 petitions, containing upwards of 12,196 signatures, besides others forwarded at their instance. Also, they have sent out, preparatory to the coming session, 1000 petitions for provincial signatures against Maynooth. We pray with all our hearts that these active and energetic efforts may be crowned with success.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

Rev. C. G. Finney.

The Boston *Journal* says that the Rev. C. G. Finney, author of "Revival Lectures" preached in Park Street Church, Boston, on Sabbath evening last. The subject was repentance, in which the preacher showed that procrastination on the part of the unbeliever, was a sin against God and unpardonable, and liable to be visited with judgment.

Happy Death.

The *Advent Herald* gives the obituary of a young Physician, who recently died in Roxbury Mass, and whose dying testimony to some of the fundamental truths of our religion are worthy of wide circulation. Addressing those around him he said:—

"I am not on earth in the same sense that you are. I can see the angels. There is one in this room passing away with heaven full in view. I now realize as I never did before that I have a spirit as well as a body—the quality and unity of my being. I can feel the gradual disentanglement of my spirit from its mortal tenement, but I cannot describe it to you. Though my outer man perish, my inner will survive in all its integrity, and when I am absent from the body I shall be present with the Lord. All the words of all the languages in the world would not express what I feel. Worlds would not be an equivalent. O the extatic visions that dazzle my sight! I have no anxiety, but a great deal of curiosity. O I shall see my mother!"—with many other words of similar import.

Singular Prayer.—One of the Editors of the *Morning Star* gives the following as a fact; it is a severe rebuke on those professors of religion who never name the subject to others with whom they associate:—

Almost a year since, a gentleman of wealth and talent, resident in the State of Rhode Island, was very anxious to become a Christian.—Indeed he had been anxious for several years, but had not consecrated himself to God. His experience, trials, difficulties, was very much like those of other men who desire eternal life more than they desire to obey God, and he continued in darkness. Finally he opened his mind to the minister of the place, and asked him to pray for him, and consented to pray for himself. The first prayer was peculiar, and as other communities may be troubled with the same difficulty that was prominent before the mind of this man we will put the prayer on record. He might have been expected to pray for himself first, but he did not. His prayer was: "Oh Lord, cure this people of the lock-jaw.—Here I have been anxious for salvation for years and no one except Mr. B. (the man who was with him) has ever said a word to me on the subject of religion. O Lord, cure them of the lock-jaw." A very eccentric, yet a significant prayer. How many people there are who profess to love God and the souls of men, but they have the "lock-jaw," their mouths are closed, they are dumb upon the subject upon which they should converse the most frequently and most earnestly. The impression which this makes upon the mind of the sinner is that their profession is spurious, that they do not love God, that there is no reality in religion, no necessity of regeneration.

News of the Week.

Grand Jury Presentment.

We have read with much interest and pleasure the Presentments, No.'s 1. and 2, made by the Grand Jury of this city and County to the Court during the March term. They reflect the highest honor on the gentlemen composing the jury, and matters of the highest importance to the financial, sanatory and moral interest of the city are judiciously dealt with, and we believe that in most instances if the recommendations are carried out the public good will be promoted. If our space allowed we would publish those documents entire; we make two short extracts from No. 2., the last relates to a matter of the deepest interest to the morals of our community.

"The Jury beg again most seriously to bring under the notice of the Court the necessity of doing away with the Market House in the Market Square. They did expect this would have been attended to simultaneously with the granting of licenses to butchers and victuallers through the city. The gradually increasing want of room in this part of the town should not be obstructed by a building of this kind in its principal business square. The immense number of horses and vehicles that now render the square next to impassible, demand its removal, if no other reason can be found.

The Jury regret that no arrangements have as yet been entered into for the extension of the sheds in Market Street. The growing trade with the country require this increased accommodation; and while referring to this matter the Jury, cannot refrain from censuring in the strongest possible terms the *secret midnight* in which the lots at the head of this street were released."

The loss by this transaction to the city revenues is estimated at £180 per year, for 13 years, the term of lease.

"The Jury beg again to bring under the notice of the Court the demoralizing business carried on by the livery stables on the Sabbath; and while they notice with pleasure that spirituous liquors are stictly prohibited on that day, the Jury hope this prolific and profane source of vice will also be put an end to, and trust the Session will not separate without adopting some stringent measure to put down the practice of hiring horses on that Holy Day, a system fraught with such evil consequences to the youth of our city.

St. John Public Dispensary.

Reports from the Physicians of this Institution were read before a meeting of the President and Directors on Wednesday evening. These Reports were for the month of March. Dr. Peterson reports whole number of patients treated by him 31; of these 8 have been discharged cured; 3 discharged incurable; and 20 still under treatment. Dr. Alward reports whole number of patients under his care 47; of whom 11 have been discharged cured; 9 discharged incurable; and 27 now under treatment. The whole number of patients at the dispensary during the month have been 78. The Reports state that the applicants were generally such as were unable to employ a physician, and but for this benevolent institution, would have continued to be deprived of medical aid, and some of them might have been at no distant day inmates of the Almshouse. We think this Institution is not only a benevolent one, but a *money saving one to our citizens*, and Drs. Alward and Peterson are entitled to the thanks of the public for the *gratuitous* services which they render. It is receiving the support of quite a number of our benevolent citizens.

General Election.

As announced last week, the Legislature was prorogued on Thursday, with a view to its immediate dissolution. The Royal Gazette of this week has not yet reached us, but we suppose it contains Proclamations declaring the House dissolved, and authorizing new Elections. These will probably take place during the present month, another Session to be called in May. The present contest will not involve *directly* any great *moral question*, but we believe that there are interests at stake of great importance to the people of this Province, and we trust that they will choose men who will cherish and preserve unimpaired that system of Government which opens the door of office and emolument to every man's son, whether rich or poor, if he possesses talent to fill it. The liberals of this city held a meeting last evening in Judge Ritchie's Buildings.

Newfoundland Delegates.—The gentlemen who are deputed as delegates from Newfoundland to the British Government, on the subject of the Fisheries there, which by a recent Convention between France and England have been conceded to the former, are now in this city, and a public meeting will be called, to give expression against the concession. That which is complained of, is the right of the best fishing grounds round the Island, to French fishermen. A large portion of which they, by the convention, have the exclusive right of, and a joint right with British subjects of other portions. All the Colonies condemn the treaty without reserve.

Sudden Death.—James Tower, a Pensioner, died very suddenly at Mrs. O'Regan's, Duke Street, on Tuesday. It appears he had just arrived by the Boston steamer, he had scarcely entered the house and seated himself when he expired.—*Leader.*

Launch.—A fine vessel called the Miletus, of about eight-hundred tons, was launched on Tuesday by Mr. Stephen Rowan at Margaret's Point, above the Falls, she is finished in workmanlike style, copper fastened throughout and built to class A 1 7 years, and will, we doubt not, be a credit to the Province. She is owned we believe by T. E. Milledge Esq., of this city.—*Ib.*

UNITED STATES.

Shocking Tragedy. The Auburn (N. Y.) *American* gives the particulars of a painful occurrence in the town of Moravia, about fourteen miles from Auburn. A farmer named Clark had in his employ a young man named Albert Wood and a young woman named Shaw, who were on very intimate terms with each other. On the morning of the 25th inst. Wood entered the room where Mrs. Clark and Miss Shaw were sitting, with a pistol in his hand, which he tried to load, but found the ball too small. Miss Shaw volunteered to get a "patch" and with her assistance the ball was fitted and the pistol loaded. Wood then said, "What shall I shoot?" Some one said, "Shoot into the wood box." He replied, "I won't do that." Mrs. Clark exclaimed, "Don't fire in the house. If you are a-going to shoot, go out of doors and do it." At this moment Miss Shaw cried out, "If you want to shoot, shoot me, and shoot me that I won't kick more than once." Wood turned towards her deliberately, and placthe muzzle of the pistol against her breast, fired. The ball entered her body just below the breast, and she fell to the floor with a shriek. Wood then took two letters from his pocket and throwing them upon the floor, directed Mrs. Clark to show them to the coroner. He commenced reloading his pistol, and Mrs. Clark ran to alarm the neighbors, who turned out, and on reaching the house found Wood dead, he having shot himself through the heart. Miss Shaw recovered sufficiently to converse, the ball having been diverted from a vital part by contact with some resisting substance. She produced one of the letters that Wood threw upon the floor and directed that it should be read if she died, otherwise that it should be burnt. At last accounts she was still alive, but refused to give any explanation of the tragic event, of whose cause she is doubtless fully cognisant.—*Boston Journal.*

Another serious accident occurred on the Pennsylvania Railroad, at Gallitzin Station. While an emigrant train was standing at the station, shifting out the engine, the local freight train came through the tunnel and ran into the emigrant cars, causing the death of six passengers, and more or less injuring ten or twelve others.——The train which left New Albany for Salem, Indiana, 17th, While passing Muddy Fort bridge precipitated 2 passenger cars into the creek, about 75 feet below. The locomotive, tender and baggage car passed over the bridge in safety. The brakeman was killed; Mrs. Shields, of Mitchell, had her left leg broken; a pedlar sustained some severe flesh wounds.——The N. E. House, at La Crosse, Wisconsin, was burst on the 7th together with 15 other buildings in the business portion of the village. Loss 850,000.

President Buchanan has given his first reception. Miss Lane, a niece of the President, dispenses the hospitality of the White House.—The municipal authorities of Washington have presented their respects. The officers of the Army and Navy have paid their devoirs, in full military costume, to the commander in chief.——The singular epidemic, which we have before mentioned, is still afflicting its victims. The cause is a profound mystery. The National Intelligencer thinks that the evil is "not yet eradicated from the establisment," and "may extend itself and involve consequences far more serious than any that have yet occurred." The authorities at Washington City have taken possesion of the Hotel, intending to prosecute a rigid inquiry into the causes of the sickness prevalent there.

Emigration Westward.—An unusually large number of Irish are now leaving Newburyport and other large places of this State and New England for the West.—*Boston Traveller.*

Ex-Secretary Marcy has prepared a memoir in answer to the reclamations of the British and French governments for the Greytown bombardment.—*N. Y. Courier and Enquirer.*

EUROPEAN.

The news from England is to the 14th ul[illegible] Great preparations are being made for the ensuing General Elections. London papers state that the accounts from various parts of England indicate a strong feeling in favour of Lord Palmerston's Government, and it is believed they will be sustained by the people. Their policy on the Chinese question is approved of outside the Houses of Parliament. Lord Elgin has accepted the appointment of Plenipotentiary to China. The last accounts from China represented hostilities as in a great measure suspended. The following letter from our London correspondent contains all the news that is interesting to the general reader.

London Correspondence.

Defeat of the Government—Elections—Lord John Russell—Robert Owen—Joke—China—The Railroad Frauds—Criminals—Fires and Accidents—A Rich Bride—Deaths—Mr. Spurgeon—Mr. Russell.

London, March 13th, 1857.

What I intimated as probable in my last letter become the actual state of political affairs in the course of a few days. Government, though victorious in the Lords, was defeated in the House of Commons by a majority of sixteen, after a debate of great ability and duration. Up to the last, a small majority was anticipated, but when the tellers for the resolution, of Messrs. Cobden and Gibson, appeared, to read the members the truth was at once apparent, and the strange consorted majority indulged in vast applause. The main body of the Conservatives joined with the Peelites, voted with Mr. Cobden, and the line of conduct, clearly dictated, by no sense of principle, but an anti-Palmerston feeling, gave him a triumph which he might well have spared. With twenty votes fewer his victory would have been the greater, and the fate of the next General Elections would have been materially altered for the better. As it is, questions of domestic and ecclesiastical reform will be smothered under the confused and comparitively minor question of this Chinese embroilment. After the adverse vote of the House, ministers had three courses open, as Sir Robert Peel was accustomed to observe, to swallow the censure and go on as before; to resign; or to dissolve Parliament, the last expedient was the most comfortable, and being equally constitutional, was adopted without much discussion. It is pretty certain that hon. members were taken aback by their own success, and that a dozen of them would have voted with the Government or not at all, if they had anticipated an early dissolution. Few had made any preparations for a spring campaign, and, *locis mutatis*, are as much perplexed what to do as the officers of our army in the Crimea at the commencement of the winter siege of Sebastopol. From this cause, and other several hundreds will probably be unseated, and retire fretted, or fagged, or both, from the Parliamentary arena.

The Liberation of Religion Society, the Ball[illegible] Association, and other organizations of the kind are astir, but I doubt whether, in the *melee* caused by a dissolution on the Chinese issue, it will be possible to give fair play to any reform in which the bulk of the Liberal party is sincerely interested. My own judgment is, that Mr. Cobden's motion was premature, but apart from this its effects are likely to react disastrously on the interests of progressive reform. Never was there more need than now, in order to goad a reluctant ministry, that the various classes of reformers should combine on a few definite points; never has such combination been more impossible.

Among other ascertained electioneering movements, is Mr. Cobden's retirement from the West Riding of Yorkshire. Bolton and Salford are both spoken of for him. It was believed up to this morning that Lord John Russell would seek a refuge in Tavistock, or some quiet borough in his ducal house, especially as the Common Council of the city of London, by thirty-nine to thirteen, have approved of the Premier's policy. But he is resolved to justify the character for "pluck," which he has retained through a long and eventful life: like a game-cock, to which I believe he has been compared, he will not be beaten under till downright beaten; and in a long address to the constituency of the city, he leaves his re-election in their hands. The chances are that he will not be returned; at the last election he was the lowest, I think, on the poll, and he will then have to seek a less ungenial scene. It is hardly creditable to our men of mark, that so many seem to choose the suffrages of petty places instead of breasting the public feeling of larger boroughs, and coming in on the tide of a real popular contest.

The Prime Minister is content to be member for Tiverton, so that the more praise is due to Lord John in not relinquishing his hold upon the city till he is positively beaten off. The Liverpool men may, after all, be fascinated by his daring and make him the favorite on the poll. Election[illegible] have this in common with horse races (the resemblance might be extended to include corruption and demoralization) that the cleverest judges are as often deceived as not in their predictions of winning and losing. It would, however, be a great surprise if one gentleman who offers himself to any constituency that will take him, should succeed in obtaining a seat; I allude to Mr. Robert Owen, who, after a tender of his services to instruct the House of Commons into the mystery of his New Moral World, concludes an address by saying: "It is true that when the next Parliament shall meet I shall be 86 years of age; but Providence (Mr. Owen does believe in Providence it appears!) has so far given me strength of body and mind for this great work; and to introduce it for the adoption of all nations is evidently the mission which from my birth I have been wonderfully aided and preserved to accomplish." Mr. Owen has lost caste with some of his more "advanced" disciples since his conversion to belief in spirit rapping. There is not a little remarkable in the enthusiasm which so old a man entertains for his mission, and the confidence he entertains in its ultimate success. Mr. Owen polled half-a-dozen votes or so in Marylebone; but in smiling at his delusions, it would be well if his earnestness and perseverance were emulated by the advocates of a wiser and a holier