THE BIDEFORD WEEKLY GAZETE—FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1860.

TOWN TALK.

BY OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT

(Our readers will understand that we do not hold ourselves responsible for our able Correspondent's opinions.)

MR. GLADSTONE has had a severe cold—a hoarseness—a complaint in ordinary cases to be treated with gruel and mustard plaisters; Dr. James's powders under the old system—chloric ether under the new. But in this case what a sensation, what whisperings and rumours in the City, what anxious inquiries at the right honourable gentleman's house! The hoarseness and cold are doubtless unpleasant for Mr. Gladstone, but still there must be something not altogether unpleasing in being made such a fuss about—in being treated as the only "pilot who can weather the storm" that is brewing in the House of Commons.

There has been nothing like this awful pause since the Duke of Wellington strung the seals of all the secretaries of state on his sword, and the nation waited for Sir Robert Peel posting from Rome.

Who says talent and money don't reap reward in England?

The Peel whom we all waited for—the son of the fifty-acre farmer, itinerant coal merchant, working cotton-spinner; the Gladstone whom we are now waiting for, no doubt, as the invaluable Dod tells us, descended—as are all successful Scotchmen—from the Celtic barbarians; but whose father, although dying a baronet, made his first success in life as a journeyman baker in Demerara; and, then, the Disraeli, who is now preparing his great Free Trade performance and the hoped-for confusion of Gladstone, was serving his articles to an attorney in Raymond's-buildings, Gray's-inn, when young Gladstone was taking his first honours at Eton,—while the sons of dukes and earls, and close connections of prime ministers—the Cowpers, Manneres, and Lennoxes, are obliged to serve in minor places, and, at middle age, to find the Cabinet still a blue chamber to them.

To discuss the French treaty now is useless; we know all about it, but it is too large a subject for talking about before the public have made up their minds. The *Times* balances between this great peace treaty and the ninepenny income-tax; so I, too, may venture to wait a little.

It shows the condition of the political age in which we live that Mr. Cobden's name should have been formally associated with Lord Cowley's as negociator of the treaty, contrary to all precedent, a man of talent only—not a member of the Government, past or present—not connected with any political family—a member of the Opposition—not trained to diplomacy. It is curious, and creditable to the Government, and needed as a counterpoise to some recent appointments.

You may remember that some time back I mentioned that Mr. Cobden had lost nearly all his fortune by investments in American railways. The fact has within the last few days found its way into the London papers; and also—what I did not choose to mention—that he had been replaced in comparative independence by a private subscription among a few friends. This is a great pity, because, if Mr. Cobden could have emancipated himself from the narrow provincial clique of Manchester men, he might have been of more service to his country.

That was a very good debate and a useful decision of the House of Commons on Mr. Wise's motion for an annual committee on the Civil Service Public Expenditure. Whether in public or private affairs, there is nothing like taking stock, and regulating the future by an examination of the past.

The estimates to be voted annually form a thick book, which few have the time, and no one—Joseph Hume being gone—has the ability to tackle. Hume kept up a complete indexed library of Parliamentary documents, and a staff of clever, hard-working young men to digest and analyse his information for him: so he mastered each subject in detail, and knew more than the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the time being; and thus, without being either very original or at all eloquent, by the exactness of his facts he did great things in economical reform for the nation. Lambeth Williams, the "Wycomb," as *Punch* calls him, has not, I regret to say, much weight in the House.

Mr. Wise's committee will be able to anatomise the expenditure of the past year, and put it in form, to be digested and used in the vacation for comparison in the following session.

John Bright came out well in this debate, and made amends for his blunders about the Turnpike Bill, which he opposed on Lancashire grounds.

Certainly Bright's translucent oratory contradicts Lord Brougham's theory of the necessity of studying Demosthenes and the great classic orators.

Mr. Roebuck has not yet spoken in this session of Parliament. At Sheffield the other day he said a good thing in answer to a very common fallacy—that working men's libraries, institutions, lectures, &c., are chiefly intended to help working men of superior talents to rise to be great men. This, as Mr. Roebuck told the hard-headed men of Sheffield, is cant. The great object of education in all classes, after improving the student's fixed mode of getting a livelihood, is to give the reader or student internal means of thought, content, and amusement. The rising men are not one in ten thousand, but ninety in a hundred may be made better, happier, less dependent on weather, beer, and tobacco by being able to read, and think about what they read. A man may make his little garden a gem of flowers—a marvel in vegetables—without expecting to be a Sir Joseph Paxton. Roebuck, with all his faults, has the great merit of courage to say unpleasant truths at suitable times.

The Sewage Manure question was brought before the London Farmers' Club the other day by Mr. Alderman Mechi, who read in his usual amusing style a clever lecture, full of all the old fallacies; but he was met by a crowd of agricultural and engineering evidence, proving that London sewage, at any rate, was too weak to pay for any great pumping expenses, because close to London it is worth nothing, and the further it goes the weaker it becomes.

Z. Z.

OUTLINES OF THE WEEK.

THE political barometer does not point to fair weather. In some quarters it is said the ministry will not last long. In the city they are not bright. The postponement of, and threatened opposition to the Budget, contributed to the dulness of the market. Every feature in connection with the bullion movement is likewise closely scaled. Fresh alarms of the prospective supplies of bullion attracts attention. The recommencement of remittances of gold from the United States to this country, though hoped for, has not yet taken place. The Chinese disarrangements of gold announced by the Australian mail just delivered, are greatly below the average; whilst bullion is still wanted here, though less urgently, for the Continent and India.

The gas question in London seems to be assuming great importance. Managers of theatres complain of the quantity and quality of the gas supplied them. Public clubs talk of returning to candles. Public meetings are being held to request Parliamentary interference in the matter. Money is being raised, and deputation after deputation besieges the doors of the Home-office. It is clear the public need protection against the rapacity of the London gas companies, who have a complete monopoly of the market, in consequence of which the public suffer.

The question of free trade is now discussed with great energy by the newspapers of Germany, doubtless owing to the completion of the treaty of commerce between England and France. Prussia has already given a partial adherence to this doctrine, which seems to be making a new one on the Continent, and Saxony, Hanover, and the States of Thuringia, have declared in favour of a gradual approach to the system of free trade. Prussia, indeed, appears to have adopted the doctrine heartily. The diplomatic agent of that Government is believed to have received instructions to urge the adoption of a liberal commercial policy on the state composing the Zollverein, and though the southern states of Germany have declared in opposition to the new principles, it is impossible that they can resist them long, if Prussia should adopt them to any extent.

In the past week nothing absolute has transpired upon which to speculate with anything like the prospect of a certain issue. The annexation of Savoy is still under discussion in the French and English journals; but there is not the slightest fact upon which to form a decided opinion in reference to the question, except it be the liberty conceded to the French press to argue in favour of the annexation. From the Italian side of the Alps come denials of any intention on the part of Piedmont to cede mountain region to France; and from Belgium, through indirect sources, said to be connected mediately or immediately with the French Government, the world is informed that this cession had been promised so long ago as last June, and that Savoy was to be the "consideration" for Lombardy. In the meanwhile, the Queen's Government deny all knowledge of negotiations on the subject; but this denial must be received, if not confirmed by the newspaper organs of the French Government in Paris. Should this denial, however, be what it purports to be—not a mere diplomatic denial, but a downright negative, and should it, at the same time, be true that the Sardinian Government have at any time within the last six months entered into an agreement such as that suggested in this matter, then it will be a question for Her Majesty's Ministers, and the Court of Turin is not on the level of his office, and that he has neglected the most important interests of this country to intrigue, "on his own hook," against Cobalti, and in favour of the Italian principle in Piedmont.

The importance of economy in the public expenditure has been recognised most conspicuously in the division in the second week of the session. Mr. Wise's motion for a select committee to inquire into the nature of the miscellaneous expenditure of the previous year was carried, after little more than a formal resistance by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary to the Treasury, and should prove very much like those of the supporters of the proposition. Mr. Wise showed, from a paper which had been prepared at the instance of Mr. James Wilson, the increase that had taken place in the Civil Service expenditure within the last twenty or thirty years. They were, for the

10 years ending 1827	.....	£2,000,000 per annum.
" 1837	.....	2,200,000 "
" 1847	.....	3,000,000 "
" 1857	.....	5,700,000 "

For the twenty years ending 1857 the increase amounted to a total sum of £43,000,000; but in the twenty years ending 1859, they were £94,000,000. This increase is a subject to which Mr. Gladstone has frequently called attention, and it is unquestionable that something must be done, not only to arrest its progress, but also to contract its bounds. A few figures show at once where the mischief lies. Take this exhibition of the increase under several heads:—

	1839.	1859.
Palaces, public buildings, parks, &c.	£197,000	£793,000
Law and justice	656,000	2,544,000
Education, science, and art	175,000	1,328,000
Colonial and consular establishment	339,000	428,000
Superannuation allowances	220,000	242,000
Miscellaneous	217,000	985,000

There is something in the objection that referring these matters to a select committee diminishes the responsibility of the Government; but since the responsibility of the Government does not prevent the increase of Civil Service, we should be thanks for the attempt to accomplish that object in another manner.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

INDIA, CHINA, AND JAPAN.

By the arrival of the Calcutta mail, letters and files of papers have been received from Calcutta to Dec 26, and from Hong Kong to Dec. 18.

CHINA EXPEDITION.—Final orders have been received at Calcutta upon the China expedition. The details have not yet transpired, but eleven European regiments are to be despatched, with a total force of 24,000, 6,000 is now told, but popular report doubles that number. Tonnage is being very rapidly taken up in Calcutta, and the transports have, we believe, been at anchor several days. The staff has yet been organised, and with the Governor-General at Meerut, Lord Clyde at Roorkee, and Sir Hugh Grant at Agra, Mr. Dade, there is not much probability of immediate action.

EXTINCTION OF THE REBEL FORCE. The fortnight has been remarkable for the final extinction of the relics of the rebel force on the frontier of Nepaul. The Nana, it is now known, died of fever some few weeks ago. Almodhu, his chief adviser, and the Cawnpore massacre, survived him only a few days. This is the man who travelled in England, and received every exposure did their slaughter would terrify England into the surrender of India. Hunger, disease, and exposure did their work on about a fourth of their force in number. Khan Bahadur Khan, the rebel general; and Dabee Buksh, of Gonda; Murgut Singh, of Bandah; Purwan Singh, of Azimgurh; Goolab Singh, of Barrie; Balmee Madhoo, of Shunkerpore; Khan Ally Khan, of Lucknow; and Hurdeo Persaud, Chieftainer of Hyderabad.

Jung Bahadoor seems to have been released by these deaths from his obligation to protect his guests, and after months of hesitation he ordered their expulsion. They were sent in one by one with detachments of Sepoys. Among them are Khan Bahadoor Khan, the man who set up a regular government in Bareilly; Tunmer Singh, brother of Koer Singh the Behar Zemindar, and feudal chief of all our "Bhojpore sepoys;" Mummoo Khan, the favourite of the Begum; Jomada Persaud, the Nana's second in command; the Ranee of Gondah; and 3,000 rank and file. Aman described as Feroze Khan, of Delhi, has also been given up, but this individual is not Feroze Shah, who broke out from the Terai and reached Bundelcund. The Sepoys are generally sent to their homes, but their ringleaders with all the chiefs, are reserved for trial. One or two of them, Mummoo Khan and Jomada Persad in particular, are stepped to the lips in blood. The latter was one of the five who sat upon the raised platform at Cawnpore to watch the massacre; the Nana, Azimoodhu, Tantia Topee, and Bala Rao being the remaining four. Of them all but one have escaped punishment on this side the grave. The Begum is now the only leader of note remaining, and she cannot have more than 1,500 followers, half armed, half fed, and without artillery.

The *Durbar* says:—"The campaign on the frontiers of Nepaul is nearly at an end. Khan Bahadoor Khan, ex-Nawab of Bareilly, was captured by the Rajah of Bhitoolee and made over to the British authorities. He and Munnoo Khan have been sent to Lucknow, where they will be tried, and, we hope, executed. The Begum and Jomada Persaud, Colonel Ahmed Khan, as he was attempting to escape at Dookar. In the engagement 150 men were killed, and 240 taken prisoners. Fifty rebels have surrendered to our quarters that day from the outposts. On the 13th, Brigadier Holditch reports that 'Joomla Parsad, commonly called the Nana, and second to the Nana in command of rebel forces,' was sent from the Goorkha camp that morning. On the previous day Boondoo Singh, late Subadar of the 5th Punjaub Native Infantry, was sent in by the Nepaulese. On the 15th 250 rebels were brought in. On the same day the 13th surrendered to the Goorkhas. On the 15th Captain Hill arrived in Brigadier Holditch's camp from the headquarters of our ally bringing reliable information of Kao Bahadoor, Bala Dee, Jodhee Singh, Nana Rao of Cawnpore, Debee Bukhsh of Gondah, Mirgut Singh of Banda, Peiwan Singh of Azingurh, Golab Singh of Burwa, Banee Madho of Shunkerpore, Azimullah of Cawnpore, Khan Ali Khan of Lucknow, General Hooda Bukhsh Daorilla, and Hurdeo Parsad, the Chunkiliyar of Hyderabad. The Begum is still at large, but Jung Bahadoor has directed the immediate dismissal and expulsion from the Nepaul territories of all her retainers, if she should not be carried into effect."

THE FIRE IN THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S CAMP.—The Governor-General, with Lady Canning, started from Agra on the evening of the 8th, to pay a flying visit to Mutra, and he arrived at that station on the following morning. Tuesday he proceeded to Govindgiter and Deig, and returns to Mutra on the evening of the 10th. His lordship relished his camp at Hattras on the 11th, at 8 p.m. About midnight a fire was discovered in his sleeping tent, occasioned, it is said, by the fire in a portable stove, which was soon reduced to ashes. The dining-tent with its contents was also destroyed. On the 16th the camp was expected at Bochandsur, and at Meerut on the 21st. A durbar was to be held at this station; but it is rumoured that there will be no durbar at Delhi, in order to mark the insignificance of the former capital of the Emperors of Hindustan. His Excellency was then to proceed by dak to Roorkee, and return after a few days to Meerut.

MR. WILSON.—Mr. Wilson was to join the Viceroy's camp on the 16th or 17th. On the 18th he arrived at Allahabad, and held a conference with the principal officials of the station.

MADRAS.—The Madras public has been invited by Government to form a municipality, partly on the elective principle. The Madras and Bombay troops which have been lent to the disturbed districts are about to return to their own presidencies.

CHINA.

Advices have been received from Hong Hong to Dec. 15, and from Shanghai to Dec. 9.

THE PEIHO.—There is no certain intelligence in regard to the intentions of the Chinese. There is reported that fortifications of Peiho are being strengthened, and that large numbers of Tartar troops are concentrated on the Peiho. Another report mentioned that the Peiho is to have been in some extent dismantled, and will be abandoned on the appearance of a large English force. "Should this be true," says the *Shanghai Mail*, "the English commanders will require to exercise the greatest caution in ascending upto Tient-sin if they attempt to do so, lest their vessels be caught by masked batteries in the turnings of the river."

THE REBELS.—The rebels in the north of Ngan Hwui have achieved a victory over an imperialist force through the treachery of a mandarin, whom the Emperor had dubbed "The Loyal Man of his Age," on account of the services he had rendered to the imperialist cause. Fungpan, the imperialist commander in this conflict, has been allowed to retain his post, doubtless in consequence of his non-success. Looking over the series of victories and defeats the rebels appear to be rather losing ground.

SHANGHAI.—The Cantonese at Shanghai continue to be unpopular with the native Chinese of that city, and their lives have been some time past upon them.

At Shanghai there had not been any arrivals from Great Britain, although several vessels were upwards of five months at sea. The weather all down the China Sea had been exceedingly severe.

U. S. TREAT.—A curious question has arisen in connection with the ratification of the United States treaty with China. It reduces the tonnage duties and opens two new ports, so an unofficial application has been made to the Tsungli Yamun for the admission of British vessels on the terms which it provides. Only the British supplementary treaty—not that of France—has been the decision of the Hon. Mr. Bruce.

CANTON.—At Canton the new Customs service continues to prosper, and there appears to have got over the outcry which at first was raised against it. A new and more probable, though as yet unsubstantiated, allegation is that, though quite able to put down smuggling on the part of the Chinese, it only throws it out of their hands into that of the Chinese, who are again employing mandarin boats for the purpose of smuggling. There appear, certainly, to be some very serious objections to the Anglo-Chinese Customs on their present footing, but these will be developed in time.

THE COOLIE TRADE.—The scheme of emigration to the British West Indies succeeds slowly. The best site has not yet been selected, but a sufficient number of emigrants have been already secured, and so many as 150 come up to the depôt at Hong Kong in one day. It is almost impossible to be over-estimate the blessings which will be conferred both on the Chinese and the West Indies should this scheme succeed in procuring a sufficient outlet for the redundant population of China.

JAPAN.

THE DOLLAR QUESTION.—The long-vexed question of the dollar to be given in exchange for Mexican dollars, or the Japanese asserting that it was the foreigners themselves who caused difficulties in the way, by refusing to receive dollars for gold, that is not very probable, unless it should have arisen from their anxiety to obtain gold instead; for we understand that an enormously profitable trade has been, and is, still, carried on, and such really appears to be the case. It has been asserted that this traffic is illegal, but Art. X. of the treaty provides that "Coins of all kinds, foreign, with the exception of Japanese copper coin, as well as foreign gold and silver uncoined, may be exported from Japan."

THE POPE'S LETTER TO THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON.

The *Independence Belge* publishes in its entirety the letter addressed by Pope Pius to the Emperor Napoleon in answer to the advice tendered him by his Majesty. We subjoin a translation:—

Sire,—I have received the letter which your Majesty has had the goodness to write to me, and I reply to it without evasion and with an open heart. In commencing, I do not hide from myself the difficulties which your Majesty; I see it in all its gravity. Your Majesty could leave this position by some decisive measures which perhaps excites your repugnance, and it is precisely because you find yourself in this position that you advise me again for the peace of Europe to cede the insurgent provinces, while you promise me that the Powers will guarantee to the Pope those which remain to him.

A project of this nature presents insurmountable difficulties, and I cannot convince myself of the facility to reflect upon my situation, my sacred character, and the rights of the Holy See—rights which are not those of a dynasty, but of the Universal Church. Concessions are insurmountable because I cannot cede that which does not belong to me, and because I see but too clearly that the victory which I would be given to the revolutionists of the Legations would serve as a pretext and encouragement to the native and foreign revolutionists of the other provinces, and would compromise, during the success of the first; and when I say revolutionists, I speak of the least considerable and the most audacious part of the population.

The Powers you say will guarantee the rest; but in the grave and extraordinary circumstances in which we are, can I rely on guaranteeing the numerous aids which the inhabitants receive from without, will it be possible for the Powers to use force in an efficacious manner? If that is not so, your Majesty will be persuaded with me that the usurpers of others' goods, and the revolutionists, will reconcile when they see only met by means of reasoning.

However that may be, I am compelled to declare that I cannot consent to a transaction without violating the solemn oaths which bind me, without producing a disaster and a shock in the other provinces, without bringing the wrong and slaughter upon the catholics, without weakening the rights, not only of the Sovereigns of Italy, unjustly despoiled of their domains, but of the sovereigns of the Christian world, who cannot see the destruction of certain principles with indifference.

Your Majesty makes the repose of Europe to depend on a transaction by the Pope of the Legations, which for fifty years have caused so much embarrassment to the Pontifical Government; and I commence in beginning this letter to speak openly, let me be permitted to return the argument. Who can count the revolutions which have occurred in France during the last sixty-six years? But at the same time who will dare say to the great French nation, that for the repose of Europe it is necessary to restrain the limits of the empire? The argument proves too much, accordingly permit me to reject it. And, moreover, your Majesty is not ignorant by what persons, with what funds, with what support the late attempts at Bologna, Ravenna, and other cities, have been made. Almost the entire population remained terror-stricken at the movement, which no one expected, and which they were not disposed to follow. But your Majesty observes that if I had accepted the project expressed in the letter which you addressed to me, the insurgent provinces would be now under my authority. To tell the truth, this letter as opposed to the letter which you addressed me before the commencement of the Italian campaign, and in which you gave me consoling assurances without causing me any trouble. Have you in its first part a project as inadmissible as the present; and as to the second part, I believe I have adopted it, as the concessions which I gave to the hands of your ambassador at Rome will show.

I see also this phrase of your Majesty's, that if I had accepted this project, I would have conceded to the insurgent provinces—an expression which seems to denote that at the point at which we have arrived they are lost to me. Sire, I speak in the name of God and the church, and also in your own interest, so to act that my apprehension be not justified. Certain memoirs, called to my mind that the Emperor Napoleon I. has left to his family warnings worthy of a Christian philosopher, who in adversity found resources and abnegation for your friendly expressions of my regard, and for the assurance you give me that you wish to continue to me the solicitude which you say you have had for me up to present time. It only remains to me to pray God to pour upon you, upon the Empress, and upon the young Imperial Prince the abundance of His blessings.

At the Vatican, Jan. 8, 1860. PIUS IX.

LETTER FROM MAZZINI.

The Scottish newspapers publish a letter from Signor Mazzini to his friend Mr. John M'Adam, of Glasgow. Mazzini is again in England, and, as we learn from this letter, occupying himself with the question of the cession of Nice and nationality and unity in the kingdom of the Two Sicilies:—

"We are working actively in the south to promote there a change which would reach the aim at once. You helped us, through pecuniary assistance, when we were at war in the north of Italy; help us, if you can, for the south. Explain to your countrymen that our aim is unity—that there is the root of the question—that Italy will never be tranquil, Europe never be at peace, whilst that supreme aim of ours is not reached. Urge for support being given to the claimed annexation of the duchies of Tuscany, of the legations, to Piedmont. Bonaparitism is conceding the annexation of the dukedoms, doubtful about the legations, negative about Tuscany. And, above all, urge insist for the withdrawal of the French troops from Italy, but especially from Rome. What is the talking about non-interference, whilst 20,000 French soldiers are forbidding Rome manifesting her verdict about papal rule? The withdrawal as soon as the Pope's security would be guaranteed was promised in 1849. It was promised again in 1856, on condition that the Austrian troops would withdraw from the Roman provinces. It is asked for by the Pope; it is by the Italian people; and since the war for independence it is a logical deduction, as, since the peace of Villafranca with Austria, it is an elementary political duty. Ask for it—petition, speak, resolve in every meeting for it. Rome free is Italy one; and the movement now going on throughout your Catholic population will raise up your Protestant believers to something like a counter-demonstration. These are the things you might, if willing, do. My hour is exhausted, and I must write no more; I shall as soon as I can.—Believe me, dear friend, ever gratefully yours, "JOSEPH MAZZINI.

"John M'Adam,

"65, Hyde-park-street, Glasgow."

CLEVER CAPTURE BY THE OVERLAND ROUTE.

Colonel Hogge, the Chief Constable of Staffordshire, received information, on Saturday afternoon, of the clever capture in Melbourne, by one of his force, of a man who ran away from that county, a short time ago, with nearly £400. On the 27th of last August, one of the Messrs. Benjamin Gibbons, commercial traveller, of Hinton, after taking from the Dudley Bank wages necessary to pay the workpeople of the firm at Highfields and Millfields respectively, instructed one of the men to take the money and take to the last-named works the proportion of cash which was required there. The fact was known to a clerk at the Millfields works, named Swanman, who intercepted the messenger, obtained the money from him, and sent him on an errand in another direction. This money was lost to the firm, but the clerk lost his employment, being owing to his employers he decamped, and by his adroitness in employing the messenger after getting the money from him, succeeded in obtaining so good a start of the police that he got clear away, and all efforts to find him were fruitless until the month of September, when the authorities learnt that he had sailed on the 8th of that month to Melbourne, in the steamer Monarch, from Plymouth. The Colonial Office, on the information, was obtained left only one means open whereby there was a chance of arresting him even at the Antipodes. The Messrs. Gibbons offered to avail themselves of these means, applied to Colonel Hogge to find them an efficient and trustworthy officer to go overland to Melbourne. The Chief Constable forthwith selected one selected a member of the corps, who was a man of good education and gentlemanly manners, and to a short time had so distinguished himself that he was promoted to a rank which in ordinary cases is only attained after prolonged service. The officer's letter sent to the Chief Constable from Melbourne gives details of the route have shown that the pursuer was in every way fitted for the responsible task which had been assigned. Although the officer left England in fortnight later than the absconder, he reached Melbourne a few days before the vessel arrived, in that port, and although he did not know the Monarch, yet he arrested the fugitive, and obtained possession of the greater portion of the money that had been stolen, and is now on his way home with the thief in his custody. The expenses of the overland journey and the return passage will be more than £150—a sum with which the detective was entrusted. Messrs. Gibbons will have this covered by the sum found on Swanman, and will have done good service to the public in showing dishonest persons who may feel inclined to follow Swanman's example that they may be equally unsuccessful.

MARRYING A RELEASED CONVICT.

The Imperial Court of Paris, presided over by its first president, M. Devienne, on Saturday gave judgment on appeal, in a case of great social importance, which has made considerable stir in French Paris circles. A poor spectacle girl, the daughter of a small tradesman, married a man who turned out to have been a convict. He was some years ago found guilty as an accomplice in a robbery, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment. A part of his punishment was subsequently remitted, but not until he had remained in prison above a year. The wife had, in the interim, obtained a large sum for her station in life. When she found out that her husband was a released convict, she brought a suit against the marriage, and relied upon Art. 180 of the Code, which declares a marriage void when there is a mistake as to the identity of either of the parties. The Court of the First Instance upheld the marriage good. Nevertheless, M. Behmont, the eminent ex-bâtonnier, argued the case very urgently on appeal, and laid great particularity that under the law, in certain cases, actually relieved a woman from a marriage on account of a conviction for felony against her husband, it was to be presumed that when the fact of her having married a convict was concealed, she would not have married him had she known it. The answer to this argument was that a conviction for felony, by removing the husband from the wife, renders him incapable of fulfilling the duties of a husband. A released convict is under no disability of the kind. The mere fact of the conviction of a man constitutes no mistake as to the identity of his person. The Court of Appeal, although it took time to consider, has confirmed the judgment of the court below.

THE ENGLISH FRIENDS OF THE GRAND DUKE AT FLORENCE.

The Rev. F. H. Sperling, rector of Papworth, St. Agnes, Cambridgeshire, brother of the ladies whose late expulsion on behalf of Protestantism at Florence has been the subject of so much ridicule, has addressed a letter to the *Athenæum* from the Tuscan capital, in which he enters at length into the circumstances. "Yesterday, o'clock, p.m., Dec. 26th," he says, "as my sisters were returning home by Via della Sapienza, a *bravo* street from the Piazza San Marco, their attention was attracted to certain writings on the walls of the Grand-Duke's palace, to the effect of "*Morte a Leopoldo Secondo!*" *Morte ai Codini!*" (Death to Leopold the Second! Death to the Conservatives!) and, at the conclusion of fancifully herself unobserved, heedlessly wrote on the said wall, "*Viva Ferdinando Quarto!*" (Long live Ferdinand the Fourth), and nothing else. At this moment a person dressed in plain clothes surprised them in the act, and struck my sister with such force as to break the umbrella with which she held in her hand, and, repeating the blow on her temples, almost stunned her. This man was the sole witness of the so-called mi-deed, and, after having two sisters as they hastened down Via del Cocomero, gave them over to the custody of two gendarmes whom they met, and left them." The remainder of the letter describes the examination of their effects, and insinuates that the Marchese Ginori was the person by whom Miss Sperling was struck. The *Athenæum* observes:—"We insert Mr. Sperling's letter because he claims its insertion as an act of justice. That his explanations appear to make the case weaker and worse is not our fault."

THE OLD GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The following are the aged members who claim to be wholly excused from serving on election committees:—General Arbuthnot, Mr. E. Ball, Mr. W. H. Barrow, Mr. Joseph M. Barry, Mr. T. E. Bernard, Mr. A. Black, Mr. P. P. Bouverie (Berks), Mr. J. Boyd, Mr. T. W. Brancker, Mr. J. J. Briston, Mr. J. Brocklehurst, Mr. Fox Bruce, Mr. Henry Bruce, Gerald Buckley, Sir C. M. Burrell, Mr. M. E. Corbally, Mr. R. Davison, Mr. E. Divett, Mr. H. Drummond, Mr. T. Duncombe (Finsbury), Mr. J. Ellice (Coventry), Sir De L. Evans, Mr. J. H. Foley, Mr. W. J. Fox, Mr. G. C. Glyn, Sir J. Graham, Mr. S. Gregson, Mr. T. Greenall, Mr. R. Gurdon, Mr. G. Hadfield, Mr. T. C. Haliburton, Mr. G. G. Harcourt, Sir W. G. Hayter, Mr. J. W. Henley, Mr. J. J. Hornby, Mr. J. Noble, Mr. J. Ogilvie, Mr. M. Longe, Colonel Lowther, Mr. W. J. Lyeley, Mr. J. M'Cann, Mr. W. Marshall, Mr. C. A. Moody, Mr. W. Murray, Sir C. Napier, Mr. J. Noble, Mr. R. M. O'Ferrall, Sir J. Owen, Mr. C. W. Packe, Viscount Palmerston, Sir G. B. Pechell, Mr. D. Pugh, Mr. O. Ricardo, Mr. H. Rich, Mr. J. Robertson, Lord J. Russell, Mr. G. P. Scrope, Mr. A. Slaney, Sir F. Smith, Mr. R. Spooner, Mr. J. Steel, Mr. G. Traill, Mr. J. A. Turner, Sir W. Verner, Admiral Walcott, Mr. J. Walbridge, Mr. J. A. Warre, Colonel H. White, Mr. B. M'G. Willcox, Mr. W. B. Wrightson, and Sir H. Wyndham.

WILFUL DAMAGE TO A PUBLIC INDICATOR.

William Kendrick, a surly-looking young fellow, was brought before Mr. Burcham, at the Greenwich Police Court, charged with wilfully damaging the public indicator at Stones-end, Borough.

Mary Congdon, the wife of a police-constable of the M division, said that last evening, about 9 o'clock, she was passing down the Borough-road towards Newington-causeway, where she saw the prisoner go to the indicator, and deliberately kick the lower part, and break a large square of ornamental glass. He was about to break another, when she called a constable, and he ran off as fast as he could. She followed him, and saw him taken into custody.

The prisoner said he fell against it accidentally as he was passing along. They ought not to place such things in people's way.

Mrs. Congdon swore that she saw the prisoner go up to the indicator and purposely kick the glass.

Mr. Burcham asked what was the value of the damage?

Mr. Thomas Ponsonby, the manager of the company, said that the value of the glass was 12s. 6d.

Mr. Burcham ordered the prisoner to pay that sum, or go to prison seven days.

THE COMMERCIAL TREATY OF PEACE.

The *Independence Belge* says that the proposals to be submitted by the Chambers of Commerce to the Minister of Commerce as a consequence of the commercial treaty, which was ratified on Saturday as Paris, are as follows:

Abolition of duties on all the productions of French manufacture.

Abolition of the duties on French spirits with those on English spirits, and the same with those first named is at present 15s. a-gallon, on the others only 7s.; the duty on French brandy would thus be lowered by 8s. a-gallon.

Immediate reduction of the duty on French wine to the extent of 2s. 9d. a-gallon. The duty at present being 5s. 9d., the new duty will only be 3s. a-gallon.

A second reduction of this duty from the 1st of April, 1861. The duty will be a minimum of 1s. and a maximum 2s., according to the quantity of alcohol which the wines may contain.

A merely nominal duty on corn, flour, and all articles made of flour.

Reduction more or less important of the duties on all other articles imported from France.

England reserves the right of allowing other nations to participate in these reductions, as well as of modifying the duties on French wines and spirits, if changes in our Excise shall render such modifications desirable.

France on her part undertakes to make the following concessions, but none of them will take immediate effect:—

Reduction of the duties on English coal and coke to the level with those imposed on the same commodities of Belgian produce.

Abolition of the duties on wool and cotton.

Reduction of the duty on iron and machinery.

Abolition of prohibitions, for which *ad valorem* duties not exceeding 30 per cent. shall be substituted.

DIVORCE CASES.

CRISPIN v. BELL.

This was a testamentary cause in which an application was made last week, by Dr. Spinks, for an order directing the plaintiff to find security for costs, on the ground that he was a Portuguese with no permanent residence in this country. The application was opposed by Dr. Phillimore, Q.C., for the plaintiff, on the authority of the case of "Pacaio" in the *1 Excheque*r, 800. It appeared that the proceedings in this court were preliminary to a suit in Chancery.

Sir C. Cresswell, this morning, said he found that all the previ us cases were reviewed in the case in the Exchequer, and he was bound, on the authority of that case, to refuse the application. The principle upon which the Court proceeded was, that the party was in England at the time of the suit, and could not be sued, therefore, he compelled to give security for costs. If he went away, the proceedings could be stayed until security had been given.

ANTHONY v. ANTHONY.

In this case his Lordship had pronounced a decree of judicial separation on the prayer of the wife, upon the ground of the husband's cruelty. Mr. Anthony was an artist by profession, and alimony *pendente lite* had been allotted to his wife at the rate of £300 a year, his income being estimated at £335.

Dr. Spinks, for Mrs. Anthony, now moved for permanent alimony at the same rate.

Dr. Swabey, Q.C. (with whom was Dr. Swabey) for Mr. Anthony, referred to various deductions claimed by him from his gross income amounting to upwards of a large sum, for his pictures, travelling expenses, &c. He further stated that although he had worked ten hours a day, and had used every means in his power to sell his pictures, he had not been able to dispose of as many as usual in the course of the year, and that his income had thus been reduced below £300. The learned doctor stated that the frequent applications and disputes on the subject of alimony were very inconvenient, and wasted a great deal of his client's money.

His Lordship said, it was very difficult for the Court to determine questions of this sort. But a person of the rank in profession could not be dealt with upon the same principles as were applicable to most other persons. He stated that he had painted a great spectacle girl, the daughter of a small tradesman, married a man who turned out to have been a convict. He was some years ago found guilty as an accomplice in a robbery, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment. A part of his punishment was subsequently remitted, but not until he had remained in prison above a year. The wife had, in the interim, obtained a large sum for her station in life. When she found out that her husband was a released convict, she brought a suit against the marriage, and relied upon Art. 180 of the Code, which declares a marriage void when there is a mistake as to the identity of either of the parties. The Court of the First Instance upheld the marriage good. Nevertheless, M. Behmont, the eminent ex-bâtonnier, argued the case very urgently on appeal, and laid great particularity that under the law, in certain cases, actually relieved a woman from a marriage on account of a conviction for felony against her husband, it was to be presumed that when the fact of her having married a convict was concealed, she would not have married him had she known it. The answer to this argument was that a conviction for felony, by removing the husband from the wife, renders him incapable of fulfilling the duties of a husband. A released convict is under no disability of the kind. The mere fact of the conviction of a man constitutes no mistake as to the identity of his person. The Court of Appeal, although it took time to consider, has confirmed the judgment of the court below.

CONNOR AND ANOTHER v. GRAHAM.

Dr. Spinks appeared for the plaintiffs.

The plaintiffs were the executors of the late Joseph Graham, who died at Wakefield on the 19th of April, 1859, leaving a will dated the 31st of March, and a codicil dated the 9th of April, 1858. They proved the codicil in solemn form, and cited the next of kin, who did not appear.

The attesting witnesses having been examined,

The COURT decreed probate.

NARROW ESCAPE OF A DETECTIVE OFFICER.

Sergeant Jarvis, of the City detective force, had a narrow escape on Saturday from a fate similar to that which befell Thains some time ago. A few days ago, of Sheffield, taking with him £100, the property of his employer. On Saturday morning, Mr. Batsett, accompanied from his residence, Bryer, in Essex, and at a clue having been obtained, secured the assistance of Sergeant Jarvis, who succeeded in arresting Walter, who was placed in the cab with the officer and Mr. Bassett, who informed Jarvis that he had received a threatening letter from the prisoner, intimating that he would blow out the brains of any person who arrested him. Jarvis suddenly seized his arms, and discovered that he held a loaded pistol, ready cocked, in each hand, concealed beneath the loose sleeves of one of the fashionable Inverness capes which he wore. He was immediately disarmed, though not without some difficulty, as he is a muscular and determined young man. On arriving at Bow-lane station-house he was searched and the pistols examined. One contained two bullets, and there is every probability that, if Sergeant Jarvis had not displayed great courage and readiness, the prisoner would have attempted his life. His apartments were subsequently searched, and £50 in Bank-notes, a gold watch, and other articles, were discovered. In the evening he was conveyed to Sheffield, handcuffed, as there was reason to suppose that he would attempt suicide.

LATER NEWS.

REJECTION OF THE ENGLISH PROPOSITIONS BY AUSTRIA.

PARIS FEB. 8.

The French Government has received to-day a telegram from Rome, stating that at Vienna, something than Count Rechberg has received with great deference the communication of the English proposal, but that Austria will never cede to the third point concerning the annexation of Central Italy to Piedmont.

The direct reply of the cabinet of Vienna will be sent to Paris in a few days.

BERLIN FEB. 8.

The news that Austria has refused to accede to the principal points of the proposal of England and France for the settlement of the Italian question has been confirmed.

VIENNA FEB. 7.

The five points of the proposal of the English Government for the settlement of the Italian question were first communicated to Count Rechberg by Lord Loftus two days before the opening of the English Parliament.

Count Rechberg immediately pointed out the contradiction existing between these five points and the words pronounced by Lord Palmerston in the House of Commons on the 18th of April last, when his Lordship, in speaking of the territorial arrangements of Italy established by the treaty of 1815, said: "However, that which was done was done by mutual consent, and that treaty is the charter by which Europe holds its present distribution of territory."

The Marquis de Moustier has communicated, in the name of France, the same five points, to which Count Rechberg will reply in two different despatches.

INDIA.

MADRAS, JAN. 15.

Three Queen's Regiments and on (?) Native Regiments and Artillery have been ordered for China.

The Governor has gone on a tour