

quisition of correct information. You are acting the part of the limner, who, in order to take a correct likeness, copies the distorted reflections of a false mirror, rather than real life. This is the very plague spot of novel reading. Were Novelists able to portray human nature as it is, their writings would be comparatively harmless; but being influenced by the spirit of the world, they see through a false medium; hence they put darkness for light, and light for darkness. They paint virtue without a shade, beauty without a blemish, and happiness without alloy; which is nowhere found in this ruined world.

Neo.—You have made out a sweeping indictment against the popular writings of the day; I should like now to hear some of your witnesses; for mere assertions, without proof, will not satisfy me.

Mrs. S.—Well, I will subpoena yourself for the first witness. After having your attention long engrossed by the fascinating wiles of the most approved novel, how have you found yourself disposed toward secret devotion? Could you draw near to the mercy seat with holy boldness? Could you call God your Father with filial confidence? Could you come near to the feet of Jesus, and cover yourself with His robe of righteousness, and claim Him as your near kinsman? And seek the Holy Spirit's influence, without being conscious of having grieved the Heavenly Dove?

Neo.—Indeed I must with shame confess that instead of being able to do so, I have been frequently tempted to neglect the exercises of the closet altogether.

Mrs. S.—I give you credit for a truthful testimony and now I will add my own; and you know at no one will dare question it, for an Apple hath declared that I judge all things.

When I was young, my parents selected a few of what they considered the best novels for my perusal, that I might learn something of the ways of mankind; but they only created in me insatiable thirst for more, until my heart whirled the ideal beauties and heroes of the *imaginary world*, and became disgusted with every thing I saw in the *real world*. Thus continued thirsting after that knowledge which is the bane of the mind, until God the Spirit was pleased to communicate to my soul that knowledge which is Eternal Life, then I cast away my former attainments, as worse than loss.

Neo.—You have fully sustained your indictment, and I ascribe it a "true bill." But pray what code of study would you recommend, in order to acquire a correct knowledge of human nature?

Mrs. S.—Human nature is delineated with inimitable skill in the Book of God. There the lines are drawn, and the colours laid on, by One who knew what was in man; and your daily experience will prove the likeness true. By looking at this finished portrait you will gain more understanding than all your teachers, if you should heap to yourself all that ever moved upon.

Neo.—But you would allow me to read other books beside the Bible I presume?

Mrs. S.—Questionably, but let them be such as describe real life, not the vagaries of a heated imagination. And happy for those who are thirsting for correct information, the present age wishes us with an abundant supply: among which I would give D'Aubigne's history of the reformation, and Macaulay's history of England a prominent place. Consider what say, and the Lord give you understanding. Farewell.

A WATCHMAN.

On Zion's Ws, July 15th, 1849.

ENGLISH NEWS.

ARRIVAL OF THE HIBERNIA!

ONE WEEKER FROM EUROPE.

The steam ship *Hibernia* arrived at Halifax at 8 o'clock on Tuesday morning last, in less than 10 days from Liverpool, bringing dates to the 4th inst. The Post Office Express reached this City about 9 o'clock Wednesday night.

Parliament prorogued on the 1st inst., by commission, the Queen having left Osborne-house on that day for Ireland. The Speech contains a very novel assurance given that friendly relations with foreign power afford just confidence in the continuance of peace.

There has been considerable increase on the excessive mow in the metropolitan districts, but the cases of the Cholera are chiefly confined to most destitute of the population.

The inhabitants of Cork, Dublin, and Belfast, are making the most active preparations to give a loyal and enthusiastic reception to the Queen, and political feelings are almost forgotten in the general excitement which prevails.

Trade has continued quiet but steady since our last advices. The prospects of the harvest are of the most favourable character.

The sales of Flour have been limited, and prices are in favour of the buyer.

The news from the Continent is unimportant. The Hungarian war continues to rage with unrelenting fury, but we are entirely in the dark respecting the military operations going on.

A grand conspiracy to overthrow the present dynasty, and establish a Republic, has been discovered at St. Petersburg, and it is said that no fewer than 280 persons have been arrested.

The *Cologne Gazette* says that Prussia has offered to assist Austria and Russia against the Hungarians.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—FRIDAY, JULY 27.

CLEREY RELIGIOUS BILL.

On the presentation of five petitions by the Earl of Fortescue, in favour of the bill for the relief of clergymen seceding from the Established Church,

Lord Stanley said that, without intending to offer any observation upon the merits of the bill, he hoped that it was not intended to pass the bill during the present session. No notice had been given of the second reading of the bill, and it was one which required consideration and discussion.

Lord Campbell said the bill was not a Government measure, and therefore he could not give any answer to the question of the noble lord opposite.

The sympathy on behalf of the Hungarians is rapidly extending, or rather showing itself throughout the country. A public meeting, on the plan of the London meetings, was held last week at Birmingham. At Manchester, an influential requisition to the Mayor to call a town meeting has been got up and signed. At Leicester, Leeds, Huddersfield, and other important towns, meetings are to be, or have been, held this week. At Edinburgh, preparations are being made with the same object; and a subscription has been commenced on behalf of the Hungarian refugees at Folkestone.

On Friday the election of a representative of the city of London, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Pattison, took place in Guildhall. Notwithstanding the threats of the Conservative and Protectionist party, no candidate could be found to oppose the election of the Lord Mayor, (Sir James Duke.)

After the usual preliminaries Mr. Sheriff Finnis, amidst loud applause, declared Sir James Duke elected member for London.—*British Banner*.

A Public Breakfast to the Rev. James Shore was given on Thursday, at Radley's Hotel, Blackfriars, by the Committee who have been acting on his behalf, and to congratulate him on his release from his imprisonment. Many eminent Clergymen both Church and Dissenting, were present.—*Ibid*.

DECLARATION OF IRISH REPRESENTATIVES ON THE CHURCH QUESTION.—TO THE PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN.—It having been recently stated in Parliament and in the Press, that the people of Ireland had ceased to take any interest in the settlement of the Irish Church question, we feel bound to declare our conviction that the Irish people have not ceased to regard, as they never can cease to feel, the continuance of the Established Church in Ireland, on its present footing, to be a symbol of conquest, a perpetration of religious inequality, and a most potent cause of the social depression of the great body of the people of that kingdom. We also desire to add our belief that so long as sectarian ascendancy is maintained in Ireland, permanent tranquillity cannot be expected to prevail, nor can we hope for a cessation of those religious feuds which alike obstruct the prosperity of that country, and the establishment of its political relations on a sound and just foundation. (Signed by 32 Representatives.)

GREAT THUNDER STORM.—We find in the Times a long account of a storm which passed over London on the afternoon of the 26th ult. The electric fluid struck several houses in different parts of the city, in some cases doing considerable damage, as in Lambeth, Commercial road East, the Borough, where it struck the clock tower of St. Savior's Church,

the Strand, &c. At the Eastern Counties railway station a man was instantly killed by the lightning; his shirt was on fire when he was picked up. Two men were struck in White-chapel; one was instantly killed, the other it was hoped would recover. In West-street and North-street several houses were struck and injured much, the inhabitants participating in the shock and some of them very narrowly escaping with their lives. One man was blinded; at the hospital he recovered his sight but his reason was gone. At Mile-End, Stepney, and Tower Hamlets much property was destroyed. In New-street, behind St. Philip's Church, near the London hospital, the lightning entered the lower parts of the house, visited every apartment, running rapidly along the walls and ringing the bells, and finally escaped at the highest window, which it completely destroyed.

FRANCE.

FRENCH COMMERCE.—People everywhere complain of the stagnation of affairs, and their complaints are, unfortunately, but too well founded. Work—real work—not that of such or such favoured locality, but that general movement that constitutes the material life of nations, which, on the active surface of the country, lights up forges, opens workshops, causes locomotion on our great land, water, and iron routes, sets manufactures in motion, turns engines and mills—all that creating activity from which universal well-being flows—is far from having resumed amongst us its habitual march. There is no serious or imminent cause apparent why work should stop; and yet it is a fact that work is not going on, or if at all, with infinite slowness and trouble.

PROROGATION OF THE ASSEMBLY.—The committee on the question of the prorogation of the French Legislative Assembly drew up a report, approving of the measure, and proposing that the Assembly should adjourn from the 13th of August to the 30th of September. During the time of the prorogation, a committee of twenty-five members will be chosen by ballot, and by absolute majority. On Saturday there was a stormy debate on the subject. M. E. Arago spoke vigorously against any prorogation. In the course of his speech he read a document, unsigned, it is true, but entitled "Societe Francaise," the object of which is to declare the first President of the Republic President for life. At last M. Dufaure got up, and said that the Chamber was the best judge of the matter; that it must decide for itself whether the prorogation be advisable or no, but that he thought it would be advisable to give the Government some little leisure to prepare those plans for the public welfare, to which it could not now give due attention in the turmoil of public affairs. On Saturday, the first article of the Prorogation Bill was voted by 308 to 258, and then the entire bill by 294 to 247.

M. GUIZOT.—It is announced that M. Guizot has expressed his intention to resume his course of lectures on history at the Sorbonne.

ITALY.

ROME.—RESTORATION OF THE INQUISITION.—Monsignor Gazzalo, a well-known republican writer, and several of the military chaplains who served under the republican generals, have been imprisoned in the Inquisition, that vast fabric being destined to resume its former office under the fostering care of Oudinot. The French emptied the dungeons of the Inquisition fifty years ago—they atone for such an irreligious act by filling them now. They are also taking steps for reinstalling the Jesuits in their property, and have commenced by directing that all the administrators named by the late Government should hand over their charge to the Jesuitical Commissaries.—*Daily News*.

PAPAL PROCLAMATION.—The Pope has addressed a proclamation to his subjects, in which he says:—"Beloved subjects, in the midst of the hurricane of the past frightful events, our heart has been filled with bitterness in reflecting on so many wrongs suffered by the Church, by religion, and by yourselves, it has not felt less of that love for you it always had, and ever will have. We anticipate with pleasure the day that shall see us once again in the midst of you; and when that day shall come we shall re-enter with the earnest desire to afford you consolation, and with the desire to use all our energies for your true interests, applying the proper remedies to cure the various ills that afflict you, and consoling our loyal subjects who, while desiring institutions in accordance with their wants, yet, above all, desire, as we do, to see guaranteed the liberty and the independence of the Sovereign Pontiff, so necessary to the Catholic world. In the meanwhile, in order to re-organise public affairs, we are about to appoint a commission, which, armed with full powers, and assisted by a Ministry, will regulate the government of the State."

ROME VERSUS ROMANISM.

A meeting of Italians is to be held this evening at the Literary and Scientific Institution, Leicester Square, for the purpose of denouncing the recent French intervention, and protesting not only against the Pope, but against Popery. We understand that the meeting will be addressed by Mazzini and several others who took an active part in the defence of Rome, and who have recently arrived in London.—*Chris. Times*.

PRUSSIA.

TERMINATION OF THE SIEGE IN BERLIN.—Immediately after the conclusion of the election of deputies of the Second Chamber, which took place on the 27th, the Ministry issued an order declaring the state of siege proclaimed in the capital and a circle of two miles around it, on the 12th of November last, at an end. The order was to come into force on the 28th.

TURKEY.

PROTEST OF THE PORTE.—From Constantinople we learn that the Porte had issued a solemn protest against the marching of the Russian troops through the Turkish territory of Transylvania. The Divan has at the same time declared, that if, in consequence of a defeat, the Russian troops should wish to re-pass through the Turkish territory, they would be immediately disarmed.

TURKEY.—Advices from Constantinople to the 13th ult., state that an army of 80,000 men is ordered to assemble on the Hungarian frontier, between Temeswar and Semlin, to protect the Turkish territory, and to disarm all who may be driven across the frontier.

INDIA.

ARRIVAL OF THE OVERLAND MAIL.—We have received despatches in anticipation of the overland mail, which left Bombay on the 24th June. India continued to enjoy the most perfect tranquillity—the monsoon almost the only topic. This year the rains have been later than usual, but had fallen so copiously as to more than compensate. The expected collision between Sir C. Napier and Sir W. Gomm had come to pass. Sir W. Gomm arrived in Calcutta from the Mauritius in the full belief that he was to succeed Lord Gough as Commander-in-chief, and then only learnt, that the commission he had anxiously expected was recalled, and that his place had been taken by Sir C. Napier at least a month before. In the meantime, Sir C. Napier had not only been sworn in, but had assumed all the duties of his station, and had set off to Simlah, to take command of the army in the Punjab. It was believed that, as Sir S. Cotton had already tendered his resignation, Sir W. Gomm would find consolation in the command of the forces in the Bombay Presidency. The trial of the Dewan Moolraj was proceeding at Lahore. The evidence tended to show great indiscretion and precipitancy in Lieutenants Agnew and Anderson—in whose murder the war originated. At Mooltan very few of the native merchants had returned. In Peshawur people had poured in in such numbers that the population had doubled since the occupation. The species of bastard rebellion set on foot by the reputed Appa Sahib seems to have been all but forgotten. The skirmish in which Brigadier Onslow so unfortunately lost his life seems to have entirely disconcerted the concoctors of the absurd enterprise.

THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE BIBLE.—The foreign Secretary of the Bible Society has just received letters from our dear brother in the gospel, the venerable pastor Wimmer, of Oberschutzen, in Hungary, who has been honoured, during the last few years, to circulate above 300,000 copies of the Holy Scriptures in Hungary and its dependencies. A large price had been set by the Austrian Government on his head, and after many wonderful escapes his life has been preserved.—*Missionary Record*.

SAILOR LIBERALITY.—The Rev. Mr. Damon reports that two thirds of the debt incurred in the late repairs of his chapel at Honolulu, and in preparing a reading-room for seamen, which was \$2,944, had been paid by means of liberal contributions mostly made by ship-masters and crews.