expelled so many English and Scotch artizans from their soil, they would be most welcome to apply the same force to the retention of those two hot headed Irishmen, who could be well spared at home.

It is either a sign of the weakness of the French Provisional Government or of their reckless disregard of the welfare of other countries, that, not content with administering the internal affairs of France, they gave countenance to those bands of idle adventurers who are passing the French frontier to raise the standard of civil war in neighbouring States. Probably they are powerless to restrain, such is the sad subversion of order and authority in France, but this aggression is one of the worst features of the new era. We are not surprised that the brave and expatriated Poles should meet with a ready sympathy in their crusade to throw off a yoke which they never acknowledged, but there ought to be none for those marauders who have entered Baden apparently for no other object but pillage, and as little for that rabble who have attempted the most unprovoked irruption on the Belgian territory. The first division of this reckless squad were very adroitly whirled along the Belgian Railway, and captured ere they could leave the train. A second have met their deserts in a more stern form. This band, calling itself the Belgian Legion, entered Belgium on the 19th inst. at Risque-a-Tout. They numbered about 2000 armed men, and were immediately encountered by the advanced guard of General Fleury-Duray, comprising only 200 infantry, and 25 artillerymen with two pieces of cannon. For a short time the legion maintained a brisk fire against this small force, which was as promptly returned by the Belgian musquetry. At last General Fleury Duray brought matters to a speedy decision by opening a fire from the two pieces of artillery, when the maranders fled in all directions, throwing down their arms and leaving 400 in killed and wounded. The Belgian troops, who behaved with great calmness and courage, had only one killed and five or six wounded. It is to be hoped that this spirited resistance by the Belgians to these ruthless disturbers of the tranquillity of the State will arrest those shameful aggressions—if the French rulers are content to abide this scandal on their authority.

In Berlin and throughout Prussia, tranquillity prevails, if that can be called tranquillity, where men's minds are excited from one end of the kingdom to the other, and intent upon everything except the pursuit of their daily and legitimate callings. The King has declared that he will place himself at the head of Germany, during those days of danger, and offer through himself and his 15 millions of subjects a rallying point for the union of other States. The Congress Diet which was summoned for the 2d April is, according to an announcement in the *Prussian Gazette*, not to take place, as the Sovereigns in these times of trouble must remain among their subjects. Instead of assembling at the Diet, deputies have been sent to Berlin from several of the German States, viz. Wurtemberg, Baden, Hesse Darmstadt, and Nassau. These deputies in conjunction with the Minister of Saxony at the Court of Berlin, have agreed on several fundamental points, to the effect that the whole Confederation about to be formed should have a central and sole direction under one chief—an upper and a lower chamber, whose "attributions" or functions should have reference to a federal military administration, and the arming of the German population, the last object meaning, we presume, a national guard—a federal court of justice and the establishment of an uniform system of duties, commerce, money, weights and measures, railways, with uniform legislation as regards domicile and penal and commercial laws, &c.

While the King of Prussia, supported by the more influential classes, is anxious to have the political system based on a central and powerful confederacy, so that the energy of the whole German nation may have one direction, there is a large portion of his humbler subjects whose thoughts are running in a very different channel. The working classes of Berlin, without desiring a Republic, like those in Paris, appear no way indisposed to adopt a few of their leading maxims. Thus, a political club at Berlin has voted an address to the King, for the dissolution of the Diet, and an immediate electoral law, based on universal suffrage, to be followed by a convocation of a National Assembly. A large open air meeting, attended by many thousand artisans, had taken place at Berlin, at which some very significant sentiments were uttered, and which shows that the example of the *ouvriers* of Paris has not been lost on the Berlinese workmen. The majority at this meeting demanded a decrease in the hours of work, and an increase in wages—in fine, the *maximum* of remuneration and the *minimum* of labour. A special Ministry was also suggested, after the fashion of the commission presided over in Paris by Louis Blanc and Albert *Ouvrier*, which should represent the interests of the working classes; and farther resolutions or demands were passed, comprehending the reduction of the army—gratuitous instruction to all the people, and every Prussian of 25 years of age to be capable of electing and being elected to the Legislature.

It was to be expected, that the virtual triumph which the Prussians have gained over their rulers would be followed by such demands as the above; which, however, are no criterion of the state of feeling in Prussia which will eventually decide on the new political arrangements. More pay and less labour is a pretty general complaint among mankind, and not confined simply to the working classes. It is, in other words, quarrelling with the lot which Providence has assigned, and to which people are all prone, but which feeling, we do not think would, in the aggregate, undergo any material difference or diminution from the change of political systems. The French Government ere this have bitterly rued that they put forth the term *equality* on their climacteric, which can have no practical application, unless it is allied to something very like spoliation.

In whatever mode the King of Prussia may deal with his own subjects, there are serious considerations behind, and which relate to his foreign policy. From the position which he has assumed, pledging himself to advance and direct the movement, which is the fruit of what is very near akin to a revolution in his own kingdom, and to which he has succumbed in time, he will naturally be expected to be consistent, and sympathise, not with absolute, but with liberal principles. Already he has given a *quasi* pledge to aid the Holstein Duchies against Denmark, and which last power will in turn look to Russia in the very probable event of hostilities; and thus are Prussia and Russia embroiled. But even if this menacing state of affairs was dispelled on the side of Denmark, a still more fertile source of discord, awaits, when we turn to Poland, the country which has the best cause for revolution, as cruelty and oppression have there been no abstraction. Poland is in a state of fermentation, and we may daily expect to hear of a rising in Warsaw. Prince A. Czartoryski, who was on his way through Germany for the professed purpose of raising the standard of revolution among his countrymen, has probably accomplished, or at least attempted, his project ere this time. In the event of the Poles succeeding in regaining their independence, it will follow, almost as a matter of course, that the Austrian and Prussian portions of the partition of Poland will unite with the rest of their countrymen, and strive to give this long oppressed country her former place among the nations.

The Milanese insurrection has proved successful, and the Austrians have evacuated Milan. In our last we reported that the Milanese had hemmed the Austrians into the citadel or fortified barracks, which their commander, Marshal Radetzki, expressed his determination to defend to the last, and rather batter the city to pieces than surrender. This citadel is distant about two miles from the Porta Ticinese of Milan, and situated in a large plain. It is a place of great strength, with strong towers, the artillery of which command the town, and it has trenches around—in short, a stronghold on which Austria placed considerable reliance in maintaining her authority over the Milanese. To this point the Austrian troops had retired when driven from the streets of Milan, and on the morning of the 21st made a sortie, with the view of securing a proper supply of provisions, but were driven back by the Milanese. On the following day, the 22d, they opened a fire on the town, which the people endeavoured to return as they best could, having succeeded in mounting artillery on a high tower which commanded the citadel. While this contest was going on, the Piedmontese chasseurs, the advanced guard of the army of the King of Sardinia, entered Milan. This emboldened the Milanese, and the Austrian garrison, now afraid that they would be compelled to surrender, being probably straitened for provisions, evacuated the citadel on the night of the 22d and 23d, and attempted a retreat in the direction of Mantua, Verona, and Piacentia. But the Milanese, now reinforced by part of the Sardinian army, attacked the retreating Austrians, and committed great havoc in their ranks. In addition, all the other towns of Lombardy have risen and thrown off the Austrian yoke. Pavia has been abandoned by the Austrian garrison, and the tri-colour has been raised at Padua, Reggio, Verona, Mantua, Venice, and Trieste. The King of Sardinia has headed his army, and it would appear that the Italians generally will unite in opposing the advance of the Austrians should the Emperor attempt to regain his dependencies in Italy.

On the news of the insurrection at Milan reaching Parma the people rose and attacked the Austrians; but the Grand Duke Charles II. of Bourbon was smitten with terror and fled to Turin, having hastily transferred the supreme power, with the faculty of giving institutions, to a Regency, consisting of five members. His Duchy, with that of Modena, which has also been revolutionized, have been joined to Piedmont and Lombardy. So much for the revolutionary fervour in Italy, which during the last few months has been in training, and now quite ripe for an explosion.

The first object of these revolutions will be to drive the Austrians out of Italy, which is in the rapid course of accomplishment, as all the disciplined levies of Austria whereby she thought to prop up her stern rule seem to crumble away before the enthusiastic energy of the Italian people. The popular might is awakened and the sceptre of Austria is powerless to restrain its force. As to where all these commotions will tend, it is vain at present to attempt to foretell; we must await until the excitment and confusion subside in some degree, when we shall see how the Italians mean to direct their newly acquired liberties But so rapid is the career of events at present, that none think of pausing to ask what Austria will do, and that power, surrounded by revolt on all sides, is as little able to take any decisive step, being utterly passive.

Intelligence has been received from the United States and Mexico of an important character. The treaty between the United States and Mexico has been submitted to the American Senate, and approved by at least four-fifths of that body. As to the precise terms of the treaty, we are not informed, but it will include an extension of the American boundary, over a considerable portion of the Mexican territory, for which Mexico will be paid a certain sum as compensation. This desolating warfare may now be considered as at an end, and we presume General Scott will withdraw his troops from the Mexican capital as soon as the treaty has been formally concluded.

Mr Clay was at New York, where he was actively engaged in forwarding his pretensions to the Presidency. There was no change in commercial affairs since the former accounts. A slight advance had taken place in the flour market at New York, and cotton had receded ½ cent. per lb.

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

LONDON, SATURDAY EVENING.

It is difficult, with the exercise of the utmost vigilance, to keep pace with the news, or to enumerate the important events rapidly passing before our astonished gaze. Emeute follows emeute, insurrection follows insurrection, and revolution follows revolution, filling all with surprise, and leading to the involuntary exclamation of "What next?" One day we have popular victory at Milan—entry of the Piedmontese troops into the Milanese territory—and proclamation of King Charles Albert making war against Austria—the retreat of the Austrians—the revolution in Modena and Parma—the insurrections in Padua, Vienna, and even Trieste. Next day, reported insurrection in St Petersburgh—attempt to assassinate the Emperor Nicholas, the ball having passed through his hat—outbreak at Warsaw, and revival of the cry for Polish independence—attempted emeute at Brussels. Again, we have the advance of a large Russian army to the frontiers—of twenty thousand Prussians to the frontiers of Schleswig-Holstein to maintain the independence of those against the hostile aggressions of the Danes—the incursion of upwards of 20,000 French workmen and soldiers into the Duchy of Baden, burning the town of Offenburg, and after passing the defiles of the Black Forest, penetrating into the interior of Germany. And to wind up this catalogue of alarming intelligence, we have to-day a conflict between the French and Belgian troops at Risque-a-Tout, in which the latter were defeated with the loss of four hundred killed and wounded—separation of Sicily from Naples—Venice a Republic—and the opening of the States of Hanover, with the reluctant consent of King Ernest. This is a short summary of the incidents supplied by the foreign letters and papers of the last three days, and it must be admitted that they are of grave and serious import as respects the general tranquillity of Europe. Austria has been laid so prostrate by the many defections from the sovereign rule, that she is placed in a state of feebleness which must render her unable to make any successful effort to regain her power, or to offer any effectual resistance to the hostile operations of the King of Sardinia. The King of Naples has confessed his impotence, and rests content to enter his protest against the forcible separation of Sicily from his rule, and appeals to the powers of Europe for support, an appeal which just at this time is not likely to find a willing response. The Emperor of Austria and the King of Naples have, by their grinding oppression, provoked retaliation on the part of their subjects; and now that the people know their own strength, it will be difficult to restrain them from falling into excesses, or to induce them to wield the democratic power with due regard to moderation. The King of Prussia seems desirous to carry out the reforms he has conceded in a spirit of good faith; nevertheless his sincerity is suspected by his people. His motives as leader of the German movement are questioned by Austria, which is jealous of the popularity he has acquired, which may hereafter interfere with the free scope of the combined operations which those powers may be called upon to exert in conjunction with Russia—for England wisely appears disposed to refrain from taking an active part in the affairs of Italy and the other Continental States, at the same time that it would be too much to expect that any reserve, however cautious, can keep her out of the dispute. Some of your contemporaries maintain that there will be no war in consequence of the difficulty of procuring the sinews for carrying it on. This you will find in a very short time is a fallacious notion—money is to be had, and will be forthcoming when the pear is ripe. The *Times* inclines to the war principle, and the weight of opinion is decidedly with it. In reference to the march of the Piedmontese troops into Lombardy, it says:—

"We have never placed any confidence in the duration of Continental peace, since the great occurrence of the great convulsion of last month; but this declaration and movement in the part of Savoy is the first irretrievable step to hostilities."

The Provisional Government is still busily occupied with the weighty affairs of State. The decreeing system is not persevered in so recklessly as for some time past. The last decree issued had for its object to grant a farther extension of 15 days for the payment of bills falling due, such is the prevalence of distress, and the difficulty of obtaining money brought about by the proclamation of a Republic. Two proclamations appear, one to the citizens and another to the soldiers, exhorting peace and cessation of the numberless displays that are every day being made in the streets. An order appoints two commissioners to superintend the Orleans and Centre Railroads.

Some excesses have been committed at Lyons, which called forth a severe reproof from the Minis try. Still the working classes of Paris, in particular, exercise a sovereign control over the members of the Gov ernment, who have no means of extricating themselves from their thraldom. The elections however, occupy the attention of all parties, as upon them the fate of the nation depends. The Republican party are upon the alert to obtain a majority in the national council, to prevent being outvoted by those who are known to be favourable, to monarchical institutions. A trial of strength is avowed-and it would be a strange solution to recent events to find a majority of the national assembly declaring for a regency in favour of the Count de Paris; yet this is a contingency calculated upon before the close of the ensuing month. Meanwhile, the organisation of the army and the equipment of the navy are covertly going forward to lull suspicion and prevent alarm. The command-in-chief of the troops has been tendered to Marshal Bugeaud, who, it was thought, would ultimately accept it. The Camp at Dijon is now actually in course of formation, and should the Russians advance towards the south, a large French army will undoubtedly be despatched to the frontier. The names of the 34 candidates to represent the department of the Seine have been circulated; they include all the members of the Government and several working men, compositors, sculptors, jewellers, cabinetmakers, and shoemakers, men, it is said, distinguished for ability in their own sphere. The Bank of France has just issued 100 franc notes from which much ease to the commercial and trading classes is expected.

There is a prospect of a change of Ministry in Spain, which will be hastened by the suspicion that exists that five members of the Government took advantage of the early information they had of the change of Government in France and the flight of Louis Philippe, to speculate in the funds, and realise large sums on the Bourse. Narvaez and Figueiras have had no part in these disgraceful transactions, and will continue members of the Cabinet. A conspiracy has been discovered at Madrid, the object of which was to proclaim a republic. Considerable activity was apparent in the military and naval departments of the Government, with the view to prepare for coming events. The Duke and Duchess of Montpensier had not landed on the 25th. The country was quiet, though some alarm was felt at the revolutionary mania that prevailed throughout Germany.

The Parliamentary proceedings of the last few days were not of very particular interest, if we except the attempt made by Mr Hume and Sir W. Molesworth to reduce the standard army of the country. The member for Montrose proposed a reduction of 13,847 in the strength of the standing army, exclusive of the troops in India, which was negatived by a majority of 293 to 39. The member for Surrey moved that the reduction should be limited, which was also defeated, by a majority of 246 to 45. Twenty-nine Scotch members voted with Ministers against Mr Hume's amendment, and 27 against Sir W. Molesworth, while only six voted in favour of the reduction. The impression in the house was, that it would be unsafe to reduce the British army at a time when the other great Powers of Europe were augmenting their forces—an impression that must be shared in very generally out of doors. The condition of this country, it must be admitted, is very far from what it was six weeks since, when a general cry for retrenchment was raised. You will perceive, from the few observations that fell from Lord Palmerston last night, respecting our trade in the Baltic, that Ministers are resolved, if possible, not to embroil this country in the northern disputes.

The affairs of Ireland very naturally begin to excite attention in and out of Parliament. In the House of Lords a conversation has taken place, in which Lord Stanley found it convenient to laud the conduct of the Irish priesthood for their efforts to preserve tranquillity. It is to Catholic priests and hierarchy the Government must look for support at a critical period like the present, otherwise it will be necessary to add from ten to fifteen thousand men to the force of that country, to preserve the Queen's authority against the wild schemes of the Irish Confederation, who by their violent speeches and appeals to the passions of an excited people, are carrying matters to a crisis. The Earl of Clarendon is exerting all the means in his power to stimulate a spirit of agriculture among the peasantry, and to defeat the projects of the disaffected. I am apprehensive that Feargus O'Connor's motion for the adoption of the charter, followed by that of Mr J. O'Connell for the repeal of the union, will have the effect of uniting the Old and Young Ireland parties, more especially if the prayer contained in the memorial of the latter, about to be presented to the Queen, to call the parliament together in Dublin, be rejected, as doubtless it will. A secret understanding between the Repealers of Ireland, the Chartists of England, and the discontented everywhere, will greatly embarrass the Government just at this moment. Let us hope that a sounder and better feeling, and a spirit of national pride, will prevail amongst Englishmen of all classes. The battalion of marines, 800 strong, has been ordered to Ireland.

The following paragraph has met with a very extensive circulation in the daily journals, which must be productive of immense advantage in sustaining the benevolent object the deputation has in view:—

DESTITUTION IN THE HIGHLANDS.—A deputation from the Scottish Patriotic Society, under the patronage of her Majesty and Prince Albert, has arrived in town, to bring the destitute condition of the suffering but patient Highlanders before the London public, and especially the Scotch portion of it. The object of the deputation is to obtain presents of grain and vegetable seeds, to be distributed among the destitute Highlanders, who are at present unable to purchase seed to sow in their little patches of land.

The subjoined observations on the present state of the Bank of England are not unworthy of consideration just at this time when there are few to predict how long we may be enabled to preserve a peaceful attitude in this country.

The increase in the bullion of the Bank of England has continued uninterrupted, as we stated it probably would do upwards of three months ago. At that period not the most distant idea could be formed of the occurrence of events which have taken place within the last five weeks, but as far as they have yet affected the course of the precious metals they have had no tendency to disturb the current previously in operation. It is so far fortunate at the commencement of a crisis which sets at defiance the most far-seeing persons to form a judgment here of the progress or the end of a dissolution of nearly all the elements which have hitherto formed the cement of society in Europe, that we have so large a stock of the precious metals on hand. There is one view of the case, however, which it is of great importance should not be lost sight of for a moment. Should war take place on the Continent of Europe, which, judging by present appearances, is but by far too probable, there is not the least question but we shall soon be drained of a considerable portion of our gold. Such will be the inevitable result, even supposing we ourselves are not involved as principals, for gold is an essential requisite in the formation of the military chests of all armies, and hoarding an equally necessary consequence. When such a demand arises, the usual rates of exchange are put altogether out of consideration, for the article must be had, whatever price is required to be paid for it. We submit this question to the consideration of her Majesty's Ministers, in order that they may adopt measures to provide against it in time, and not remain passive until they are compelled to do so by a crisis which will leave them no alternative. The first step to be taken as a measure of precaution is obvious, viz. to repeal the currency act of 1844, which would leave the question open for an ulterior proceeding, should it become necessary.

The commercial accounts from the Continent and the German States are more favourable than for some time past. France forms an exception. Several failures are reported in Paris, including the banking house of Delehante. At Havre 25 commercial houses have suspended payment, or declined business. Great distress is felt there in the cotton trade Twenty-five American cargoes are in that port, without the consignees being able to defray the costs and charges. The cargoes cannot be shipped for this country under the French flag, as it would be a violation of the navigation laws.

HALF-PAST FIVE O'CLOCK.

Ministers have been sitting for some time in Cabinet Council. There is no later news than what appeared in the express of the morning papers. Sir J. Hobhouse has been returned for Harwich, which secures the Sutherland seat for Mr Macaulay. The following extracts are from a money article of an evening contemporary:—

We regret to announce two important banking failures abroad. One is that of Messrs Abraham, Schaafhausen & Co. of Cologne; the other, Messrs Lombard, Odier, & Co. of Geneva.

The following is a statement of the exportation of the precious metals from London during the week to Thursday last:—Bullion—to Belgium, L.400, and to Havre L.220. Gold coin—to Belgium, L.700 and 2420 ounces; to Havre 720 ounces; to Rotterdam 1064 ounces; to Hamburgh 125 ounces, and to Calais 125 ounces. Silver bars—to Hamburgh 855 ounces; to Rotterdam 25,000 ounces. Silver coin—to Rotterdam 8000 ounces; to Corfu 1800 ounces; to Hamburgh 15,539 ounces; to Havre 250 ounces, and to the British West Indies 1700 ounces.

The Stock Market has been depressed upon the intelligence of the failures above referred to having induced one or two speculative sales. Consols have realised 81¼ to 81¼ for Money, and are 81 to 81½ for Account. Exchequer Bills have been quoted 33s. to 35s. premium, a further advance. East India Bonds have been 17s. to 20s. premium. Bank Stock has been at 190½ for Account.

The Foreign Securities have been heavier than the English Funds. Spanish Active Bonds realise only 10¾ to 11, and the New 3 per Cents. 18¾ to 19¼ for Account. Troubles in Spain seem now to be rather confidently expected. Portuguese 4 per Cents. have been quoted 14½. Russian Bonds are very flat at 75. Mexican have risen, being 15½ to 15¾. Dutch 4 per Cents. have been 56, ex dividend.

In Shares there is very little business doing, and prices continue exceedingly heavy, being in most cases lower.

PRICE OF SHARES THIS DAY AT THE CLOSE

	Paid.		Price.
Aberdeen	50	...	23¾
Caledonian	50	...	26
Dublin and Belfast Junction	25	...	—
Eastern Counties	20	...	13¼
Edinburgh and Glasgow	50	...	—
Edinburgh and Glasgow ½ Shares	12½	...	9
Great Northern	13	...	3½
Great North of England	100	...	—
Great Western	90	...	89½
Lancaster and Carlisle	50	...	—
London and Blackwall	L.13 6 8	...	4¾
London, Brighton, and South Coast	50	...	28⅝
North British	25	...	—
North British ½ Shares	5½	..	—
Scottish Central	25	..	27
Scottish Midland	22½	...	—
York, Newcastle, and Berwick	25	...	29⅝
York and North Midland	50	...	—

SCOTCH PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.

House of Commons, March 31.

BILLS—The Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway and Edinburgh and Bathgate Railway amalgamation—and Stirling and Dunfermline Railway (repeal of leasing powers to Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company) have been read a second time. The schoolmasters bill to facilitate the removal of burgh and parochial schoolmasters in Scotland has been read a first, and ordered to be read a second time on the 17th of April.

MISCELLANEOUS PETITIONS—Petitions have been presented from W. A. Flowerdew Edinburgh and Northern Railway Company, and Dundee (6) against the Dundee and Perth Railway (Junction) and Dundee and Arbroath Railway (Dundee Junction)—from Earl of Kinnoul, commissioners of the harbour of Perth and navigation of the Tay and Corporation of Perth against the Tay crossing—and from Edinburgh and Northern Railway Company against (lease of the Dundee and Arbroath) the Dundee and Perth Railway—from Earl of Zetland, and Kirkaldy, against the Edinburgh and Northern Railway (Roscobie, Kelbyland, and Glencraig branches, &c.)—from W. Smart, Esq. and Aberdeen Railway Company against Scottish Midland Junction Railway—from Fowlness, Presbyteries of Strathbogie, Aberdeen, Arbroath, Hamilton and Ayr, United Original Seceders of Ayr, against the diplomatic relations with the Court of Rome bill—from Quinton Bewnam, and William Dick, against the branches connecting the Clydesdale Junction and Wishaw and Coltness Railways, &c. and owners, &c. of the line against the purchase or lease of the Wishaw and Coltness Railway branchess of the Caledonian Railway—from Margaret and Juleau Neill against the Edinburgh and Bathgate Railway (extension deviation)—from West Stirlingshire turnpike road trustees, and Edinburgh and Northern Railway Company, and J. S. K. Lennox, Esq. against the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, No. 1 (amendment of acts and branches, &c.)—from Alex. Berwick, Esq. and W. R. Ramsay, Esq. against Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, No. 2 (amendment of acts and branches, &c.)—from Presbytery of Selkirk for improving the condition of schoolmasters—from Hutchison's Hospital, Glasgow, and Sir J. Maxwell, against the Glasgow, Airdrie, and Monkland's Junction Railway (Central Junction Railway)—from Sir M. R. S. Stewart, James Kibble, Glasgow, Paisley, and Greenock Railway Co., Glasgow, Barrhead, and Neilston Direct Railway Co. (2), W. L. Houston, and others, against the Paisley, Barrhead, and Hurlet Railway bill—Trustees of the late Duke of Atholl against the Strathtay and Breadalbane Extension Railway—from the kirk session of the parish of Bellie for better regulation of licensing system—from Greenock against the repeal of the navigation laws—from Paisley and Renfrewshire road trustees, traders of goods on the roads leading from Glasgow to county of Renfrew, against the Glasgow, Paisley, Kilmarnock, and Ayr Railway (revision of maximum Toll, &c.) bill—from Alva for repeal of game laws—from Glasgow (2) for exemption of hospitals and charitable institutions from the legacy duty—from Edinburgh for abolition of religious tests in universities (Scotland)—from Aberdeen for extending the provisions of the public health bill to that city—from Renfrew for amendment of the prison law in regard to assessment—from Presbytery of Glasgow against any additional endowment to the parochial schools of Scotland.

SCOTCH MEMBERS—DIVISION.

REDUCTION OF THE ARMY.

The following members voted in the division on Mr Hume's amendment to reduce the standing army, exclusive of the troops in India, from 113,847 to 100,000 men, which was lost by a majority of 293 to 39.

AYES—6.

G. Duncan	J. M'Gregor
W. Ewart	J. B. Smith
A. Hastie	J. Hume

NOES—29.

C. L. C. Bruce	A. E. Lockhart
Hon. F. Charteris	W. Lockhart
W. G. Craig	W. F. Mackenzie
G. S. Duff	D. M'Neill
Sir D. Dundas	Sir J. M'Taggart
F. Dundas	A. Matheson
E. Ellice	J. Matheson
Hon. J. Elliot	Right Hon. F. Maule
J. Fergus	Viscount Melgund
Col. Ferguson	Gen. Morrison
W. Forbes	Col. Mure
A. Fordyce	A. Rutherfurd
Lord J. F. G. Hallyburton	A. Smollett
Sir J. Hope	Right Hon. J. S. Wortley
Earl of Lincoln	

Another division followed, on an amendment proposed by Sir W. Molesworth, to reduce the army 5000 men, which was also defeated by a majority of 246 to 45. The same members divided, with the exception of Col. Mure and Mr Fordyce, who had retired for a short time, and had not returned before the division bell rang.

Saturday, April 1.

BILLS—The Caledonian Canal bill "for incorporating the Commissioners of the Caledonian Canal, and for vesting the Crinan Canal in the said commissioners," brought in by Mr G. Craig, Mr Parker, and the Lord Advocate, has been read a first time, and referred to the examiners of petitions for private bills. The committee on the game certificates for killing hares bill, has been deferred till Wednesday, 19th April. The committee on Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway (No. 1), (amendment of acts and branches, &c.), have power to divide the bill into two bills.

MISCELLANEOUS PETITIONS—Petitions have been presented from Nairn, for alteration of the inventory duty (Scotland), and for enabling congregations to purchase sites for churches, &c.—from Glasgow, for adoption of measures of relief to the West India colonies, and for repeal of the banking acts of 1844 and 1845—from Rutherglen and Nairn, for amendment of the prison law in regard to assessments—and from Rutherglen, for inquiry into the management of turnpike and parish roads in Scotland. Several bills have been presented in favour and against railways, arising out of differences between the companies.

House of Lords, April 1.

Petitions have been presented from Glasgow and Commission of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, against the diplomatic relations (Court of Rome) bill.—from charitable institutions, praying that they might be exempted from legacy duty.

THE WEATHER.—During the last four or five days, with the exception of some slight showers which fell yesterday afternoon, the weather has been excellent for spring purposes—generally dry with sunshine, and occasional bracing winds. Should it continue dry, this will be a busy week with the agriculturists, and we may expect to hear of much grain being deposited in the soil, under most favourable circumstances. Seed time is this year a week or two later than usual—but we have not found that a late seed-time augurs a late or bad harvest. We understand that a considerable quantity of potatoes will be planted this season. We are glad to observe, that the favourable change in the weather has been pretty general over the country.

PLEASURE SAIL.—It will be seen from the announcement elsewhere, that the fine and rapid sailing new Iron steamer called the Fair Trader, which the enterprising proprietor, Mr Greig, of the Chain Pier, intends to ply to the eastern district of Fife, is to leave the Broomielaw on Wednesday next for Leith, passing through the Caledonian Canal. A cheap and expeditious opportunity will thus be afforded to any one choosing to survey so large a portion of the island, including the fine scenery along the canal.

THE MID LOTHIAN RIFLE CLUB.—On Saturday, the members of this club met in Hillhousefield Park, and competed for their gold medal, which, after much good shooting at 180 yards, was won by W. W. Evans, Esq. secretary to the club.

GOLFING.—On Saturday the annual meeting of the Edinburgh Burgess Golfing Society took place in their hall, Golf-House, Bruntsfield Links, when Thomas Scott, Esq. was unanimously elected captain. The gold medal was then competed for by seventeen members of the club. The weather was fine, and the green in the best possible condition; the playing was consequently keen, and the medal was ultimately gained by T. C. Ellis, Esq. who won it on a former occasion, and who was hard pressed by the last holder, Mr Ogilvie. The members, with a few friends to the number of above forty, afterwards partook of a sumptuous dinner, provided by Mrs Goodsman, and spent, as usual, a very happy evening.

CAUTION TO GOLF PLAYERS.—A young gentleman appeared at the Police bar on Saturday, to answer to the charge of having, on the 29th ult. struck a golf ball in a careless manner whereby the ball hit on the forehead a gentleman passing along the public road leading from Wright's Houses to Whitehouse Loan. The accused party admitted having struck the ball which injured the individual alluded to, but pleaded in defence, that he had given the usual warning, by calling out the word "fore." Mr Moxey submitted, that the defence was quite irrelevant, but stated, that with concurrence of the injured party, he did not insist for any punishment, and that his only object in instituting the present proceedings was to shew to golf players the necessity which existed for their never resuming their play until they were satisfied that they could do so without any danger to the passengers. The Magistrate expressed his approbation of the course pursued by the prosecutor, and the accused having been admonished to be more careful in future, was allowed to depart.

SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.—At this court on Saturday, before Mr Sheriff Gordon and a jury, a carter, named John Tolland, previously convicted, was charged with having stolen two pocket-knives, from a trunk maker in St Andrew Street; accused pleaded guilty, and was sent to prison for one year. A charge of theft of a pilot cloth jacket, and two loaves of bread against Ludwig Schnell, a seaman, was found not proven by a majority of the jury, and the prisoner dismissed. James Tait, a seaman, was accused of stealing a cloth jacket, a mirror, powder flask, &c. but in consequence of an error in the *locus*, the Procurator-Fiscal abandoned the case. Mary M'Donald, six times previously convicted, was again found guilty of theft, and sentenced to imprisonment for 18 months. Margaret Pringle, charged with having broken into a house at Newbigging near Inveresk, and stolen therefrom several articles of wearing apparel, bedding, &c.; aggravated by previous conviction, was found guilty by a large majority, and sent to prison for twelve months. The court then adjourned.

INDIGENT GENTLEWOMEN'S FUND.—The first annual report of the managing committee of this fund has just been issued, and, considering its recent origin, presents a very satisfactory account of the extent of its charitable operations, the necessity for which is but too obvious. The fund being limited, its distribution must needs be partial, but as it comes more into notice than it has hitherto done, doubtless its charitable objects will be more appreciated, the contributions more numerous, and the aid greater in amount and more generally diffused. This report, of which 16,000 copies have been circulated throughout Scotland, will no doubt influence the benevolent to extend widely the sphere of its operations, and encourage the committee in their work of charity. The ladies who have acted as collectors for this fund must not have their efforts overlooked; we trust that the annual collection which, we understand, they are about to commence, will be attended with a success betokening an increased interest in the institution on the part of the community. Subjoined are a few sentences from the report, containing the principal statements regarding the origin, progress, and result of the labours of its promoters:

The institution was founded in March 1847 to give relief to aged and indigent unmarried women of the better ranks of society—to governesses, unfitted by age for the discharge of their duties—to destitute daughters of private gentlemen, clergymen, and other professional men, and of decayed merchants, &c. An institution of this kind, conducted so as to reach the really necessitous, without offence to their delicacy, has been long felt to be a desideratum in Scotland, and is certainly an object of the deepest social interest to all. The committee of management rejoice to state, that their exertions for its establishment have been rewarded by the warm sympathies and generous liberality of the public. Ladies residing in almost every county of Scotland, in country districts as well as in the towns, have shared impartially in the relief administered, respect being only had to the necessities of the applicants. The benefits of the institution have been extended to Orkney, Shetland, and the Western Islands, and a considerable number of ladies of reduced Highland families have received most welcome aid. About 500 clergymen, residing in all quarters of Scotland, act as local directors, while between L.300 and L.400 have been collected by them during last year, from the smaller towns and rural districts of the country. This body is daily increasing in numbers, and it is earnestly hoped that the publication of this report will induce all those who have not already consented to act as such to do so without further delay. Ladies of influence in all parts of Scotland were also requested to forward the interests of the society by acting as ladies recipients. Many at once entered on their benevolent labours with energetic zeal, and great success has attended their efforts. An auxiliary association in Aberdeen was also formed. The committee are also much indebted to many ladies in England, connected with Scottish families, for their exertions in aid of the fund. At the same time the committee of management would earnestly entreat the friends of the institution not to confine their liberality this year to the 2s. 6d. subscription. Many last year gave donations along with their subscriptions, and it is hoped that they will continue to do so. Although the annual subscription was made small, to enable even the poorest to become subscribers, yet it was never intended to limit the contributions of the opulent and of those desirous to give more than this sum. Unless the donations are continued, it is probable that the committee of management will not only be unable to enlarge the sphere of their bounty, but will be compelled to restrict the allowances of the ladies already receiving aid from the institution. The collections for fund 1847 amounted, with bank interest, to L.1265 13s. 10½d. Of this sum there have been divided among 154 applicants L.878. A part of the balance has been spent in the general expenses of the society, and the remainder, L.65 12s 8d. has been carried to fund 1848. To each of these ladies has been given a sum varying from L.10 to L.5. The aid was in almost all cases administered through the ladies' own pastors, and the gratitude of all was unbounded. In no case was assistance given where the relatives were able and willing to maintain the applicant; and, it is believed, that some have been prompted to aid their poor relatives rather than permit them to apply for relief to the fund. The report concludes by alluding to a bequest of L.100, which example the committee trusted would be followed by others, considering the objects of the society and its great practical utility.

FATAL ACCIDENTS.—About two o'clock on Thursday afternoon, a girl, about three years of age, while playing in South Bridge Street, was knocked down by a horse and cart, and the wheel passing over her, she was killed almost instantaneously. On Saturday week, while Robert Farquhar, labourer, Davidson's Mains, was sliding down a plank in Granton quarry, in a state of intoxication, he fell, and his head being fractured by coming in contact with a peak of the rock, he died on Wednesday. A few days ago, a boy named James Erskine, servant at Williamston Farm, Mid Calder, was sent to lead a young spirited horse along the road for exercise. In half an hour afterwards, the horse returned without its guide. The boy was found lying on the road so severely bruised by the animal's feet that he died on Wednesday last.

MONEY AND STOCK MARKET.

(From Mr Allan's Monthly Circular.)

We cannot record any improvement in the value of share property this month. The unsettled state of the Continent, and of France in particular—where the various public banks have suspended cash payments, and created extreme embarrassment in every department, and where the Three per Cents are now marked as low as 38—has naturally had a depressing influence on capitalists; and although the Bank of England never was stronger, with fifteen millions of bullion and eleven of reserved notes in its coffers, and the banking establishments throughout the country generally are easy—trade continues flat, and there has been no disposition to make investments of any kind. The only speculation having consequently been for the fall, prices are almost invariably lower than they were at commencement of the month. Ayrshires and Aberdeens have fallen L.8; Caledonian and Edinburgh and Glasgow, L.4; Dundee and Perth and North British, L.3.

At the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway meeting on 28th, it was unanimously resolved not to divide any dividend this half-year, but to retain the whole of it—equal to 6½ per cent. for that period—as a reserve fund. This measure, though not palatable in most quarters in the present times, has given greater stability to the stock, which, after touching the low limit of L.71, or 29 discount, has again for some days been in request. The special meeting of the Scottish Central called for 20th April, is looked forward to with much interest. Lord Breadalbane merits the best thanks of the proprietary for the manly and consistent way in which he has endeavoured to promote their real interests; for, whatever be the advantage of a guaranteed dividend under present circumstances, many years will probably not elapse before the shareholders will deeply regret the bargain now attempted to be forced upon them.

The Edinburgh and Perth scheme has, for the third time, been rejected by Parliament.

Bank stocks have changed hands more freely than for some months, but the prices generally are very low.—March 31.

THE THEATRE.

The new play, "The Wife's Secret," was repeated for the fourth time on Saturday evening, and before a highly fashionable and crowded audience, being one of the most brilliant of the season. Throughout, the play was followed with the most eager interest by the delighted audience, and the splendid efforts of Mr and Mrs Kean as Sir Walter and Lady Amyott, at the most interesting points of the story, literally thrilled through the house. This play has been acted every evening during the engagement of these distinguished performers, with the exception of Thursday, when Kean once more appeared in his master-piece, Hamlet, Mrs Kean giving an exquisite portraiture of the fair Ophelia. In those painful scenes where Ophelia disports amidst her insane visions, the acting of Mrs Kean was touching in the extreme; we have never seen these wild and plaint

"EDINBURGH GAZETTE." Caledonian Mercury 3 Apr. 1848. 19th Century British Newspapers. Web. 12 Mar. 2015.

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