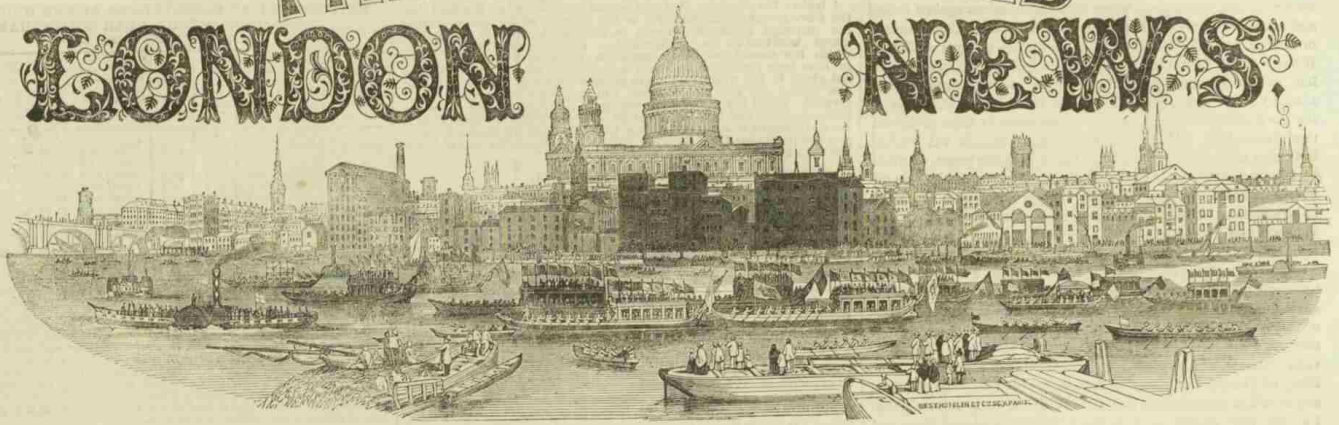


# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



No. 837.—VOL. XXIX.]

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1856.

[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, FIVEPENCE.]

## THE SWISS DIFFICULTY.

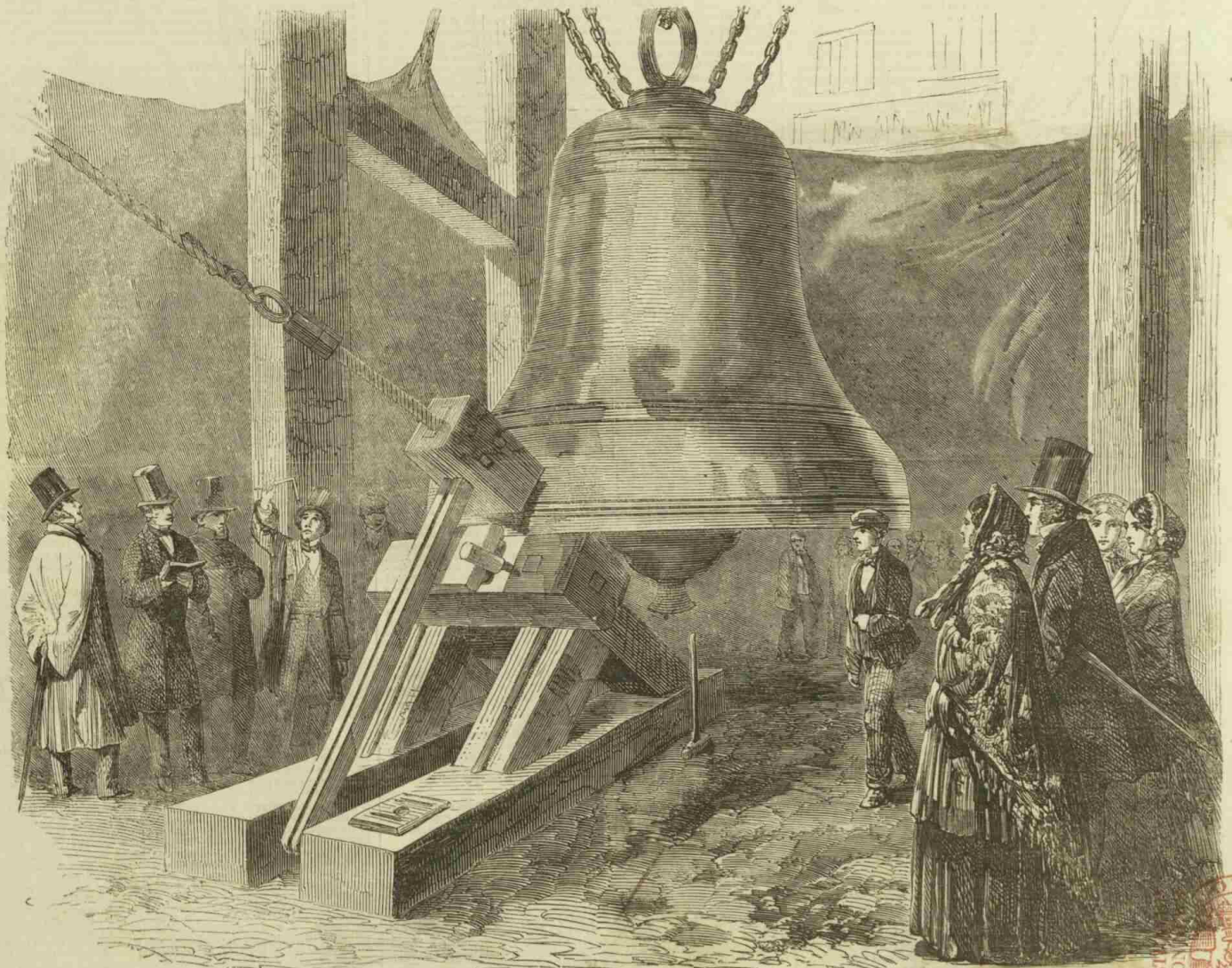
The quarrel with Switzerland, which has been raised by the King of Prussia is consequence of the abortive insurrection of his hot-headed friends in the canton of Neuchâtel, presents no difficulty that any man of common sense and honesty could not equitably settle in five minutes. But the obstinacy of the King of Prussia and the stupidity of the Emperor of the French—or of those persons who make use of the *Moniteur* in his name—bid fair to surround this simple question with endless exasperation and entanglements. The ultimate result may be the disturbance of the peace of Europe. The present result is a state of uncertainty and disquiet, and preparations for war that are almost as costly as war itself.

The personal rights claimed by the King of Prussia over the canton of Neuchâtel are not in dispute. The political rights of his Majesty, shadowy in the extreme, might, after proper appraisal, be purchased from him by Switzerland without derogation of dignity. To the thinking of many they would be amply paid for by the shadow of a five-franc piece. But whatever their worth—and no one, however much inclined to take the part of the King of Prussia, values them at more than a merely nominal sum—

it is disgraceful and monstrous that a Sovereign who, during the war against Russia, would not stir a finger in defence of a cause which he admitted to be rightful, should, for a trumpety point of supposed self-interest on which the verdict of the world is against him, raise armies, put them in motion, and threaten a general disruption of Europe. When there was a great and a just war to be fought out, the King of Prussia was the "Angel of Peace." When peace is declared, and a question arises in which his own self-love is involved, the Angel of Peace is transformed into the Demon of Discord; and, for the paltry objects he expects to gain in a small corner of a small Republic, becomes as fierce, as reckless, and as insatiable as Nicholas was in pursuit of the prize of Constantinople. Frederick William will listen to no terms or compromise, unless Switzerland will consent to abandon the trial of Count Pourtales, and the other conspirators who, in his interest, if not at his instigation, took up arms, committed treason against the Republic, and murdered unoffending Swiss citizens. Switzerland cannot yield upon this point without a sacrifice of her independence and dignity. The point is vital. To abdicate her function as judge in the case of rebels against her authority would be to commit political suicide. The

weaker she is in men and in money the more jealously she ought to maintain her indefeasible rights. It is by her legality, far more than by her strength, that she exists in Europe, and that her independence is guaranteed to her by the consent, and by the express stipulation and solemn compact, of the Powers.

But it is the conduct of France far more than that of Prussia which has complicated the question. Prussia, unaided and uncounselled, would not have dared, however much she might have talked and intrigued against Switzerland, to have attacked her with an army. But, supported by France, there is no knowing what folly or wickedness the King might not commit in pursuit of his visionary claims on Neuchâtel. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the French Emperor will see the error which he has either committed in his own person or allowed others to commit in his name, and, without favour or prejudice, lend himself to the settlement of the dispute. If it had not been for the independence of Switzerland, which Switzerland knew how to maintain, amid difficulties quite as great as those which now menace her, the mighty Emperor of the French might never have become an Emperor, or even a President, or anything but an exile. He cannot put his hand upon his heart, if he still have one, and deny



EXPERIMENT WITH THE HAMMER UPON THE GREAT BELL FOR THE WESTMINSTER CLOCK.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)





that but for the generous aid which Switzerland afforded him in the day of his adversity he might perhaps have ended his troubled career on that public place where other conspirators against strong and established Governments have so often displayed their heroism, or entitled themselves to be enrolled among the martyrs of liberty. If any one owe Switzerland a debt of gratitude it is Napoleon III.; but, as the gratitude of Princes is even more phantasmal and shadowy than the rights of Prussia over Neuchâtel, it is to the good offices of Great Britain rather than to those of France that Switzerland and Europe will look to muzzle the warlike Sovereign of Berlin, and bind him over to keep the peace, of which he was once, and very lately, so dotingly enamoured. We do not imagine that the personal relations already established, and about to be still more intimately cemented, between the Royal families of Windsor and Potsdam will form any impediment to the action of the British Government in this matter. It was the Premier of England who once insisted—when he was not a Premier—that nations had no consins; and he is not a likely person to forget at the present time that consins are not the only relatives of which nations are happily unconscious; that they neither marry nor are given in marriage; and that their only durable or valid alliances are those founded upon political necessities. The King of Prussia is moving his armies towards the Swiss frontiers, and is said to have secured the consent of the petty Sovereigns of Bavaria and Baden to a military passage through their territories. If so, Great Britain has only to declare such an attack upon Switzerland to be a *casus belli*, and the King of Prussia will become prudent and peaceable. In such a declaration, if rendered necessary, France, notwithstanding the opinion expressed in the *Moniteur*, would be certain to join. The *Moniteur* may detest freedom in Belgium, and coerce the Belgian press; it may detest freedom in England, and vainly threaten, because it cannot coerce, the English press; and it may also detest freedom in Switzerland and denounce the jealous care of the Swiss to guard inviolate the precious heirloom of their independence; but, notwithstanding all these things, the Emperor of the French will not allow the outbreak of a new war in Europe, to please the morbid vanity or exaggerated susceptibility of the King of Prussia, or any other potentate. Ugly, therefore, as it looks, we suspect that means will be found to put out the fire which has been kindled at Berlin, and that the Swiss difficulty will be allowed to blow over.

EXPERIMENT UPON THE GREAT BELL OF THE NEW PALACE AT WESTMINSTER.

EVERY stage of the manufacture and erection of this magnificent Bell for the Clock of the new Houses of Parliament is replete with interest. Indeed, from the extraordinary attention paid to the fabrication of the Bell, and its involving several new theoretical views, it may be doubted whether, within memory, experimental science has been brought to bear to a like extent upon this class of manufacture. In order fully to understand the subject of the Illustration upon the preceding page, it may be as well to explain that the Bell, when placed in the Clock Tower, will be struck at each hour by means of a hammer; while the quarters will be struck upon four smaller bells. The scene we have here presented is the first experiment made (on Saturday week) to determine the proportionate weight of the striking hammer of the large Bell, and the space through which it should fall upon the bow of the Bell. The trial was made in New Palace-yard, at the foot of the tower, and here were assembled Mr. Denison, who designed the Bell; Mr. Dent, the maker of the Bell; and Mr. Quinn, the able clerk of the new Palace works. There were also present a few privileged spectators. To make the experiment the ponderous hammer, of nearly, or quite, a half ton weight, was placed on a stout framework of wood, at an inclination of about forty-five degrees, and slightly touching the Bell; the hammer was then raised from this position some inches, at various times, by means of a crab, which was then thrown out of gear, and the massive hammer-head fell by its own weight, striking the Bell with great precision, and bringing out the sound to the extraordinary extent. We believe the experiment to have been quite satisfactory. The raising of this Bell will be the next stage for our Illustration; and when the whole work is accomplished we trust it will redound to the credit of those several gentlemen into whose hands this herculean labour has fallen.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

THE PARIS CONFERENCES.

The latest rumour current in Paris regarding the Conference is that no meeting of the Plenipotentiaries will take place till after New Year's Day, or only a meeting for preliminary formalities. It is also stated confidently that the Plenipotentiaries will meet with settled instructions, and that the only points for discussion will be the Helgand and the Isle of Serpents questions. The sittings of the Conference will very probably not exceed two in number.

PRUSSIA AND SWITZERLAND.

Prussia and Switzerland are making active preparations for war. The Prussian army to be put in movement, it is said, on the 2nd of January, consists of upwards of 140,000 men; and half the regular army of that number is to be sent to the south as a demonstration of force to hold themselves ready for a mobilisation in the event of an order for which they may expect to receive immediately after the commencement of the new year. Within a fortnight after the publication of the definite order, the troops must all be on the march. Each of the eight provinces is to contribute a division with its full contingent of landwehr, 10,000 strong; making together with a division of the Guards, a total of 144,000 men to be sent to the south as a demonstration against Switzerland. They will probably first be thrown into the Prussian Principality of Hohenzollern, hard on the Swiss confines, whether the Prussian Government has an *Etappen-Strasse*, or military right of way, through the intervening German States. Count Groben is appointed Commander-in-Chief; the commanders of the corps are Generals Werder, Wussow, Bonin, and Schack. The Prince of Hohenzollern is appointed Chief of the Division of Berson. The Division of the Guards of the 1st corps is to be under the orders of Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia.

In Switzerland, also, there is no lack of determination to stand up for their rights. At an extraordinary sitting held on Sunday last the Federal Council decided on calling out immediately the staffs of four new divisions: the second, commander-in-chief, F. Veltion; the fourth, commander-in-chief, Kutz; the sixth, commander-in-chief, Egloff; the eighth, commander-in-chief, Zimmerli. Each staff is immediately to repair to its own head-quarters, and there await the orders that may subsequently be issued. The head-quarters of the third and fifth divisions, already called out, are—the former at Lienthal, the capital of the canton of Basle; and the latter at Frauenfeld, the capital of Thurgovia. The greatest emulation prevails amongst all the cantons in the exertions which they are making to meet the requirements of the circular issued by the Federal Government with regard to the completion of the equipments and numbers of troops. The Government of Argovia has granted an extraordinary credit to the board of military administration. The canton of Berne has allowed 150,000 francs for the purchase of great-coats for the soldiers. The Federal board of military administration made some weeks ago a contract with the canton of Lucerne for the delivery of 300,000 rations of bread. It is evident that Switzerland will not be caught unprepared. At Zurich 1500 students of the University and the Federal Polytechnic School have petitioned as a favour that they may be organised into an academic legion.

The Paris Correspondent of the Morning Post, writing on Tuesday evening, says:—

I believe the *Morning Post* will be able to announce in a few days that the Government of the Emperor of the French, whilst acknowledging the sovereign rights of Prussia to Neuchâtel, protests against an armed intervention in Switzerland. The neutrality of Switzerland, which has caused so much sensation throughout Europe, ought to have been registered in the Court Journal of the Tuileries, and not given to the world as a grave political document. I think I may now assure you that the Emperor will not allow Switzerland to be invaded. There is the strongest feeling in the French army about the Swiss question, and nothing would be more unpopular in France than if the Government were to countenance the invasion of Switzerland. At a garrison town near Paris the other day, the officers after dinner drank "to the freedom and independence of Switzerland."

THE WAR WITH PERSIA.

The next Overland Mail will, no doubt, bring some news from the Persian Gulf regarding the expedition sent from Bombay. Meanwhile we have all manner of rumours as to what is going on in Persia and the neighbouring Russian provinces. A Polish correspondent of the *Anglo-Burmese Gazette* writes that the Russians have long been preparing for the outbreak of war between England and Persia. The garrison of Astrakhan has been strengthened, and the Cossacks in the neighbourhood of that city have received a new commander in the person of Lieutenant-General Krassnik; but the reports relative to the concentration of troops, which are to be conveyed by the flotilla of the Caspian Sea to Astrakhan, "are totally unfounded." The Orenburg corps, of which so much has recently been said, consists of the 23rd infantry division, and of the Orenburg battalions of the line, but it is too weak to be sent on an expedition to Persia. The distance is so enormous that there can be no question of a reinforcement being sent from Southern Russia. The principal force of Russia in Asia is in the Caucasus and on the Araxes, and if her troops should enter Persia, it would probably be by way of the province of Azerbajan.

A private letter from Astrakhan of the 15th of November, published in the *Moniteur de la Flotte*, gives some details relative to the situation of the Russian forces on the Caspian Sea. No portion of the Russian army had entered the Persian territory, nor was war considered imminent. A commission, composed of a Colonel of the staff, of a Lieutenant-Colonel, and of a Major, had been sent to the Persian frontier, to examine passages and prepare maps. It appears that in case of hostilities between Great Britain and Persia, the province of Mazanderan would afford an important strategic position. Troops might be concentrated at Balfron, the principal town of the province, at Mechedi-Sar, Astrabad, Ashraf, and Fenabad. Independently of these military depôts, the defences of the Caspian Gates and of the Konia might be effectually occupied. It is through those points that the centre of the kingdom of Persia may be reached. The concentration in Mazanderan of the Russian army in the provinces of the Caspian Sea, now consisting of 50,000 men, would, it is said, render the operations of the British army extremely difficult, as it would be constantly menaced in its flank or its rear by the army in Mazanderan. The writer of this letter believes that if these reasons about the differences between Great Britain and Persia will be settled amicably.

According to the Constantinople correspondent of the *Trieste Zeitung*, the demands made by England on Persia are:—1. Revision of the treaties between the two Powers. 2. Evacuation of Herat. 3. Permission to establish "factories" in the Persian Gulf. 4. Railroad concessions to English companies. The Imam of Muscat, who is with England, refuses to pay any more tribute to Persia. A letter, which was forwarded to London by an extraordinary courier from Persia had brought the news of Herat having fallen on the 25th October into the hands of the Persian army after a very sanguinary conflict. The news appears likely to be true, but it is the cholera and hunger which have obliged the garrison of Herat to surrender, and not the valour of their assailants.

NEGRO INSURRECTION.

The New York papers received by last mail contain some startling intelligence of a projected insurrection among the negroes of the South. Twenty-four muskets and two kegs of powder had been found in the possession of some slaves at Columbia, Tennessee; and at Perry, in the same State, fifteen negroes had been killed by their owners. On the Cumberland River a white man, disguised as a negro, had been found plotting. The following further particulars of this affair are gleaned from various papers:—

(From the *Philadelphia North American*.)—LOUISVILLE, Saturday, Dec. 6—Evening.—A report has reached the city that the negroes in Southern Kentucky had broken out in rebellion, and that a general insurrection was feared. They had commenced an attack upon the defences of the city, and were marching upon Paducah, Lafayette and Hopkinsville, for the purpose of taking prompt action in the matter.

(From the *Franklin (La.) Journal*, Nov. 27.)—The negroes of the parish of Iberville, Louisiana, supposed to have been connected with an insurrectionary plot in that parish, have all been acquitted, except a free boy who is now in jail. There were several white men whom it was supposed had acted in concert with them, for whom a warrant was issued, and the Deputy Sheriff of the parish came to this place on Saturday evening last, and accompanied by a posse, went in search of the fugitives, and below here, nearly opposite Pattersonville, took three of them from a flat-boat, on their way, we understand, to the terminus of the railroad. It is supposed that one of the parties arrested whose name we do not remember occupied a very conspicuous place in the movement of insurrection, having furnished the negroes with ammunition and arms.

(From the *Missouri Democrat*, Dec. 4.)—For the past months the journals from different Southern States have been filled with numberless alarms respecting contemplated risings among the negro population. In Tennessee, in Missouri, in Virginia, and in Alabama, so imminent has been deemed the danger that the most severe measures have been adopted to prevent their congregating or visiting after their usual manner, and to give extraordinary attention to their preachings, and to keep a vigilant watch upon all their movements, by an efficient patrolling system. This is assuredly a most lamentable condition for the Slave States, for nothing causes such terror upon the plantations as the suspicion of one of these insurrections. In calling attention to the frequency and increase of the reported plots on the part of the slave population within the past year, we design not so much to speak of the measures which have been found necessary for their repression, as to point to one great cause which has more than any other excited the indignation of the free States, and kindled agitation of this slavery question by every demagogue in the Slave States who wishes to acquire transient notoriety. In Missouri, especially, have we felt the effects of this slavery agitation and slavery extension party upon the minds of the Northern States, who have sought to float into power and office by continually exciting the passions of men, and provoking discussion in regard to this theme; and we venture to assert that, in consequence thereof, more slaves have been induced to escape from their masters, more desperate resolutions have been put into their heads, and more general insurrections contemplated than species of property within the past year than during any five years preceding. Slaveholders are but now beginning to reap the consequences of the agitation which has been granted of late to those debased politicians who, by their attacks upon the "great question," have occupied a leading place in the minds of the masters, soon extended itself to the slaves—for all who have lived in slaveholding communities well know how eagerly every scrap of parlor conversation, every excited harangue on the stump, or loud-toned dispute in the streets, is treasured up by the negro, and made the burden of kitchen comment during the hours of the night.

DEATH OF THE REV. DR. HARRIS.—We regret to have to announce the death of the Rev. Dr. Harris, Principal of the New College, St. John's Wood, which took place at half-past five on Sunday evening. The subject was "Manna," the "Great Question," &c. occupied a leading place in the Congregational body, and his loss will be deeply felt throughout the Dissenting world.

DEATH OF DR. PARIS.—The death of this excellent and distinguished man took place on Wednesday morning at his residence in Dover-street. He was born at Cambridge on the 7th of August, in the year 1755.

THE GREAT NORTHERN FRAUDS.—On Wednesday last Leopold Redpath, W. C. C. Kent, and Thomas Hodgkin—also a clerk, in the registration department of the Great Northern Railway, who was apprehended and brought before Mr. Tyrwhitt after the examination and remand of Redpath and Kent on Friday last—were placed at the bar before Mr. Gurney for the examination of the "Great Question," &c. occupied a leading place in the Congregational body, and his loss will be deeply felt throughout the Dissenting world. The defendants were charged as an attesting witness to a forged transfer of £1000 4s per cent Stock of the Great Northern Railway from Redpath to Mr. Stephen Geo. Hammond. After an hour's examination Mr. Gurney adjourned, and Kent was fully committed for trial, and Hodgkin was admitted to bail.

The Sugar Duties are to be reduced in April. Last year they produced £5,227,000.

COUNTRY NEWS.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE HIGHFIELD HOUSE OBSERVATORY, NEAR NOTTINGHAM, FOR THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 23, 1856.

| Month and Day. | Corrected Height of Barometer at 9 A.M. at Sea Level. | Thermometer: Highest Reading. | Thermometer: Lowest Reading. | Mean Temperature of Air. | Rain in Inches. | Mean Temperature of Sun (8-10). | Amount of Sunshine (8-10). | Mean Amount of Cloud (8-10). |
|----------------|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dec. 17        | 30.248  | 43.0                          | 30.8                         | 38.7                     | 0.00            | 34.4                            | 37.6                       | 0                            |
| " 18           | 30.252  | 42.0                          | 29.2                         | 35.6                     | 0.70            | 34.0                            | 37.4                       | 0                            |
| " 19           | 30.272  | 46.2                          | 29.5                         | 38.4                     | 0.00            | 37.3                            | 38.8                       | 1                            |
| " 20           | 30.276  | 50.5                          | 41.2                         | 46.4                     | 0.10            | 44.7                            | 44.1                       | 10                           |
| " 21           | 30.284  | 49.0                          | 40.0                         | 45.0                     | 0.05            | 44.4                            | 42.9                       | 10                           |
| " 22           | 30.267  | 47.0                          | 33.5                         | 42.5                     | 0.35            | 41.2                            | 41.4                       | 9                            |
| " 23           | 30.000  | 41.0                          | 29.5                         | 35.0                     | 0.10            | 31.1                            | 33.3                       | 8                            |
| Mean           | 30.099  | 46.5                          | 35.4                         | 41.5                     | 0.432           | 39.8                            | 39.6                       | 8.3                          |

The range of Temperature during the Week was 21.0 deg. The Weather.—Cloudy 1st day.

The Direction of the Wind was on the 17th W.S.W.; 18th, between S.W. and W.; 19th, W.S.W.; 20th, W.; 21st, W.; 22nd, W.; 23rd N., 10 a.m. became W. E. J. Lowe.

THE SPIRIT OF JOHN KNOX.—The Dissenting members of the Edinburgh Town Council have passed a series of resolutions disavowing the obligation and intention to restore the old church of Trinity College, one of the most ancient and remarkable Gothic fabrics in Scotland, but which are to be sacrificed to railway innovation. In doing so they have not only refused the appeals of the Church of Scotland, but resisted the combined influence of almost every representative of law and learning, of arts and antiquities, in that city.

ARREST OF THE SUPPOSED MURDERER OF MR. LITTLE.—Last Friday evening a man named Michael George Harrington was arrested on the charge of the murder of Mr. Little, a party concerned in the late murder. He was immediately conveyed to Green-street station, where the charge was taken. Harrington was not in the employment of the company, but was a tax or rent collector, and lived in the neighbourhood of the station. His son, a lad of 15, was the driver of the engine-driver on the line. At the time of his arrest he was entering the train for the purpose of proceeding down the line on business. The charge was preferred against him by two women, one of them named Catherine Feeney, residing in a dingy street, whose evidence it is stated is very strong. She has taken up quite dead to the station house, expressed her astonishment at the charge, which she denied emphatically. He was detained in the station during the night, and carefully watched. The prisoner was brought up for examination at Capel-street Police-office on Saturday morning. On Tuesday last, when an affidavit was addressed sufficient to warrant his detention, and he was, therefore, discharged.

A VERY BAD CASE.—In the office of the Master in Chancery (Dublin) on Saturday last, counsel, on behalf of Mr. Thomas Eyre, of Bath, applied to the Master to receive proof of a bill of exchange for £17,000, dated Nov. 26, 1855, which was drawn by the late John Sadler, accepted by the manager of the Bank of the City of Dublin, and indorsed by John Sadler to Mr. Eyre. The Master said that for the present he should only receive the document as exhibited to him. It was a monstrous thing that this bill of exchange should have been accepted by the manager in November, 1855, shortly before the failure of the bank, for so large a sum as £17,000, which he knew perfectly well to be a bad bill, and that the bill owed the bank £200,000 or £250,000. In his opinion he ought to be indicted for fraud.

LAMENTABLE ACCIDENT.—A few days ago the Rev. William Mason, Vicar of Bilsby, near Alford, was standing on the platform at Louth with one of his daughters waiting for a passenger-train by which he intended to return home. When an engine was starting through the station, caught him by his coat, which was a long one, and, the cloth becoming entangled in the crank connecting the driving-wheels, he was dragged down, whirled round several times, and then dashed upon the platform, where he lay quite dead. He was a gentleman in his six-fiftieth year, and has left a numerous family.

EXECUTION AT WINCHESTER.—On Tuesday morning Giuseppe Lagriva, Giovanni Barbalano, and Matteo Petricci, the Italian patriots, were hanged on the top of the county gaol at Winchester. The crime for which they were sentenced to death, at the recent assizes, was the murder of Captain Harrison and Evan Evans, on board the barque *Albatross*, in the Bosphorus.

ATTENTED ASSASSINATION.—Last Saturday night, between five and six o'clock, Mr. G. Joynt, a gentleman who holds landed property at Mount St. Catherine, county Clare, which he recently purchased in the Encumbered Estates Court, while returning home in his gig, was fired at from behind a hedge. Fortunately, the attempt was unsuccessful; for, although the lead entered his leg, and he was somewhat dangerously injured. Though bleeding profusely, he drove into Limerick at a quick pace, to the house of his brother, where surgical aid was promptly rendered, and the wounds dressed. The reason assigned is, that Mr. Joynt had served notices of ejectment upon tenants who are to be dispossessed in March. It is not long since the brother of Mr. Joynt received a threatening notice to the effect "that he should bear in mind the spirit of Mr. Joynt was not yet dead, and that he ought to dread the fate of Gloster." Mr. Gloster shot in his leg when going into Limerick from the county Clare, and the assassin has never disclosed his name.

"A BIT OF A LARK."—Several of the Yorkshire papers give an account of the shooting of a burglar by a woman who believed her house was about to be attacked by robbers. It turns out that no robbery was intended, but only a "bit of a lark." A surgeon who lives in the neighbourhood of the woman's residence was, it appears, in the habit of paying his debts to her. He was one day returning to his house on the morning of the 19th inst., at about two o'clock, and was followed by two or three boon companions, who had been spending the evening with him, and who made their appearance just as he was endeavouring to obtain admittance to the woman's house. She, being alarmed at the noise they made, opened her chamber window, and, hearing them say something about going round to the back door, she fired a horse-pistol at one of the intruders, who instantly fell, and was soon afterwards removed by his comrades. The wounded man is the surgeon alluded to, and he is rather seriously injured in the neck.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

FOUR of the gun-boats now at Woolwich Dockyard are ordered to be forwarded to Portsmouth.

A DETACHMENT of Royal Artillery is under orders to leave Woolwich garrison for Ireland.

A LARGE number of men belonging to the late Turkish Contingent service, whose claims had been examined and certified, were last week paid off at the Tower.

SEVERAL officers of the Royal Engineers have recently returned from a tour of inspection to various eminent engineering establishments in this country, the object of which was to gain information with regard to any improvements or improvements.

A SCHOOL for the education of the numerous boys employed at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, has been opened in that establishment, and is under the supervision of the heads of the departments.

ON Monday morning some surprise was created among the troops at Chatham Barracks in consequence of an order being issued for the immediate departure of the depôts of the 12th Foot and the 45th Light to the camp at Colchester. At two o'clock in the afternoon the whole of the troops belonging to these regiments were assembled on the general parade-ground, for the purpose of being inspected by Colonel H. Jervis, Commandant of the Provisional Battalion, previously to their departure. The appearance of the non-commissioned officers and men on parade was extremely satisfactory to the inspecting field officer.

MAILS FOR INDIA—ALTERED REGULATIONS.—The mails for India, &c. to Madras, which are at present forwarded from London on the morning of the following day (Monday), whenever the 10th or 26th of the month falls on a Sunday will, in future, on such occasions, be made up at the General Post-office, and dispatched on the evening of Monday.

INCREASE OF THE POLICE FORCE.—Orders were issued from the Home Office last week for an increase in the number of men employed in the Metropolitan police force. The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police has made an additional surplus out of the police rate this year, the entry of the additional constables will be forthwith proceeded with. This augmentation of the force has been recommended by Sir George Grey, in consequence of the alarming increase of garrotting, robbery and burglaries, and the numerous complaints that continue to be forwarded to the Home Secretary of the inefficiency of the police by the inhabitants of the suburban districts, many of whom are desirous, for personal protection, to be sworn in as special constables, and to adopt the old system of watch and ward. The number of the police force will be the first strengthened, and the men on night duty are to have been assigned them that they will be able to pass round in five minutes.

THE LATE GALES.—Last summer the Elder Brethren of the Trinity House erected on the Rundle Stone, at considerable expense, an iron beacon and mast, surmounted by a ball fixed about 30 feet from the base. During the recent severe gales the whole fabric disappeared.