SIR T. BRASSEY ON THE NAVY.

An address was delivered last evening before the Portsmouth Liberal Association by Sir Thomas Brassey, who spoke on the recent shipbuilding policy of the Government. He said that in any statement with regard to the Navy comparisons of strength afforded a subject of the greatest interest to the public. Taking the displacement as the fairest measure of their relative strength, the aggregate tonnage of the effective armoured fleets of the leading Naval Powers of Europe might be summarised as follows:—England, 329,520 tons; France, 201,789 tons; Germany, 74,007 tons; Austria, 41,... tons; Russia, 83,621 tons; Italy, 59,905 tons. In this computation those ships only were included which were actually ready for sea. While offering to the public a satisfactory statement as to the actual condition of the fleet, he did not dispute that great exertions were being made by the French. When the present Board of Admiralty came into office the annual expenditure of the French on ironclad construction was largely in excess of the outlay in this country. That was a condition in which they could not acquiesce, and in four years, under an Administration pledged to economy, they had added no less than 1,000,000*l.* to the effective votes for the Navy (cheers). The shipbuilding expenditure was increased from 3,106,000*l.* in 1879-80 to 3,889,668*l.* in 1883-84, and 3,891,000*l.* for 1884-85. The number of workmen employed in the dockyards at home had been increased from 16,381 to 18,849. The armoured building had been advanced from 7427 tons in 1880 to 12,614 tons, as proposed in the Estimates for 1884-85. The expenditure on armoured building for 1883 and 1884-85 was actually doubled as compared with 1879-80. The relative progress of construction in France and England might be measured with tolerable accuracy by a comparison of the sums voted for shipbuilding. A comparison of French and English complete ships would show that the differences of cost were not important. The following were examples:—Imperieuse, 10,487 tons, cost of hull 460,000*l.*; Amiral ..., 10,800 tons, cost of hull 493,035*l.*; the Devastation, 9639 tons, cost of hull 312,000*l.*; ..., 9330 tons, cost of hull 306,430*l.*; Redoutable, ... tons, cost of hull 356,000*l.*; Ajax, 8510 tons, cost of hull 392,000*l.* For the protection of our vast commerce in every part of the globe we maintained a fleet in commission with an aggregate displacement of ... tons, as compared with 171,300 tons for the French. Our fleet in commission was more than double that of the French, but our mercantile marine was ... larger than theirs. Again, our fleet was manned by voluntary enlistment, the French by conscription, and we had to pay for all the advantages of individual freedom by giving higher wages and pensions to our seamen. The French shipbuilding showed a constant tendency to increase, and they had endeavoured to meet it by every means in their power. With this view, while carefully weighing every suggestion for improvement, they had avoided as far as possible those repeated changes of design which could only be justified by the promise of a substantial gain in efficiency. The programme for 1884-85 consisted for the most part of types well known and approved. It had been the policy of the Board to limit the displacement of our largest ships at a maximum of 10,000 tons. Within these limits they could obtain a speed of 16 knots, an armament of the heaviest guns, and armour of 18 inches in vital places. If it were desired to combine equal armour and armament with a speed increased to 18 knots, they must accept the dimensions of the Italia and Lepanto, and be prepared to build ships of 14,000 tons. They were not prepared to adopt a policy which involved such serious consequences in limiting the numerical strength of the Navy. It was not generally known how large a proportion of the money voted for shipbuilding was devoted to unarmoured ships, a fact totally disregarded in the comparisons of strength lately given to the public. In the thirteen years the expenditure on unarmoured vessels—... was no less than 7,305,432*l.* as against ... expended on armoured ships. In the extent of unarmoured construction we were immensely ahead of the French. The public would be surprised to learn that the figures for the French Navy, corresponding with those which he had just given for the British, were for armoured ships 8,550,375*l.*, and for unarmoured ships 3,307,521*l.* (hear, hear). As regards the ships to be built, they proposed to build in 1884-85, ... or 1500 tons more than last year and ... appreciably in excess of the average of the ... years. In the types of our unarmoured ships improvements had recently been effected. Speed had been increased in the larger types from ... knots in the corvettes and sloops from 10 to 13, and in the gunboats from 10 to 14 knots. We had made a decided advance not only in speed but in ... and armament. In the protection for ... our ships might be considered equal to the ... the new Italian ironclads. While giving ... attention to the protected cruisers, they were ... pushing the construction of torpedo vessels. ... introduced into their programme a seagoing vessel, the Scout, of a much more powerful ... than any they had yet built, and capable of ... with the ironclads in any weather. If ... proved successful, Scouts would be ... to our squadrons in considerable numbers. ... were expending a large sum annually on boats of a powerful class. They had entirely ... the attempt so carry torpedo boats on board ... was a circumstance of great significance that, ... German Admiralty had only one ironclad in ..., they had lately obtained a vote of credit ... for the construction of 70 torpedo boats for ... Looking to the possibilities of torpedo ... it would be obvious how incomplete were those ... lately presented to the public, in which the strength of the armoured fleets was accepted as ... In the smoke and confusion of an engagement, a simultaneous attack of a cloud of torpedo boats advancing at 20 knots, armed with Whitehead ..., commanded by determined men, would be formidable. They were pressing upon the Government of India the important question of providing a dock at Bombay capable of receiving an ironclad, and to build armoured cruisers at a cost of 500,000*l.* ... our enormous trade with the East, and to be ... means of docking a disabled ironclad in any ... Indian Empire, was a condition of unpreparedness which should not be suffered to continue ... Any statement respecting the condition of the Navy would be imperfect which contained no ... to the efforts which the Australian Colonies were making to provide for their own naval defence. In doing this—not, as he was convinced, from a desire to weaken the British connection, but in a manly spirit of independence, and from a desire to relieve the mother country of burdens which the Colonies themselves were well able to bear (hear, hear). As Civil Lord it was his agreeable duty to pay a well-merited tribute of praise to the workmen of all classes employed in the dockyards. Their officers and seamen were second to none in their nautical bearing, and in their efficiency afloat. They were sustained by noble traditions, and they had for their reward the ... and the admiration of their fellow-countrymen, the best reward surely which any nation could give to its defenders (cheers).

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

The mail steamers of the Allan line sailing from Liverpool are at present crowded to their utmost capacity by members of the British Association *en route* for Montreal, to take part in the meetings of that body which commence in the Canadian city this month. The arrangements made for the reception and entertainment of the English visitors appear to be of a complete description. The Canadian Government have voted five thousand pounds, and reception committees have been formed not only in Montreal itself, but at Toronto and Winnipeg, which will be visited in due course by the members. In the matter of excursions most generous arrangements have been made, notably by the Canadian Pacific Railroad, the directors of which have invited some seven hundred members to pay a flying visit to Manitoba and the Far West. Amongst those who have already sailed from Liverpool for Canada are Sir David Macpherson (Minister of the Interior), Sir William Thompson, Mr. J. Chamberlain, son of the President of the Board of Trade, Professor J. C. Adams, and Professor Thompson. Passengers by the steamers to-morrow and on Saturday next will include Lord Rayleigh (President of the Association), Professors Harker, Henrici, Kinch, W. ..., Boyd, Dawkins, Dewar, Frean, Reinold, ... Roberts, Sollas, Sir F. Bramwell, Mr. C. W. ..., the Deputy Master of the Mint, Admiral ..., the Earl of Rosse, and a long list of members of the Royal Society, the Geographical Society, and other learned institutions. It may be said with truth that never before has there been such a concentration of learning afloat at one time as will during the next fortnight be borne upon the Atlantic.

THE GARDEN SHOW.—Among the many attractive features of the Health Exhibition, the fruit and flower shows periodically given by the Royal Horticultural Society in the great conservatory are certainly not the least attractive. None of them, of course, can be compared to the sumptuous displays which the Society makes at its regular exhibitions, but they form, nevertheless, most agreeable adjuncts to the extensive attractions which the "Healtheries" has to offer, and as such they are always fully appreciated. Yesterday, under the auspices of the Society, a show of fruit and vegetables grown by cottagers and artisans was opened for the inspection of visitors, and will remain open all the week. No fewer than 700 lots of fruit and vegetables have been sent in to compete for the prizes, amounting to 100*l.*, which the society offer; and if these are to be taken as a fair sample of what is being done all over the country, it is evident that cottage gardening is making most satisfactory progress amongst us. Some of the collections of fruit, indeed, are so finely grown that it is difficult to believe they have not been raised under glass, although we are assured that is not the case in a single instance. It is an increasing practice for cottagers to join in cultivating plots of land and in sharing the produce, and with a view to encouraging so obviously desirable a combination, the Horticultural Society offers its prizes for collections of fruit and vegetables grown by associations, the three chief of these prizes having yesterday been most deservedly awarded to the ... Garden Committee, the Wrotham Horticultural Society, and to the Bromley-common Horticultural Society, all of which have filled their stands with produce which would do credit to any market garden conducted on the most scientific principles. The ordinary kinds of vegetables—such as potatoes, beans, peas, onions, carrots, and beets—are particularly well shown; and it is satisfactory to note the evident care which has been taken to choose the best and most useful sorts of each variety. The Floral Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society have supplemented the show by a display of new varieties of flowers, amongst which are some of the most exquisite dahlias which it has ever been our fortune to see. For these Messrs. Kelway and Son, Langport, are awarded the silver-gilt Banksian medal of the society; for a single dahlia, Mr. T. Ware, of Tottenham, obtains the Banksian bronze medal; while amongst others Mr. Turner, Slough, receives a special vote of thanks for his superb case of double dahlias, and Messrs. Veitch and Son are highly commended for some choice varieties of plants. One of the most interesting plants exhibited is a *Tigridia Alba*, sent by Messrs. ... and Son, Swanley, who have been awarded a first-class certificate. This lovely flower lives but a day; at night it closes and drops off, and the next morning there is a new bloom equally beautiful, ready to unfold and take its place. Certainly English hothouses contain few more remarkable manifestations of the mysteries of plant life than is afforded in the growth and beauty of this lovely and fragile creation.

GROUSE SHOOTING.

The grouse shooting season opened yesterday under varying conditions. The weather for some time past has been favourable to the growth and health of the birds, and they are plentiful, while there appears to be not much disease among them; but the sport of yesterday was in some districts marred by heavy rain or by fog and mist. It will be seen, however, by the following reports from our correspondents that, on the whole, the prospects of our sportsmen are decidedly encouraging:—

DERBYSHIRE.—Notwithstanding changeable weather last spring, and the snow in May, the "Twelfth" was opened on the Derbyshire Moors under extremely successful and encouraging circumstances. Much sport was afforded, and the best of bags was made, although the light at times was anything but good, with scarcely a breath of air to carry the smoke clear of the guns. Sportsmen who had taken up their quarters over night in the shooting boxes were astir at a very early hour. The weather opened without a glimpse of sun, somewhat "misty" in some parts, close, and with every appearance of thunder and rain. By luncheon time the bags brought in conclusively proved that on the majority of the moors there had been a better yield of sport than for three or four years past, but this result had been brought about by more circumstances than one. In the first place, sportsmen had been unable to reduce the strong coveys at the close of last season, owing to the unfavourable state of the weather; there had been abundance of food throughout the Winter, and the birds had a most favourable Spring time, although there had been experienced some irregularity during the hatching season. Taken on the whole, it was of a most encouraging character, few nests having been "flooded out," and these only on the low-lying moorland. Reports received during the day from the Dore, the Derwent, the Bamford Edge, the Edale, and the Hayfield Kinder moors alike agreed as to the high-class character of the sport. Not only are the birds in great abundance, but they are strong on the wing, and there is an utter absence of disease. Some of the broods were not quite in such plump condition as in previous years. The average coveys number from seven or eight. There is no question that many of these moors suffered by the snows and rain in May. Some of the broods are of second hatching, but these run small at present. By permission of the Duke of Devonshire a party of thirteen gentlemen, including Colonel Cavendish and Mr. Barnes, M.P., shot over the Snake Moors, and had capital sport, some heavy bags being made. The extensive range of moors rented by the Bradfield Game Association were left last year with a plentiful supply of birds. They have been exceedingly prolific, and splendid sport was anticipated. No such heavy bags as were made last year were now secured. Mr. J. K. Wilson topped the list, with 32½ brace; Mr. T. K. Wilson came next, with 30½; Mr. J. G. Wilson, 28; Mr. T. Vickers, 27; Mr. Bradley Firth, 25; Mr. Mark Firth, 24½; Mr. J. E. Cowlishaw, 24; Mr. F. Mappin, 21. Many of the other bags only reached from 10 to 20 brace. Mr. Bernard Firth and Mr. Bradley (Mansfield) shot over Firth's Moors, and bagged 53½ brace. There were four guns on the Brookfield Moors. Birds were plentiful, but very strong and wild, and only 55 brace were brought down, as against 85 last year. There were on the Fitzwilliam Moors Mr. H. W. Fitzwilliam, M.P., Mr. John Fitzwilliam, M.P., Mr. Chas. Fitzwilliam, Admiral Simpson, and Admiral Douglas, and they bagged 72 brace, as against 81 last year. On the Midhope Moors the weather was more favourable. Birds were here also plentiful and in good condition, but were found to be more than usually wild, and shooting was consequently somewhat difficult. Indeed, most of the birds shot were "skimmers," it being almost impossible to get near to the packs, in some of which were hundreds of birds. The following were the largest bags made:—Mr. H. Miller, 29 brace; Mr. J. Brown, 25; Mr. Dymond, 24; Mr. Joel Oliver, 24; Mr. H. Budd, 20. There was a large party out on Rigby's and Brookhouse Moors, and they found plenty of birds, but it was almost impossible to get near them. A similar state of things ruled on the other moors in the neighbourhood. For the birds that came into the Sheffield Market 15*s.* per brace was asked.

LEICESTER.—To compensate for many blank Twelfths the party, who were invited yesterday to Jermyn Hall, Leicester, the seat of Mr. F. Thompson, of Hartingdean, had one of the most successful days on record. The extensive moors belonging to this gentleman had never before promised such capital sport. The breeding time was exceptionally good, and an abundance of healthy, strong birds was known to exist. So eager were some of the party that before sunrise they had sallied forth, among them being Lord Coventree, the Hon. and Rev. Sir William Bellamy, of Drake Manor; Sir William Best, of Coatington Core; and Major George Knox, of Dunville Park. The moors being well sheltered there was excellent sport, the weather being delightful. The result of the day's shooting was—Mr. F. Thompson, 231½ brace; Rev. Sir W. Bellamy, 162 brace; Sir W. Best, 179 brace; and Major Knox, 96½ brace. The gallant major had an accident with his gun early in the afternoon, which incapacitated him from pursuing the sport.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE.—In this district yesterday the weather was fine but gloomy. There was excellent sport on the moors in the Clitheroe district, the birds being unusually numerous healthy, and strong on the wing, and some good bags were made. Shooting parties were very numerous, and included Lord Stanhope, the Hon. Algernon Grosvenor, and Colonel Forester.

KENDAL.—Grouse shooting opened favourably. The weather was fine. A large number of sportsmen were out early. The season has been good for birds, and the coveys are very large, although the birds are not in a very good condition, consequent on the scarcity of water when they were young. Sportsmen on Potter Fell, Gray Rigg, and other good moors have made large bags. The Earl of Bective, with Colonel Clayton, Major Moor, and eight guns, shot over Deeside Dent and made large bags. A plentiful supply of grouse was selling in some towns in Cumberland at 7*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.* 6*d.* a brace.

SCARBOROUGH.—The grouse districts around Scarbrough yesterday gave full realisation of the favourable prospects for the "Twelfth." On all sides the reports were very favourable as to the quantity of covers and their numerical strength. The season throughout has been favourable, and the large bags which sportsmen were secured fully up to the average. The birds are large, fine and plump, very shy, and strong on the wing. A great many consignments reached Scarborough, which found ready customers at from 10*s.* to 12*s.* per brace.

NORTH WALES.—Shortly after noon numerous hampers of grouse were despatched south from the moors in North Wales. Sport was the best experienced for some years, the birds were everywhere strong on the wing and well developed. A cool breeze blew all the morning, which made sport exceedingly pleasant and exhilarating. During the afternoon slight showers fell on some moors, but were not of such a character as to put a stop to operations. Mr. Preme and party, of Wepre Hall, Flint, enjoyed splendid sport on his moors at Cerrigydrudion. The largest moors in Merionethshire, if not in North Wales, belong to Mr. Price, of Rhiwlas. Sir Watkin Wynn's parties were on the moors near Oakley, and also on those of Llanbrynmair, in Montgomeryshire. Mr. Robertson, M.P.; the Hon. C. Wynne, of Rug; and Mr. Vosper, of Bangor, found their moors better stocked than for the past ten years. In short, the breeding season is pronounced on all hands to be the best for many years. The weather was mild, and the heather in excellent condition.

DUMFRIESSHIRE.—The grouse-shooting season has not opened auspiciously. The weather completely spoilt the opening day's sport. The stock is numerous, the season having proved very favourable to birds, which are large and free from disease. All this promised good bags, and many sportsmen had made arrangements to start early. This they did, and the morning opened favourably, but shortly after daybreak a severe thunderstorm broke out, which lasted fourteen hours. During the storm the rain fell in torrents, with occasional hail, and some cattle were killed by lightning. No reports as to bags of the gentlemen who started out early are to hand.

DUNFERMLINE.—Shooting commenced almost before daybreak, and in a few hours excellent bags had been made of grouse, which were found to be plentiful and healthy. About noon, however, sport was greatly marred by heavy rains. The prospects for the season are uncommonly good.

GLASGOW.—The West of Scotland was visited during the day by violent thunderstorms and deluges of rain, so that only sportsmen who had gone out very early had any sport, as the storm began about seven in the morning. At Inverary, Lord Walter and Lord George Campbell and Captain Clough Taylor went out on the Galochry Moor, but had to return without firing a shot. In the same district, on Killean Moor, Messrs. Hill, Cross, and Lord, guests of Captain Stewart Taylor, of Inruds, bagged 30½ brace of grouse in six hours. In Renfrewshire Sir Michael Shaw Stewart and Mr. Michael Shaw Stewart were out for a short time on Cornalaes, and several other moors in the neighbourhood were visited, but scarcely any sport was obtained. On G ... and Dornal Moory Cumnock, Ayrshire, Mr. Charles Inglis and party had twelve and a-half brace of grouse and four and a-half brace of plovers. On Mekkhill Moor Mr. Stephen Grant, of London, and party killed ten brace of grouse. On Vockerton Moor, Kirkcudbright, the Earl of Selkirk had fair sport; and on Backray Moor seven brace of grouse and two and a-half brace of snipe fell to four guns.

MORAYSHIRE.—In consequence of a close misty atmosphere throughout the morning sportsmen were reluctantly compelled to make a late start for the moors; this was particularly annoying as the prospect of sport is exceptionally encouraging. Disease is reported to prevail to a considerable extent in Strathspey and Western Morayshire, but elsewhere birds are numerous and strong.

ABERDEEN.—The Twelfth on the Northern moors began very disappointingly to sportsmen. Up till ten o'clock in the morning a thick mist enveloped the hills in the counties of Aberdeen, Forfar, Kincardine, Banff, and Moray, clinging so close to the heather that grouse-killing operations did not begin until the sun broke through and dispelled the clouds. Birds everywhere were plentiful and strong, and excellent sport was had later in the day, although in several districts shooting was interrupted by thunder-storms. The first arrival of grouse in Aberdeen was at two o'clock, when twenty brace came from the Strichen Moors in the Buchan district of Aberdeenshire. Several large boxes arrived from Deeside just in time to catch the 4.40 limited mail for the south. Two of the boxes were from the Royal moors of Balmoral, and were consigned to her Majesty and the Prince of Wales respectively. One box, from Mr. Mackenzie, Kintail, was also consigned to the Prince of Wales, and another to Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar. On the Whitehouse Moor, Aberdeenshire, two guns had twelve brace.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY.—Dr. Frankland's report upon the quality of the waters supplied to the Metropolis by the various water companies during July states that the Thames waters delivered by the Chelsea, West Middlesex, Southwark, Grand Junction, and Lambeth Companies were of about the same average quality as in the preceding month, the proportion of organic matter being, for river water, remarkably small. Excepting the water supplied by the Lambeth Company, which was "very slightly turbid," the waters delivered by the Thames Companies were clear and bright. The Lea water distributed by the New River and East London Companies was of better quality than that supplied in June, the New River Company's water being superior to any of the Thames waters. The deep-well waters distributed by the Kent and Colne Valley Companies, and by the Tottenham Local Board, were of their usual excellent quality for drinking; that supplied by the Colne Valley Company had been softened with lime previous to delivery, and thus rendered suitable for all domestic purposes.

DISASTROUS FIRE IN PIMLICO.

LOSS OF FOUR LIVES.

A hatter's shop in Wilton-road, Pimlico, caught fire shortly before eight o'clock yesterday morning, and in forty minutes the place was destroyed, while several members of a Jewish family, who resided in the place, were burned to death, and others seriously injured. The premises were No. 33, and were known as the Belgrave Hat Depot. The shop and house were occupied by Mr. Israel Abrahams, whose family consisted of his wife, his mother-in-law—an aged lady named Julia Mark—his two sons, Mark, aged 32, and Samuel aged 23 years; his three daughters, Jeannette, aged 22; Lily, aged 19; and a young child, and a servant girl, named Emma Phipp. The grandmother slept in the front room on the first floor; the father and mother slept in the front room on the second floor: the three daughters and the servant occupied the back room on the second floor, and the two sons, one of whom was an invalid, suffering from rheumatism in the leg, slept in the basement beneath the shop.

The place was closed about half-past ten o'clock on Monday night, and after supper the family retired to rest about eleven o'clock. The first to rise in the morning was the son, Mark, who let a sweep in to clean the chimney about six o'clock, and at a quarter-past six the servant girl came down to where the sweep was and waited until he had finished in order to clear up after him. The sweep having done, went out, and the girl, after turning on the gas at the meter, went up stairs to let him out and to light the gas stove in the shop. This she did in order to boil the kettle for breakfast. It was not the usual state of things, the fire in the kitchen generally being lighted, but the girl determined to clear up there before lighting the fire. Accordingly, having lighted the gas stove, which was a small round one of the usual character, and put the kettle on, she went downstairs and proceeded with her work. This was after seven o'clock. About a quarter to eight o'clock she heard what sounded to her like a crackling noise, and going up to see what was the matter, she found that the back portion of the shop, that immediately surrounding the stove was in flames. Mark Abrahams came up-stairs, and seeing the danger went to the front door and beckoned to a shoeblack and to another man, who were standing talking together, and sent them to the fire brigade station. He then ran upstairs to wake his parents, sisters, and grandmother, and this was the last time he was seen alive. The shoeblack and a coffee-house keeper a few doors off, hurried, one to the fire escape in Warwick-square, and the other to the station in Victoria-street. When the coffee-house keeper got to Warwick-square he found the night fireman had left at seven o'clock, and the fire escape was too securely chained and padlocked to be brought away.

Meanwhile the servant girl had gone down to the basement, and awakened Samuel Abrahams, who dressed, and with her assistance went out at the back door; the two got over a garden wall, and came through the front premises of Mr. Morris, the next door neighbour, who is a jeweller. In the street they came upon a painful sight. In the midst of the smoke and flames, Mrs. Abrahams, and her daughter Jeannette, were at the second floor window shrieking for help, a van of hay belonging to a dealer living near, was brought on the scene, and drawn as near the burning house as the flames and the intense heat would permit. Into this van the women refused to jump. Some of the men from Messrs. Hudson's Repository accordingly obtained some strong tarpaulin sheets, and stretched them out beneath. In a minute or two, on a loud shout from the crowd to "Jump," the child, wrapped in a blanket, was thrown into the tarpaulin, then Jeannette Abrahams jumped into the tarpaulin. The mother, in jumping, came in contact with the signboard, but was cleverly caught in the tarpaulin by those beneath. The crowd anxiously watched below for the appearance of any more of the four human beings who were known to be in the burning place, but no sign of life within answered the many anxious glances which were directed to the windows.

The first fire engine, which arrived from Queen Victoria-street, was under the charge of Engineer Stiles. He found a terrific fire raging. The flames extended half way across the road. A couple of standpipes speedily played upon the flames, and Messrs. Hudson's employés got one of the hydrants into operation. This force soon obtained a mastery of the fire, and by nine o'clock every part of the burning premises was declared safe, as far as fire was concerned.

When the premises had sufficiently cooled, a search was instituted, and the charred remains of the four unfortunate individuals were found. Three bodies were found in the back room on the second floor—namely, those of the father, son, and daughter. In the back room on the first floor, in an armchair, were the charred remains of the grandmother. Shells were procured from St. George's Workhouse, and the remains were removed to the mortuary. From the appearance of the bodies it is believed that the son first awoke his parents and then went with his father into the girls' room. The eldest girl did not stop to dress, but rushed into her mother's room; the heat and smoke must have rapidly overpowered the others. The daughter who escaped, and who was in too hysterical a condition to make a detailed statement, begged to be told where her father was, and exclaimed, "I saw him holding my sister by the arm and walking across the room until they went right into the smoke and flames." The mother, who was badly burned and somewhat injured by the fall, has said nothing about the fire, but asked to be relieved of her pain. She remains in St. George's Hospital.

The official report presented by Superintendent Palmer to Captain Shaw, was as follows:—"The Brigade were called at 7.54 to 33, Wilton-road, Pimlico, premises occupied by Israel Abrahams, hatter; name and residence of the landlord unknown; cause of fire unknown; contents of the premises insured in the Phoenix; insurance of building unknown. Damage: a shop and house of eight rooms, and the contents nearly burned out, and a part of the roof burned off. Israel Abrahams, aged 62 years; Mark Abrahams, aged 32 years; Lily Abrahams, aged 19 years; and Juliet Marks, aged 85 years, burned to death. Sophia Abrahams, aged 57 years, burned on face and hands, and injured by jumping from the second floor window; taken to a hospital; Jeannette Abrahams, aged 22 years, burned on face and hands. No. 32 ditto, occupied by T. Thomas, tobacconist; owner, the London-road Car Company; front scorched."

SUICIDE IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.

Mr. G. A. Charsley, coroner, held an inquest yesterday at the Eton Union, on the body of an unknown gentleman, who is supposed to have shot himself on Monday night while travelling on the Great Western Railway, between Paddington and Windsor.

Inspector Townshend said he was at the back part of the 10.30 train upon its arrival at Slough on Monday night. The train was divided, a part going to Reading, and part to Windsor. The Reading guard called to him, and said—"There is a man who has shot himself in a first-class carriage." Witness went to the compartment, and on going into the carriage he found the deceased sitting with his head dropped on his bosom, and blood flowing from a wound in his right temple. Witness at once sent for a doctor. The gentleman was then breathing heavily. With assistance they lifted him out of the carriage on to a trolley. Inspector Turner showed him a revolver, of which he took possession. Five chambers were loaded and one empty. Witness afterwards fired off the five loaded chambers. Dr. Bull came, and advised that the gentleman should be removed to the Union infirmary. Witness obtained a fly and sent for the station-master. There were no signs of any scuffle having taken place in the carriage, nor was the dress of the gentleman disarranged. No one heard the shot, not even the guard. There was nothing else in the carriage but a coat.

Inspector Turner, of the Great Western Railway, said he was travelling by the same train, and on arriving at Slough the guard called his attention to a first-class passenger, saying there was something the matter with him. Witness opened the door, and saw him in the corner, with his head leaning on his hand, and blood streaming from his forehead. The revolver and a hat were lying beside him. He removed the revolver and hat, and called Inspector Townshend to assist the deceased to the platform. Witness had never heard the report of firearms during the journey, and they had stopped several times from London. There was blood on his forehead and coat sleeve. Witness was not aware that any one had been in the carriage with him.

Serjeant Hebbes, of the Bucks Constabulary, gave corroborative evidence, and added that he searched the deceased gentleman's person a white handkerchief with the name cut out, a gold ring, a bunch of keys, a latch key, a first-class railway ticket from Paddington to Windsor, a silver match-box, a theatre ticket, and 6*s.* 5*d.* in money. He was dressed in a black cloth dress coat, black cloth topcoat, and vest, white linen shirt, and a white tie.

Dr. Bull stated that he found the gentleman bleeding from a wound in the head, and as he could do little for him at the station he had him taken to the workhouse, where he discovered a wound which had penetrated to the skull, which was fractured. There was also a swelling on the forehead over the left eye. While Witness was examining him the deceased was seized with difficulty of breathing and convulsions, and died five or six minutes afterwards.

Mr. Dodd, the surgeon who made a *post-mortem* examination, described the appearance of the body, mentioning that the gentleman was about 40 or 50 years of age, and said the bullet wound in the head was the cause of death.

Serjeant Hebbes, recalled, said the name of the gentleman had been also cut out of the shirt. This was all the evidence.

Upon a further examination of the clothing of the deceased gentleman the words "J. R. Coker, Esq.," written in marking ink upon a small strip of linen were discovered under the collar of his coat.

The Coroner adjourned the inquiry for a week, and ordered the body to be kept at the Union as long as possible without injury to the inmates, that an opportunity might be afforded for its identification.

MINORITY REPRESENTATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE STANDARD.

SIR,—I find myself reported as having quoted Mr. Courtney in 1879 as describing a measure for equalisation of the Franchise without Redistribution, as being without "foresight or insight." It should have been "equalisation of the franchise without minority representation," which was the subject to which I wished to call attention.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
COLCHESTER.

18, Portland-place, W., August 12.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS.

About half-past four yesterday morning a thunderstorm broke over the metropolis. There had been flashes of lightning visible since midnight, and the atmosphere had become even more oppressive than during the earlier part of the night. Some of the peals of thunder were very heavy, and the lightning flashed vividly, but the centre of the storm did not appear to be over the metropolis, and after about half an hour it passed off, the rumbling of the thunder being, however, heard in the distance for some time. Comparatively little rain fell, although the large drops which pattered down after the first few peals and flashes gave promise of a copious downfall. In some parts of the suburbs the dust was barely laid. While the thunderstorm was at its height a flash of lightning was observed to descend over the house 64, Mile-end-road, in the occupation of Mr. Paul, a public-house broker. The lightning struck a high stack of chimneys in the front of the house, bringing them down with a tremendous crash into the street. Three men who were passing at the time on their way to work had a narrow escape. About the same time the lightning struck the telegraph wires which cross the Mile-end-road, near Leslie-street, one of the wires being severed and falling across the carriage way. Fortunately no one was injured, although a number of vehicles were passing at the time on their way to market.

During a thunderstorm at Waltham Abbey yesterday two horses were struck dead by lightning on Waltham Marsh. Two trees opposite the Royal Forest Hotel, at Chingford, Epping Forest, were also struck and completely shivered.

Heavy thunderstorms broke over Windsor, Reading, Newbury, and other parts of Berkshire at an early hour yesterday. Flashes of lightning were frequent and exceedingly vivid, and the peals of thunder unusually loud. Owing to the rain that fell, harvest operations in these districts received a temporary check. The storms, however, were succeeded by brilliant sunshine.

A violent thunderstorm burst over Canterbury yesterday afternoon shortly after two o'clock. The thunder peals were terrific, and the lightning extremely vivid. Not a drop of rain fell. The heat was intense.

At Middlesbrough the thunderstorm was very severe. A woman, while selling milk at North Ormesby, was struck by lightning, and rendered insensible. A farm labourer, named Michael M'Gurkin, 19 years of age, while engaged in sprinkling lime on a field at Old Ormesby was struck by lightning, and killed instantaneously.

A fearful thunderstorm broke over East Yorkshire yesterday morning. Large, irregular-shaped pieces of ice fell, causing great damage to the cereal crops and in orchards. The storm raged a couple of hours, and a deluging rain also fell. Intense heat followed.

During the severe thunderstorm yesterday morning a large barn of newly-mown hay was destroyed near Kendal, and the steeple of the old Hutton Church was almost demolished.

From noon till one o'clock yesterday Dundee and that district were almost completely shrouded in darkness. Thunder had been heard during all the forenoon, but as midday approached it appeared suddenly to cease, and the sky became densely overcast. At half-past twelve the darkness was as great as at midnight. The streets became immediately deserted, scarcely a human being moving about. Much consternation was caused by the extraordinary phenomenon. No attempt was made to light the gas, even in the public offices. At 12.40, when the darkness was greatest, the thunder began to peal and lightning to flash, and for the next half-hour a storm prevailed such as has seldom been experienced in this country. Rain fell in a continuous sheet, flooding the streets and causing great damage. The darkness cleared gradually away.

A terrible thunderstorm prevailed on Upper Deeside yesterday morning. Huge balls of fire were seen rolling down the slopes of Lochnagar, and the buildings at several farms were struck by lightning. Many persons had narrow escapes. The rain fell in torrents, and people in the Balmoral and Ballater districts were much alarmed.

A terrific thunderstorm raged in Edinburgh yesterday morning, and for about half an hour the darkness was like that of midnight. Dwelling-houses were flooded, and a house in Bristo-street was set on fire by lightning, which also struck the Clarendon Hotel in Princes-street. The thunderstorm travelled eastwards, and was accompanied by torrents of rain.

A thunderstorm unequalled in severity passed over Glasgow yesterday. Towards two o'clock it was at its height. The lightning was unusually vivid and frequent. One flash was observed to strike the steeple of St. Mark's Free Church, cutting away a part of the ornamental stone work and shattering the slates. Three large holes were made in the roof. Rain fell in torrents, flooding the streets, and one extraordinarily heavy crash of thunder caused great alarm. The members of the Glasgow pig-iron ring, who meet at a corner of the Royal Exchange, were so startled that they rushed to the centre of the hall, fearing the building had been struck. Three men while erecting a stack were struck by lightning in Swanston-street and rendered insensible. One, named William Herbert, aged 63 years, was so seriously injured that he had to be conveyed home; but the other two shortly afterwards recovered. Reports from the country round Glasgow show that the lightning has caused much havoc. Sunnyside Railway Station was struck, and the chimneys and roof were shattered, but no one was injured. At Irvine the house of a ploughman was burned, and stacks of hay were destroyed in several places. In many districts the crops were laid flat and fields were flooded by the overflow of the rivers. The storm abated towards evening. Fortunately no fatalities have been reported.

A thunderstorm of exceptional violence, and lasting over two hours, passed over Ayr and that district yesterday. The lightning entered a house in the village of Whitletts, smashed the grate in one of the rooms, passed into the kitchen and broke a large piece out of the hearthstone. A woman sitting by the hearthstone was uninjured. At Cambusdoon several sheep were killed under a tree, where a man had also taken shelter. In Maybole the chimney stack of a shoe factory was shattered, and the spire of the parish church was struck and greatly damaged.

During a great storm of thunder and lightning on Monday evening a farm-house called Cefn Bailt, in the neighbourhood of Berriew, Montgomeryshire, the property of Mr. A. C. Humphreys Owen, and occupied by Mr. D. Jones, was struck by lightning, and, with a stable and granary under the same roof, was set on fire and burned to the ground, in spite of every exertion. Nearly all the contents of the house were, however, saved. Nothing remains of the farm-house but the chimney. The building was insured.

The storm raged at Leith till about four p.m. The roof of Bonnington's Sugar Refinery was struck by lightning, which also entered the Police-station at Newhaven, ignited the gas, and destroyed the telegraph wire communicating with the Head Office at Leith. The lightning set fire to North Trinity House, and caused considerable damage. Grecian Cottage, Trinity, was also struck and the gas ignited. At noon the darkness was intense, and rain and hail fell heavily.

A man named Taylor was killed by lightning at Little Langton, near Northallerton. A child in his arms escaped uninjured. Two houses were struck at Stockton and one completely wrecked. At Lewisham, near Whitby, hail-stones fell fully 1¼ inches in circumference.

Throughout yesterday and up to a late hour last night violent thunderstorms prevailed over the North of Ireland. In various parts of the County Down horses and cattle were killed. Reports from all parts of Ulster show that the storm was very general and the thunder and lightning extremely severe.

A fatal case of sunstroke occurred yesterday afternoon at Dunley, near Stourport. A man named James Corbett was at work harvesting, when he was overpowered by the heat, and shortly afterwards expired.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean reading of the barometer last week was 29.93in.; the highest reading was 30.09in. on Tuesday morning, and the lowest 29.80in. on Saturday afternoon. The mean temperature of the air was 66°.6, and 3°.9 above the average in the corresponding week of the 20 years ending 1868. The mean was below the average on Monday and Tuesday, but showed an excess during the remainder of the week; on Friday the mean temperature was 73°.6 and as much as 10°.9 above the average. The direction of the wind was variable, and the horizontal movement of the air averaged 6.6 miles per hour, which was 4.1 below the average in the corresponding weeks of 16 years. Rain fell on Saturday to the amount of .05 of an inch. The duration of registered bright sunshine in the week was 59.5 hours, against 65.9 hours at Glynde Place, Lewes.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

We have received the following telegrams through Reuter's Agency:—

INDIA.

SIMLA, AUGUST 12.

It has been decided that only one column of troops—that from Quettah—will be despatched against the Kakar Pathans.

THE RUSSIAN MANŒUVRES.

ST. PETERSBURG, AUGUST 12.

Arrangements had been made for a grand review of the troops to be held at Krasnoe Selo at eleven o'clock to-day. At daybreak, however, the whole camp was unexpectedly aroused, and the review took place at four o'clock in the morning, in the presence of the Emperor and his staff. The object of the sudden change of plan was apparently to test the alacrity of the troops in camp.

THE RUSSIAN NAVY.

BERLIN, AUGUST 12.

The Russian naval manœuvres, which will commence on the 15th inst., are expected to be of great importance in furnishing data for the future construction of Russian war vessels, inasmuch as they will determine which of the two existing types of ironclads should be maintained. The Grand Duke Alexis and the Chief of the Naval Department arrived at Transund on the 7th inst., in order to superintend personally the preliminary movements, which, however, did not pass off without accident. The torpedo boat Vergy came into collision with a sailing vessel between Cronstadt and Peterhof, and received serious damage. There was also a collision in the roadstead of Bjoerkosund, between the torpedo boats Piskar and Sviristel. The former sank immediately, and the latter was damaged. There was no loss of life in either case.

THE WALL-STREET BANK.

NEW YORK, AUGUST 12.

Mr. Dickinson, the cashier of the Wall-street Bank, is still missing. He has left matters in so confused a state that the directors cannot yet tell how the Bank stands. It is thought he had been speculating for some time.

A meeting of the Accidents in Mines Commission was held yesterday at their offices, No. 2, Victoria-street, Westminster. There were present the Chairman, Mr. Warington W. Smyth, Sir Frederick Abel, Professor Clifton, and the Secretary, Mr. Arthur J. Williams.

The Chapel Royal, St. James's, will be closed after Sunday next until further orders.

LONDON AND THE PROVINCES.

Five lads of the "Skeleton Army" were charged at the Alton (Staffordshire) Police-court yesterday with assaulting Salvationists, breaking windows, and with being noisy in the Salvation Army Barracks. When called up the Defendants defied the Magistrates and the police, and one of them became so violent that he had to be held by two policemen. He defied the Chairman of the Bench when his Worship called upon him to listen, and he was ordered to find sureties for his good behaviour. This he refused, and was thereupon sent to prison for a month for contempt of court without the charge of assault against him being heard. The other four behaved very noisily during the proceedings. The Salvation Army's Solicitor prosecuted, and the lads, against whom were nine charges, were undefended. After a long hearing the Bench considered the cases proved, and the Chairman observed that they had dealt lightly with similar cases before, but perhaps they had been too lenient. A set of ruffians had upset the peace of the town who had nothing to do with the "Army." One of the Prisoners was sent to prison for one month with hard labour on each of three charges, another was sentenced to a similar term on each of two charges; a third to six weeks, and to find sureties, or to undergo another six weeks, while the fourth was ordered to pay 5*l.* and costs, and 10*s.* damage, on one charge, and another month's imprisonment for assault. At the conclusion of the proceedings some hooting was indulged in, and the police were hustled outside the court.

The twenty-first annual meeting of British Pharmacists was held at the Castle Hotel Assembly Rooms, Hastings, yesterday, Mr. John Williams, president, in the chair. The Mayor of Hastings welcomed the members. The presidential address reviewed the progress of chemical science within the last few years, especially dealing with coal-tar product, and the results of experiments in gases, conducted under immense pressure but very low temperatures. The investigations of Pasteur in France, Koch in Germany, and Klein in England, would probably lead to great changes in the application of remedies to zymotic diseases. The General Medical Council was preparing a new British Pharmacopœia, and he claimed that pharmacists should have a share in the production of a National Pharmacopœia. It was a work of legal authority, and pharmacists were liable to pains and penalties unless they followed the details given therein, as to quality, practice, and purity of the drugs. They hoped also to take part in the preparation of an International Pharmacopœia. The report of the executive committee showed that the efforts made to obtain members in the Colonies had met with signs of success. The papers to be read deal with questions of interest to pharmacists and the general public.

A meeting of the Mansion House Committee of the fund now being raised by the Lord Mayor for the relief of the widows and children of the crew of the Sunderland ship Nisero, who have for months past been detained in the hands of the Rajah of Tenom, and of the widows and orphans of five of them who have died in captivity, was held yesterday in the Venetian Parlour. The Lord Mayor presided, and there were present Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, M.P., Mr. Brogden, M.P., Mr. Clare, and others. The fund, after payment of advertising expenses, showed an available balance of 1109*l.*, of which 601*l.* had been collected in Holland, and 300*l.* granted from her Majesty's Treasury. The Committee went *seriatim* through the cases of the crew and their families, and made grants of from 60*l.* to 20*l.* each, entrusting their distribution to local authorities at Liverpool, Sunderland, Exeter, and Kendal, where the people lived. In the cases of the Swedish, Italian, and German sailors, they awaited information, pending which they kept back a considerable portion of the fund for their benefit, it being the wishes of the subscribers that the money should be disbursed irrespective of any considerations of nationality. The committee unanimously accorded a vote of thanks to the subscribers in Holland, and then adjourned.

The Deputy Coroner for East Middlesex held an inquest yesterday at the London Hospital on the body of John Milton, aged 57, a marine engineer. Mrs. Eliza Milton, 33, Richmond-hill, Cork, said Deceased was her husband, and she last saw him alive prior to his injuries about twelve months ago. On the 26th July she was informed he had been injured and was in the London Hospital. Witness visited him there, and, referring to his injuries, he told her that on Saturday, 19th July, he was in the engine-room of the steamship Laxham, at that time off Cape Finisterre, when a collision occurred between his ship and the steamship Gijon (Spanish), and that he met his injuries through the bursting of a steam-pipe, the result of the collision, and both ships sank. She knew nothing of the circumstances of the collision. Mr. John Hutchinson, house surgeon, said when the man was admitted he was suffering from severe scalds on both arms, neck, and legs, and the cause of death was exhaustion, consequent on the injuries. The inquiry was adjourned in order that the Board of Trade might be communicated with.

A fire occurred yesterday afternoon at Warren Farm, Chelsham, in the occupation of Mr. Soloman Windross, involving the destruction of six corn stacks, and a considerable portion of the farm buildings. The fire appears to have been caused by a traction engine without an ash pan, being driven into the stack yard, and owing to the yard being strewn with straw litter the flames seized hold of the stacks almost simultaneously. A waggon, partially unloaded, had to be left, and was completely destroyed, the men oh it and on the stack escaping with difficulty. The fire was seen at the moment of its outbreak by some men at the Chelsham Brickfield, by whom the alarm was communicated to the officers of the Chelsham Volunteer Fire Brigade, who attended with their engine, with commendable promptitude, and by whose efforts the barn and two cottages were saved from destruction. The workmen employed at the New Waterworks kept up the supply when the tanks on the farm were exhausted.

For the liquidator of the Government Security Fire Insurance Company, Counsel applied yesterday to the Master of the Rolls in Dublin to mark summary judgment against Mr. Sodley, proprietor of the *Sligo Chronicle*, for 61*l.*, the amount of calls on shares. The defence was that the Secretary of the Company in London asked the Defendant to accept the payment in fully paid-up shares, and the Defendant now argued that this system of payment by Shares was an organised swindle on newspaper proprietors by not only depriving them of the price of advertisements, but involving them in an unsound speculation. The Master of the Rolls said the case appeared to present strong evidence of gross fraud, and could not be disposed of on a summary motion.

At the Leeds Assizes yesterday, James Henderson, of Bradford, brought an an action for damages against Sir Edward Ripley, Bart., and others in connection with the death of two of his daughters from injuries received by the fall of a chimney at Newland Mills, Bradford, in December, 1882, the Defendants being the owners. The allegation was that the chimney was in a defective condition, owing to the negligence of the Defendants. The Defendants denied the allegation of negligence, and the case had not concluded when the Court rose. The verdict of the Jury will decide about fifty similar claims.

At Walsall yesterday, an inquest was held on the body of James Henry, a miner, who on Saturday whilst fighting was struck by Wm. Ball, another miner, under the left ear, and killed. The two men quarrelled in a public-house, and adjourned to the street to fight. In the third round an attempt was made to take Henry away, he being the worse for drink, but one John Griffiths threatened the man who was befriending Henry, and insisted on the fight going on. A verdict of manslaughter was returned against Ball and Griffiths.

The inquest on the bodies of the four men who were killed by the explosion at Messrs. Cooke's works, near Sheffield, was opened yesterday. The Jury viewed the bodies, and afterwards inspected the scene of the disaster, and then the inquiry was adjourned. To-morrow the Coroner will accompany a practical man over the works. With the exception of James Hughes, all the injured men are doing well. The chief inspector of the National Boiler Association visited the place yesterday, making inquiries and taking photographs.

An inquest was held yesterday at Sandown, near Deal, on the body of William Love, a young man who was drowned while bathing. It appears that he went down to the shore with a man named Williams to bathe. Love, after swimming out a short distance, turned towards the shore, but suddenly sank. Every effort was made to rescue the poor fellow, but without avail. The body was recovered a short time afterwards by a young student named Forbes, but life was extinct. A verdict of accidentally drowned was returned.

Two men, named Grasney and Lees, were yesterday charged with stealing coal under extraordinary circumstances. At two o'clock yesterday morning the Prisoners and three others were detected bathing in the canal at Dorlaston Green Ironworks, and emptying coal out of a boat into the water. It was afterwards taken out of the water, thrown into a tunnel, and conveyed away. One hundred tons of coal had been stolen. The Prisoners were sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

The annual Sheerness Dockyard Regatta took place yesterday in beautiful weather. The programme comprised twelve events, allowing contests, in addition to the usual miscellaneous swimming matches and aquatic sports, and in the evening there was a grand display of fireworks on the Recreation Ground. The dockyard was closed for the day, and the whole town was *en fête*, while immense numbers of pleasure seekers arrived from the metropolis and all parts of Kent.

A man, supposed to be Mr. David Braham, of George-street, Bath, optician, yesterday threw himself over the balustrade surrounding the terrace of Scarborough Aquarium, smashing his skull, with a speedily fatal result. There were found on him a gold watch, two blank cheques, 2*l.* in money, &c. He held a day ticket for the Aquarium, and directly after entering the main entrance of the building he went to the terrace and threw himself over.

The Earl of Mount Edgcumbe yesterday laid the foundation-stone of a new meteorological observatory at Falmouth, to be carried on under the direction of the Meteorological Office, London. Magnetic observations will also be taken, the instruments for that purpose being supplied by the Royal Society. The cost of the observatory will be 1500*l.*

The Bishop of Gloucester yesterday re-dedicated the spire of St. Indecombe Church, which was destroyed by lightning in November last. His Lordship has also re-opened the ancient Norman Church at Rodmanton, one of the oldest edifices in his diocese.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.

CHANCERY DIVISION.

(Before Mr. Justice NORTH.)

PARISH v. POOLE AND OTHERS.—This action was brought by one of the trustees of the marriage settlement of Mr. and Mrs. Prynne, and one of its objects was to obtain a declaration that a sum of 3000*l.* advanced out of the settlement money was a charge upon the personal estate of Mrs. de Tourville. Mr. de Tourville was charged, before an Austrian Court, in 1877, with the murder of his wife by pushing her over a precipice in the Tyrol, and was sentenced to eighteen years' imprisonment. By her will Mrs. de Tourville left all her personal property to her husband, and he authorised his solicitor and one of his wife's trustees to raise money for his defence at the trial. The 3000*l.* in question was raised for that purpose, and the Plaintiff's case was that he consented to an advance upon documents, making it a charge on Mrs. de Tourville's estate with 6 per cent. interest. The action was tried in March, and the Judge now gave judgment for the Plaintiff, holding that the 3000*l.* did constitute a charge upon Mrs. de Tourville's property. —The counsel engaged in the case were Mr. Horace Davey, Q.C., and Mr. Giffard, Q.C., for the Plaintiff; and Mr. W. Barber, Q.C., Mr. Kenyon Parker, Mr. E. Morton, and Mr. H. C. Richards for the several Defendants.

(Before Mr. Justice KAY.)

BUDD v. TROWERS.—Mrs. Trowers, widow (who was accompanied by Mrs. Weldon) applied to the Court for an order to stay all further proceedings in the above action, relating to the estate of her late husband, on the ground, as alleged, of fraud, collusion, and misrepresentation by certain parties referred to; that she had been kept in ignorance of the nature of the proceedings; and that there had been refusal to deliver up to her certain documents. It appeared that the matter was before the Court of Appeal, and Mrs. Trowers asked that this application should be allowed to stand over until the higher Court had decided the question.—Mr. Medd appeared for the Respondents.—The Judge ordered the application to stand over, observing that the relief asked for he had no power to grant. If granted at all, it must be done by the Court of Appeal.

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION.

(Before the LORD CHIEF JUSTICE.)

RE A SOLICITOR.—Mr. R. T. Reid, Q.C., said this was an application against a solicitor, who had been instructed by Mr. Montagu, a London solicitor, to recover a debt of 12*l.* due at Jersey, where he acted as agent, to answer matters in affidavits or to be struck off the Rolls. The gentleman in question was 76 years of age, and had been for 48 years on the Rolls, having up to the time of the present charge conducted his business respectably. He admitted that he had received the money, and promised to pay it over when the cross-cheque was cashed; but he had not done so, his excuse being that his daughter was then ill at St. Leonards-on-Sea, and she had since died, which had quite unhinged his business. The only bad feature in the case was that the solicitor had defended an action brought against him in the Mayor's Court by Mr. Montagu, and had put the latter to 10*l.* expenses, and had then moved to set aside the judgment.—Mr. Daniels, on behalf of the Solicitor in question, asked their Lordships not to take an extreme course, submitting that the justice of the case would be met if they decided that the Solicitor should pay the amount and costs within a month.—Mr. Reid acquiesced in this course, and his Lordship made an order accordingly.

(Before Mr. Justice HAWKINS and Mr. Justice WILLS).

JOSEPH v. BIRD AND OTHERS.—The Plaintiff in this case was a London tradesman, and he exhibited some optical instruments at the Cardiff Fine Arts Exhibition. The Defendants were the executive Committee of that Exhibition. It happened that a dispute arose as to the amount due from the Plaintiff for stall room, and the Committee seized and sold some of his goods. He brought this action for trespass, and laid the venue in Middlesex. On the application of the Defendants, a Master changed the venue to Glamorganshire, and Mr. Justice Smith, on appeal, confirmed the Master's order.—Mr. Sill, for the Plaintiff, now appealed against this decision, and submitted to the Court that the Plaintiff could hardly have a fair trial at Cardiff, where the Defendants were gentlemen of local influence, and where also a guarantee fund had been raised and had been generally subscribed to.—Mr. Howe Payne, for the Defendants, showed cause.—Mr. Justice Hawkins said the Master and also the Judge had exercised their discretion, and the learned counsel had not satisfied the Court that they were wrong.—The appeal was dismissed with costs.

BANKRUPTCY COURT.

(Before the CHIEF OFFICIAL RECEIVER.)

IN RE GASKELL AND EXTON.—This was a first meeting of Creditors. The Debtors were engineers of Queen Victoria-street, City, trading under the firm of Exton and Co., Mr. Gaskell also carrying on the business of a stockbroker at Bradford. Their joint liabilities expected to rank for dividend were 6962*l.*, their deficiency, after providing for preferential claims, being returned at 6879*l.* The separate liabilities of Gaskell expected to rank were set down at 18,206*l.*, and his assets were valued at 2797*l.* It appeared that Gaskell's affairs were intimately connected with those of the Milford Dock Company and Messrs. Lake and Taylor, the late contractors for the Milford Docks. He was also a member of the syndicate for the development of the Milford estate.—After considerable discussion resolutions were passed by the joint Creditors for the acceptance of a composition of 5*s.* in the pound, payable in two instalments at six and twelve months from approval, the meetings in the separate estates being adjourned to the 2d of September.

In reference to a case which was before the Court of Appeal last week, we are asked to say that the Defendant was not Mr. Edward Dillon Lewis.

Mr. J. Wolff writes to us in respect to the statement made in the case Davis v. Davis and Stenning—that he had left England in order to avoid giving evidence—that he had intimated to the solicitors that he was quite prepared to attend the Court if the costs of his journey were provided for.

THE AMERICAN MARKETS.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

NEW YORK, AUGUST 12.

Stocks opened strong, but declined in the early dealings. In the afternoon prices again advanced, but fell off, and the market closed weak. Money easy. Cotton and petroleum quiet. Lard firm and advancing. Wheat opened weaker, but closed strong. Flour shipments to Europe increasing Corn, sugar, coffee, and iron dull.

Quotations.

	Aug. 12.	Aug. 11.	Aug. 9.
Call Money, U. S. Gov. Bonds	1½ p.c.	1½ p.c.	1½ p.c.
Call Money, Other Securities	1 p.c.	1½ p.c.	1½ p.c.
Exch. on London, 60 days' sight	4.82½	4.82½	4.82½
Cable Transfers	4.84½	4.84½	4.85
Exchange on Paris	5.21¼	5.21¼	5.21¼
Exchange on Berlin	94¼	94¼	94¼
Four p. Ct. U. S. Funded Loan	119¼	119¾	120
Western Union Tel. Shares	64¼	63½	64½
Missouri, Kansas, & Texas Shrs.	18	18¾	19
Erie Railroad Shares	15¼	15¼	15¾
Erie Second Mortgage Bonds	58¾	58½	59½
Ohio & Mississippi Ord. Shares	20	20	21
Wabash, St. Louis, and Pacific Preferred Shares	15½	15½	15½
Do. Railroad Common Shares	6¼	6	6
Philadel. and Reading Shares	27¾	27¾	27½
Union Pacific Shares	43⅝	42⅛	44
Central Pacific Shares	40½	40½	41¼
Central Pacific Bonds	110½	110½	110⅝
New York Central Shares	104⅜	103¼	104¾
Illinois Shares	128¼	128¾	128
Delaware and Lakawana Shares	112¾	110¼	111⅛
St. Louis and S. Francisco Pref. Shares	—	—	—
Lake Shore Shares	80¾	79¾	80¼
Chicago and N. W. Ord. Shares	99¾	99¼	101¼
Ditto Preferred Shares	131	131¼	132
Canada Southern Shares	36¼	35¾	36¼
Louisville and Nashville Rail. Ordinary Shares	34¾	33¾	34¾
Chicago, Milwaukie, and St. Paul Common Shares	83¾	83	84⅜
New York, Ontario, & Western Ordinary Shares	12¼	12	11¾
Denver Shares	12¼	12	12¼
Northern Pacific Com. Stock	21½	21	22
Ditto Preferred	51	50¼	51¼
Canadian Pacific Rail. Shares	44¼	43¼	44½
Michigan Central Shares	68	66	67
Cotton, Day's Rec. U.S. Ports	—	1,000	—
Cotton, Day's Ex. to G. Britain	1,000	5,000	—
Cotton, Day's Expt. to Cont.	—	3,000	—
Cotton, Futures, Nov. delivery	10.37	10.28	10.27
Cotton, Futures, Dec. delivery	10.38	10.29	10.29
Cotton, middling Upland	10⅜	10⅛	10⅛
Petroleum, Crude	6¾	6¾	6¾
Petroleum, United P. L. Certs.	78¼	78¼	79¼
Petroleum, Standard White	8	8⅛	8⅛
Lard, Wilcox's	8.05	8.00	8.00
Do. Futures, Sept. delivery	8.10	8.10	8.10
Lard, Fairbank's	8.12	8.05	7.97
Flour, Ex. State Ship Brands	3.25 3.45	3.25 3.45	3.25 3.45
Corn, new	61	62	62
Wheat, Red Winter, on spot	90½	91	91½
Wheat, R.W., deliv. cur. mth.	87	88½	90¾
Wheat, R.W., delivery Sept.	91	91	91¾
Wheat, R.W., delivery Oct.	92¾	93	93¾
Spring Wheat, No. 2, on spot	86	86¾	87
Coffee, Fair Rio	9¾	9¾	9¾
Coffee, Good Rio	10	10	10
Coffee, Fair Santos	10	10	10
Coffee, Rio, No. 7 low ordinary, Sept. delivery	8.05	8.05	8.05
Ditto, Nov. delivery	8.15	8.20	8.20
Sugar, Fair Refin. Muscovadoes	4⅛	4⅛	4⅛
Tallow, Prime City	6¾	6¼	6¼
Saltings	9¾	9⅜	9¼
Freight for Grain, steamers, to Liverpool, per bushel	5½d.	5½d.	5¾d.
Freight for Grain, steamers, to London, per bushel	4d.	3½d.	3½d.
Freight for Cotton to Liverpool	7/64	7/64	7/64
Iron, Gartsherrie No. 1 in yard	21½	21½	21½

THE RAILWAY COMPANIES.—A return is published containing the gross receipts and the working expenses of the twelve chief railway companies during the first six months of this year as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The gross receipts of these twelve companies for the whole six months are 25,609,075*l.*, a diminution of nearly 20,000*l.* since last year; the working expenses are 13,748,990*l.*, an increase of nearly 80,000. The net receipts, therefore, 11,860,985*l.*, this year, are less by nearly 100,000*l.* than those of last year. The following six companies show an increase in net receipts since last year. London and Brighton has increased from 455,193*l.* to 457,289*l.*; South-Eastern from 469,129*l.* to 486,136*l.*; Great Eastern from 673,373*l.* to 746,259*l.*; London and South-Western from 559,295*l.* to 573,012*l.*; Lancashire and Yorkshire from 802,325*l.* to 831,782*l.*; Great Northern from 722,057*l.* to 734,767*l.* On the other hand six companies have diminished in net receipts. Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincoln, from 459,109*l.* to 441,622*l.*; London, Chatham, and Dover, from 242,989*l.* to 242,248*l.*; North-Eastern from 1,594,955*l.* to 1,470,997*l.*; Great Western from 1,875,216*l.* to 1,869,769*l.*; Midland from 1,668,450*l.* to 1,653,882*l.*; and London and North-Western from 2,437,380*l.* to 2,353,222*l.* If now we look to the proportion that working expenses bear to gross receipts we shall find that this year the expenses of the twelve companies, taken together, have slightly increased from 53.4 to 53.7 per cent. of the gross receipts. If we take each company separately, we shall find the working expenses bear the following proportion to the gross receipts:—Great Northern, 58.9; London and South-Western, 57.7; London, Chatham, and Dover, 57.2; Great Eastern, 55.4; Lancashire and Yorkshire, and London, Brighton, and South Coast, 54.5 each; Midland, 53.4; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincoln, 53.2; North-Eastern, 51.3; South-Eastern, 52.3; London and North-Western, 52.1; Great Western, 51. In each case the percentage is given.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

WANDSWORTH.

William Wood, a marble mason, was brought up on remand charged with committing two burglaries in Bromfelde-road, Clapham.—Constable Mountfield said that at twenty minutes past five o'clock on the 5th inst. he was on duty in Bromfelde-road when he heard a noise which drew his attention to the other side of the street. He then saw a female at the window of No. 73, who was calling out "Thieves!" He blew his whistle and got over a side door, running along a wall until he saw the Prisoner in a garden in the act of scaling a wall. He gave chase over several high walls and called to a man to assist him. The Prisoner then pulled something from his pocket and presented it at the man, who seemed frightened, and allowed him to pass. The Constable followed the Prisoner through several streets into Union-grove, where he saw him stopped by Inspector Easter. Witness then fell down exhausted. A piece of carved ivory, which had been stolen from No. 79, was found upon him.—Inspector Easter said that when within three yards of the Prisoner the latter lifted a jemmy to strike him. Witness put his hand to his pocket, and said if he did not drop it (the jemmy) he would shoot him. The Prisoner then threw the jemmy into a garden, and went quietly to the station. He took a pin from the Prisoner's cravat. An entrance had been gained to No. 79 through the store-room window.—The carved ivory and pin were identified by John Kingan belonging to his father, who resided at that address.—Mrs. Amelia Brown, of No. 73, in the same street, said the house was secured at nine o'clock on the night of the 4th inst. About five o'clock she heard a loud noise, which induced her to spring out of bed and to open her door. She then saw the Prisoner, who faced her. She hastily withdrew into her room and locked the door. She rang the bell for the servant, opened the window, and called "Police!" and "Thieves!" She afterwards found the rooms in disorder, and missed some medals, a gold seal, and other articles value 3*l.*—The Prisoner was committed for trial.

HIGHGATE.

Robert Owen, 74, a pauper inmate of the St. Pancras Tent Workhouse at Southgate, was charged with absconding from the workhouse.—James Clayton, master of the workhouse, said he had occasion to come to the station that morning respecting another pauper, when he met the Prisoner, and he gave him into custody. In consequence of an order prohibiting the paupers leaving the tents, owing to the prevalence of small-pox, there was a spirit of discontent among them, and they were continually defying the order by getting over the fences and going for walks about the neighbourhood. Witness had the greatest trouble to keep them under control, and the Prisoner had been the ringleader. He wanted to charge him with stealing the clothes, but the inspector would not take the charge.—The Prisoner, in his defence, said he was a tailor by trade, and because he refused to make the master some clothes he had been subject to the most petty tyranny, which culminated on Sunday in the master violently assaulting him. He did not abscond from the workhouse, but left in order to come to the station to get a summons against the master for the assault.—The Master said that Inspector Forrett seemed to be prompting the Prisoner, and he must ask the Magistrate to allow him to further charge the Prisoner with stealing his clothes.—Colonel Stedall said the master had no right to make such a remark about the inspector. The matter was a serious one, and he should remand the Prisoner on his own bail, and grant him a summons against the master for assaulting him.

HAMMERSMITH.

Alfred Andrews, 16, was charged with stealing four watches and chains, the property of his employer, John Snoael, butcher, of Hammersmith-road.—Serjeant Gummer said he received information, and on Monday he went to Windsor, where he found Prisoner. He told him that he should take him into custody for stealing four watches, two chains, a ring, and some money from his master on Saturday week. He said, "Yes, Sir, I'll tell you all about it. I had got the sack, and I was up in the bed-room, and seeing the watches and other things I took them. I came by train to Windsor, and then walked to the Prince of Wales, in the Slough-road. I met a soldier, and asked him which was the Bath road. I had the long gold chain on. He asked me if I would like to be a soldier. I said, 'Yes, if I could.' He said, 'You would do for a drummer boy, and I'll get you in.' He said, 'You must give me your watch and chain until you are enlisted.' He gave me three pints of beer, which made me drunk. He took me back to Windsor, took the gold watch and chain from me, and two rings which I had on my finger. I met him in the Long Walk on Monday, and he said I could not be enlisted until Thursday, and promised to meet me at the sports. I never saw him again."—Mr. Sheil remanded the Prisoner.

GREENWICH.

Thomas Young, 46, of 104, Ewart-road, Forest-hill, was charged with violently assaulting his wife by biting her.—Prosecutrix said that at an early hour that morning the Prisoner came home, and taking hold of her arm nearly broke it. They struggled, and the Prisoner got her ear between his teeth and bit it through.—A medical certificate was handed in, showing that about a third of the outer ear had been bitten off.—Prisoner declared he bit his wife's ear to make her leave go his hair. He declared his wife was drunk.—Goodwin, the gaoler, said both parties had been convicted of drunkenness.—Mr. Balguy thought they were probably as bad as each other, and merely bound the Prisoner over in 5*l.* to keep the peace.

Annie Parker was charged, for over the 300th time, with being drunk and disorderly.—On Monday the Prisoner was ejected from the Centurion public-house, Deptford.—She denied that she was drunk, and complained of the constable not having let her go when her "temper had blown over."—Inspector Knapp said the Prisoner attempted suicide in the cell, and had to be watched.—Prisoner: And I should have done it if I had had the chance.—Mr. Balguy sentenced her to a month's hard labour.

CLERKENWELL.

John Hancox, aged 32, described as a servant, of 303, Gray's-inn-road, was brought up under a warrant, charged with unlawfully withdrawing from his duties as a police-constable of the G division of Metropolitan Police, without having written permission from his superintendent or giving the superintendent a month's notice of his intention to do so.—Inspector Ford, of the Old-street Police-station, said the Prisoner was discharged from duty at eleven o'clock on the 30th of July. He should have presented himself again for duty at a quarter to one on the following afternoon. He failed to do so, and had not since presented himself. The Prisoner was taken into custody by Detective-serjeant Robinson, on Monday, in Long-acre. He had nearly twelve years' service to his credit. His conduct had been fairly good all through, and recently very good. He appeared to have behaved in this manner on account of domestic troubles.—The Prisoner said he must throw himself upon the mercy of the Magistrate.—Mr. Hosack, in consequence of his long term of good conduct, imposed a mitigated penalty of 25*s.* only, and recommended the Prisoner to be retained in the force.

MARLBOROUGH-STREET.

John Auman, a German waiter, was charged before Mr. Newton with violently assaulting Edward Dew, a horse-keeper, of No. 42, George-street, Hampstead-road, by striking him on the head with a stick.—The Complainant said that on the previous night he was passing along Clipstone-street when the Prisoner rushed out of a house behind the German Club and struck him on the head with a stick without saying a word. He (Complainant) fell, and several persons got round and kicked him, and after going to the hospital to have his wounds dressed he spoke to a constable, and went with him to where Prisoner lodged and gave him into custody.—Constable Bright said there was a crowd of 300 persons in Clipstone-street, there being a regular riot before he arrived. On being spoken to by the Prosecutor, who complained of having been struck on the head with a stick, he went to 38, Clipstone-street, and the Prisoner being pointed out as the man who had struck Prosecutor, he took him into custody.—The Complainant said he did not know whether the Prisoner took him for one of the persons engaged in the riot.—The Prisoner, who denied having struck the Complainant, was remanded.

WORSHIP-STREET.

Joseph Hampton, 36, of Thrawl-street, Spitalfields, was charged with having exposed for sale certain offensive prints and papers.—Detective Rolph, of the H Division, stated that on the previous day he went to a public-house in Thrawl-street. Prisoner and some other men were there, and the Prisoner was showing some papers and cards to the men, and there was, apparently, some bargaining going on with a view to purchase. When Witness approached the Prisoner he squeezed up the papers he had in his hand, but Witness secured them, and now produced them. Witness afterwards went to the Prisoner's lodgings, and there found a quantity of paints, brushes, and tools, and a large amount of papers, which were seized.—Inspector Abberline said it was owing to the conviction of men at that and other courts that had led to the discovery of the Prisoner and his occupation. Witness believed that the Prisoner had been supplying these prints wholesale.—Mr. Bushby sentenced the Prisoner to three months' hard labour, and ordered the papers and paints to be destroyed.

MANSION HOUSE.

John Rolfe was charged before the Lord Mayor with uttering counterfeit coin. Mr. Barnard, solicitor, on behalf of the Treasury, conducted the prosecution. On the 5th inst. the Prisoner went to the shop of a Mr. Hartmann, in King William-street, and in payment for a small purchase he tendered a bad florin. A policeman was called in and the Prisoner was given into custody, the Prosecutor stating that the Prisoner had passed bad money there the previous week. Upon him were found several new articles evidently recently purchased, and it was stated that the Prisoner had been previously convicted of uttering counterfeit coin. —John Barnes and George Lane were charged with a similar offence. The Prisoner Barnes went into a newsvendor's shop in Eastcheap, and in payment for an illustrated paper tendered a bad half-crown, for which change was given him. On being arrested by detectives, who had watched them for a considerable time, Lane, who was in Barnes's company, dropped eleven bad half-crowns.—The Lord Mayor committed all the Prisoners for trial.

WESTMINSTER.

William Kelly, of Whitfield-street, Tottenham-court-road, was charged before Mr. D'Eyncourt with robbing his employers, the Army and Navy Co-operation Association (Limited).—Mr. John Allchurch, storekeeper and superintendent at the stores, deposed that the Prisoner was a foreman of packers at the warehouse in Johnson's-place, Lupus-street, Pimlico. Having reason to suspect the Prisoner, Witness directed the gatekeeper to search him in the evening when he left his employment. He was taken into a private room for that purpose, and concealed about his clothing were boxes and packets of patent medicine, some of the stolen property being hidden in his socks and drawers. Witness subsequently searched his lodgings with Mr. Brennan, his assistant, and found bottles of scent, mustard plasters, a chest protector, and many other articles, which were identified by Mr. Cornelius Armor, manager of the drug department, as taken from the stores.—Mr. D'Eyncourt remanded the Prisoner.

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