CONTINENTAL ON DITS.

Two Cabinet Councils will be held every week at the Palais de l'Elysée during the recess of the National Assembly. Tuesdays and Saturdays are days selected.

It is stated that the Russian Government claims damages from the Chinese Government for the recent plunder of a Russian caravan. The St. Petersburg Cabinet threatens to suspend its diplomatic relations with China unless this request is complied with.

Great activity is being displayed at Toulouse for the restoration of private houses and public buildings. The Faubourg Saint Cyprien, which was almost entirely destroyed by the floods, is already resuming its old aspect.

The Berlin newspapers attach great importance to the recent visit of Field-Marshal Manteuffel to Prince Bismarck, at Varzin. They remark that the Chancellor and the Marshal are on more friendly terms than is generally supposed; and hint that the political abilities which Marshal Manteuffel displayed during his occupation of Nancy will, probably, induce Prince Bismarck to offer him a diplomatic position.

The magnificent chateau of Etelan at St. Maurice near Lillebonne (Seine-Inférieure), and belonging to M. de Bois-Hébert, has just been destroyed by fire. The accident was caused by the overheating of a stove for drying linen. The damage to the building is estimated at 100,000fr., and the furniture 50,000fr., but the loss is covered by insurance.

A new ordnance yard has just been established in the Forest of Fontainebleau. It is being inaugurated at present by the 11th Regiment of Artillery, which is experimenting with a new cannon.

Six thousand one hundred and thirty four persons were arrested in Paris in a state of drunkenness during the first six months of the present year.

Marshal MacMahon will shortly visit the military pigeon house at the Jardin d'Acclimation. The carrier pigeon service is being rapidly organised in France, and the Zoological Gardens alone contain 1200 of the winged messengers. The Spanish Government has just sent an agent to France for the purpose of studying the new system, and M. Fabra, the gentleman selected, has drawn up a most favourable report on the subject.

Two splendid bunches of ripe grapes have been displayed from the grounds of M. Hensler, horticulturist, of Fribourg. Their precocity is attributed in great measure to the improvements in vine cultivation, suggested by M. Gressant, of Paris.

The present rage in Paris for floral decorations as a part of female embellishments is such, that to look at some of the ladies as they move along, one would imagine that they had poked their head and waist through a bed of garden flowers, and were [illegible] off the spoils over half their person.

Mdlle. Roch, the pretty daughter of the guillotinist of all France, has been married to a Government clerk; in order to avoid a crowd anxious to see the "King of Terrors," the marriage had to be celebrated at five in the morning; she is a dressmaker. Roch had all his "assistants" at the banquet; everybody must live!

In the Bois de Boulogne the young son of a Brazilian nobleman rides every day with a monkey for a companion on another pony, the footman walks behind in powder and bagwig, like a beadle of 40 years' standing, 60 paces from the cavaliers.

The *Russian World* announces the formation in St. Petersburg of a society of ladies who have renounced the use of silk dresses and every other kind of expensive attire, in order to employ the money so saved in the education of poor orphans.

EXECUTION AT LINCOLN.

Peter Blanchard, 26, fellmonger, who was found guilty of the murder of his sweetheart, Louisa Hogan, 22, at Louth, Lincolnshire, on the 7th of March last, by stabbing her with a butcher's knife, has suffered the extreme penalty of the law within the walls of the Castle at Lincoln. The particulars of the murder are briefly these: The prisoner and deceased, both respectably connected, had been keeping company for four years, but latterly she seems to have been averse to continue the acquaintance, and formed the friendship with another young man of whom Blanchard was jealous. On Sunday evening, 7th March, Blanchard accompanied her to the door of the Methodist Chapel, left her after service, and walked home with her, the two sitting by themselves in a front room. About two hours afterwards a scream was heard, and Mrs. Hogson ran to see what was the matter. On opening the door her daughter fell into her arms, saying, "He has stabbed me," and, when asked where, said, "In the heart," dying immediately afterwards. The prisoner went to a neighbour's house, asked for some brandy, saying "he had stabbed the missis," at the same time producing a razor which he said "he could have done it with if the knife had failed." When he was apprehended he said, "Here's love for a girl when a man will die for her. God bless her. Is she dead?" Blanchard, in 1869, had typhoid fever, and since that time has been subject to epileptic fits and despondency. The jury recommended him to mercy on the ground that at the time of the murder he was in a weak state of mind. A strong petition was forwarded from Louth on his behalf, on the plea of insanity to the Home Secretary, and Dr. Brisco from London to examine him on Friday last; but his opinion seems to have been that he was perfectly sane.

After the prisoner's conviction he made the following statement:

"I did not know what I was doing, or else I could not have done it. I loved her a good deal, and never loved it was true that I had killed her till I got sight of her funeral cards, for I had never anything against her. I would take my place in hell if her poor soul might go to heaven, for I would at any time suffer myself than see her suffer. I should be thankful if my parents might have my body to take to Louth, in order that I might be laid by the side of my dear Louisa. My first failing was that I was first persuaded to smoke; from that I got to tippling, and then to neglect to go to a place of worship."

Since his conviction Blanchard paid great attention to the ministrations of the Methodist minister, to which sect he belonged, and appeared fully resigned to his fate. He gained two stones in weight, ate, drank, and slept well. On Saturday a painful interview took place with his parents, which lasted three hours. On Sunday he took the sacrament in the afternoon, and retired to rest, after a light supper, at a quarter to twelve, sleeping till half-past six, when he again took the sacrament. At 8 a.m. he addressed a letter to his father and mother and brothers, in which he requests them to give Mr. Barnett, his minister, a keepsake; also "to send one of his likenesses with the dogs on to the governor and warders of the Castle."

He walked firmly to the scaffold, praying as he went, and after shaking hands with all present, the cap was drawn on, his prayers being still audible. The bolt was soon drawn, and in a few seconds life was extinct, although the muscular action continued for some three minutes.

The execution took place at nine o'clock, amid a storm and heavy fall of rain, accompanied by lightning and thunder, and five minutes afterwards a black flag, fluttering from the lofty tower of the Roman castle, proclaimed to the outside world that the murderer had ceased to exist. Marwood, of Leeds Castle, was the executioner.

General Pelissier, brother of the well-known Marshal Pelissier, commander of the French army in the Crimea, has returned to Paris, from a tour of inspection of the principal seaports of France, with reference to their capabilities of defence against the naval fleets.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Murder at Sea.—The barque Hesperia, Captain J. Bellett, from Singapore, put into St. Helena for the purpose of handing over to justice one of the crew who murdered another on the passage by stabbing him through the lungs; but the authorities would have nothing to do with the case unless the captain and other evidence remained for the next session. The captain did not feel justified in doing so, and has brought the man home in double irons. The man says he is quite prepared to meet his fate, and feels perfectly happy; now that he has had his revenge, he can eat and sleep better than he ever did before. The men were constantly quarrelling with each other, and the last quarrel they had occurred a week previous to the stabbing. It appears the prisoner lay in wait for the man when he came at midnight to relieve the wheel.

Disastrous Boiler Explosion.—One of the boilers attached to the nut and bolt works of Messrs. Archer and Harper, Darlaston, has exploded with disastrous results. The boiler, which was egg-ended and of 20-horse power, was lifted bodily from its bed and scattered like a bursting shell in every direction. One end, weighing more than half a ton, was blown in a north-easterly direction for a distance of some 300 yards, falling through the roof of a house and killing a child in bed. Another and still larger portion weighing about a ton was hurled in the opposite direction, destroying everything that came in its road, but happily sparing life. Two machine shops connected with the works were completely wrecked, and the workpeople buried in the ruins. No time was lost in rescuing them, but eight were found to be more or less seriously injured, chiefly by the falling masonry, and one woman named Sarah Hartless, whose body was frightfully mangled, was killed. As the boiler was three-fourths full of water at the time of the accident, the cause of the explosion is not very obvious, but it will probably be found to have arisen from excessive pressure, great difficulty having been experienced throughout the afternoon in overcoming the resistance of the machinery.

A Long Tow.—The Union Steamship Company's mail steamer Syria, Captain Vyvyan, Lieutenant R.N.R., arrived at Southampton on the 9th inst., having been towed all the way from St. Helena. The steamer had the misfortune on the 22nd of March last to break her shaft when about ten miles north of St. Helena, pursuing her homeward passage from the Cape. Owing to baffling winds, her comparatively small spread of canvas, and the difficulty experienced in steering when the screw was jambed, it was with much trouble that the vessel beat to windward, so as to reach St. Helena. After a detention of eleven weeks at St. Helena the tug Anglia, of London, was sent out by the underwriter to tow the Syria home; but, tugs not being built to carry fuel for long voyages, the passage could only be effected by calling at several places for coals. Leaving St. Helena on the 19th of June, the first stage to Sierra Leone was reached on the 30th of June; starting thence on the 2nd of the following month, Goree was fetched in five days. During the next stage was the toughest work of the whole voyage; facing the N.E. trades, the day's run on several occasions showed little more than fifty miles. Teneriffe was gained in twelve days. More coals having been taken, Madeira was made in three days. From this island (the tug having shipped all the coals that could safely be put into her), she wended her way, hoping to accomplish the remaining stage, a distance of 1300 miles, but it was not so to be; for when seven days out, strong northerly winds so impeded her progress, that it became necessary to bear up for Vigo, with the view to obtain further fuel. Leaving Vigo on Monday, the 2nd inst., Southampton was reached on Monday, the 9th inst. The Syria is a fine steamer of 2000 tons burden. From her long detention at St. Helena, the bottom became very foul, and this rendered the towing unusually heavy, yet only one 1-11 inch rope of 120 fathoms was used for the whole voyage; the rope worked on a chain which was rove through the hawse pipe. The tug was navigated by Captain Webb; the towing was conducted under Captain Reader.

Brutal Boy-Baiting.—There was lately, in the small Austrian village of Höflein, an unlucky youth named Lorenz Hormeyer, who was the butt of the whole neighbourhood. The lads of the village found their greatest amusement in tormenting the poor fellow, and no festivity was complete unless baiting Hormeyer formed part of the sport. He himself took this in tolerably good part till, on a recent occasion, his persecutors were so exceptionally provoking that he lost patience, and gave one of them, the son of a peasant proprietor, a good box on the ear. Then ensued a terrible scene. Eight of the young men felled Hormeyer to the ground, and one of them, according to the evidence given before a court of justice in Vienna, danced upon him in hob-nailed boots "for the length of a Paternoster." They then applied a local instrument of torture, known as a "hair-violin," which consists of a piece of split wood, into the clip of which the patient's beard is thrust, when it is so manipulated that not only this, but a part of the cheek is carried away by the horrid implement. When this ceased to amuse the young people, they began to throw stones at Hormeyer's head, and only left off when, to their great vexation, he ceased to cry out. He was, in fact, dead—a circumstance which has had very unpleasant consequences to some of the number. The Austrian *carcere duro* is, in fact, no joke.

Cases of Drowning.—An accident, by which two lives were lost, has happened on the Thames. It seems that three young men, who had obtained the loan of a small boat, were coming up from Erith, when, by some means not yet ascertained, the boat was capsized. One kept himself up by holding on to the overturned boat, but the other two were drowned. The names of the deceased were Charles Leafany and William Brett. The third person was taken on board a passing vessel. About eight o'clock on Wednesday evening Cuthbert Hutchinson, M.A., vicar of Howden, was drowned in the Ouse, opposite Goole. The deceased, with two companions named Hayes and Brook, fellow apprentices at the works of the Goole Engineering and Shipbuilding Company, left Goole about seven o'clock, and rowed across the river to the East Riding bank of the Ouse. They went in, the tide being half ebb, and Hutchinson tried to cross to a stone heap a few yards out. He suddenly found himself in deep water, and cried out loudly for help, but his companions failed to reach him before he went down.

Dreadful Carriage Accident.—An accident causing the death of two ladies has occurred on a road called Barden Scales, near Bolton Abbey, Yorkshire. There are several rumours as to how the accident occurred; but it appears that in the morning a party of four persons, consisting of three ladies and a youth, left Grassington, beyond Skipton, in a dog-cart to go to Otley. While descending a hill called Barden Scales, near Silver Lister-gate, the horse, one of its shoes being loose, stumbled and fell, the shafts were broken, and all the occupants of the vehicle were thrown headlong into the road. In a lonely district, some considerable time elapsed before assistance arrived. Two of the ladies, Mrs. Dakin, a widow, of Grassington, and Mrs. Lee, of Primrose-hill, near Skipton, were found to be dead, both having apparently been instantly killed. The bodies were removed to an inn at Burnsall. Miss Pletts, of Skipton, was also seriously injured, and the youth who was driving had both his legs broken. They were both taken to Scale House, at a short distance, and there medical assistance was procured. Both are in a precarious condition, and were insensible for many hours subsequently. The hill where the accident occurred is very steep, and drivers accustomed to the road have to be very cautious how they descend.

A Volunteer Quartermaster-Sergeant Dismissed in Disgrace.—Captain Buchanan, adjutant of the 1st Battalion of Staffordshire Volunteers, has attended a special parade of the local company belonging to his battalion. Quartermaster-Sergeant Owen, a member, shot twice at the 600 yards' range for the Queen's Prize at the late competition at Wimbledon, and attempted to obtain a reward to which he was not entitled. He was called to the front, and Captain Buchanan read the decision of the Council of the Association disqualifying Owen from competing again at Wimbledon. He added that Owen had brought disgrace on the battalion, and for the sake of discipline the officers had decided that he should be dismissed from the force. By directions of the adjutant Owen was then deprived of his sword, and marched from parade.

Parson and Grazier.—In giving judgment on Keet *v.* Smith, Sir Robert Phillimore explained that, by law, the churchyard is the incumbent's freehold—subject to the right of parishioners, or strangers dying in the parish, to simple interment, but no more. He added: "Indeed, the incumbent has the right to pasture animals which do not injure the bodies interred in the churchyard, and every gravestone, of course, interferes with that pasture. The parson is bound to respect existing gravestones. But it appears that, if he stood on his rights, he might refuse to have any more set up, and could, if he chose, devote all the available space in the churchyard to growing meat. He might then advertise, if he thought it likely to pay, burial ground beef or churchyard mutton. The rev. gentleman would thus exhibit himself in a twofold capacity of pastor.—*Punch.*

Curious Inquiry.—Dr. Harkwicke held an inquiry at Finchley, on the exhumed body of Arthur Bennett, aged sixteen, who died at 31, Charlotte-terrace, Barnsbury, on the 21st ult. Mr. Edwin Bennett, of 31, Charlotte-terrace, Barnsbury, father of deceased, said his son left home on the 19th of May last, without assigning any cause. He had been apprenticed to an optical instrument maker in the City, by whom he was kindly treated, and he had nothing to complain of at home. On the following Monday they had a letter from him, dated at Goole, stating that he would be home in a few days, but he did not come. They could not trace him afterwards, and nothing more was heard until the 17th ult., when he came home very ill, and in an almost senseless condition. He was so ill that he could scarcely give any account of himself. His body was in a frightful condition, his hands and feet being begrimed with pitch, and blistered, and there were strap-marks across his back. Dr. Waller was called in, but, as he grew worse, Dr. Bateman was also sent for, but he died, both medical men agreeing that death arose from blood poisoning, and a certificate of death to that effect was furnished. Deceased, on his death-bed, told the nurse that he was put on shore at Gravesend, but did not say by whom, that he had to get home as best he could; also, that after he became ill on the boat, and could not work, he was treated very cruelly. The inquiry was adjourned for a fortnight for further evidence.

Recovery of a Valuable Art Treasure from the Sea.—It will be remembered that the steamer Cadiz, from Lisbon to London, sank in May last, in about nine fathoms of water, near Brest. Her cargo, which included quicksilver, lead, fruit, and wine, was valued at about £40,000. The divers, who have been at work for about six weeks, have recovered 200 flasks of quicksilver and 600 casks of wine, and on Sunday they were fortunate enough to bring to the surface a magnificent silver hunting-knife, set with precious stones, the property of a Portuguese nobleman. It is insured for its intrinsic value, £7000, but it has a "fancy" value greatly exceeding that sum. It is expected that it will be brought to London in the course of a few days.

A Present from the Queen to an American Lady.—The Queen has presented to Mrs. Dr. S. Tredwell, of Mineola, L.I., a half-length portrait of herself, enclosed in a bronze frame, with bronze doors finely wrought, and containing the following inscription: "In recognition of the gift by Mrs. Tredwell of an old family letter, dated 1774, in which is a most interesting description of the children of George III., written by their governess, Miss Planta." Mrs. Tredwell is the widow of the late Dr. Tredwell, of Mineola, who died in 1873, and among her deceased husband's papers she found a letter, originally written to a Mrs. Campbell by Miss Planta, who was then governess in the family of King George III. The letter contains a personal description of the six princes and three princesses in King George's family, all of them praised for their beauty and princely deportment. Mrs. Tredwell sent the letter to the Queen, and has received a reply from Buckingham Palace, returning thanks for the letter, and advising her of the present of the framed photograph, sent through the British Legation at Washington.

Prodigious!—This is an attractive advertisement in a sporting paper: "To Noblemen and Gentlemen.—To be Sold (by private arrangement only), a fine Freehold Estate in South Wales, containing upwards of 700 acres, with a good family mansion thereon. The property commands, from the local advantages it possesses, a baronetcy, and a seat in Parliament. First-class Fishing and Shooting. Principals only treated with. Apply, &c." What are the "local advantages" of the land? Turnips, mangel-wurzel, gooseberries, or what? Do these give the title, namely, for example, Sir Timothy Turnips, Bart., Sir Mangel-Wurzel, Sir Gregory Gooseberry, and so forth? Or do the fishing and shooting give the title, as, again, Sir Francis Fish Pheasant, Sir Peter Pike Partridge? And then to be able to "command" a seat in Parliament!! Why, here's a big chance for Dr. Kenealy and his son Ahmed. The doctor could be the baronet, and his son could have a seat in Parliament, next to the convict-baronet's advocate without a struggle. At all events, it is worthy of immediate attention.—*Punch.*

Fatal Accident to a Centenarian.—Dr. Hardwicke held an inquest at the Lord Southampton, Maitland-park, on the body of Mrs. Elizabeth Allen, aged 102 years, of 186, Malden-road, Kentish Town, London. Elizabeth Allen, aged 73, daughter of deceased, and who had all the appearance of being likely to live to as great an age as her mother, deposed that the deceased was a native of Stubbington, near Portsmouth, Hants. She left there eleven years ago, and had since resided with witness. Deceased had been a widow sixty years. She had good health, and enjoyed all her faculties, never even wearing glasses to read up to within a few days of her death. She slept in a room by herself, and on the morning of Sunday week witness was alarmed by hearing her scream, and on going into the bed-room found her mother on the floor, and she said she had fallen out of bed, and that her leg was broken. They did not believe this, but lifted her in again. On the following day Dr. Warne was sent for, when the deceased complained of great pain, and on examination the doctor discovered that she had fractured the thigh bone on the left side. In three days afterwards she died from exhaustion consequent upon the shock and injury. In answer to a question Dr. Warne said he had evidence to show that the deceased was in reality 103 years of age. The coroner remarked there was no reason to doubt that this was deceased's correct age, as it was exhibited by the last census that there were many people who lived over 100 who took care of themselves. Mr. Wetenhall, one of the jurors, said that in the St. Pancras Almshouses opposite there were two inmates—one 96 and the other 98—both hale and hearty, one of them having survived a severe attack of bronchitis during the winter. Verdict, "Accidental death."

Shocking Accident.—A shocking accident occurred on the main line of the Great Western Railway, at Bathford. There were several sailors in a compartment of the express which leaves Bath at 3.2. When the train was about half a mile beyond where the late Bathampton accident occurred the guard was seen making motions to a platelayer. This man went in the direction indicated, and found the body of a sailor named John Aberdeen, belonging to her Majesty's ship Resistance. He had a liberty ticket on him, and a return ticket from Plymouth to Paddington. Deceased had evidently fallen or jumped from the train. The body was frightfully mutilated. Deceased was about twenty years of age.

Street Stalls for Refreshing and Nourishing Drinks.—Temperance advocates are now becoming more alive to the fact that people are often led to purchase intoxicating drinks from the very fact that there is so little else that they can drink; for in England, unlike France, there is a decided scarcity of unintoxicating drinks, beyond those which turn one's body into a gasometer on a small scale. In London a movement is now rapidly extending to supply this requirement by a series of street stalls, where people can have during the summer months iced and cooling drinks at a wonderfully cheap outlay, and cocoa, coffee, &c., during the winter. The movement is one that can well be supported by those who have not succumbed to teetotal agitation, and deserves to meet with success as a practical means towards deciding a very great difficulty.

The Greatest.—

Who is the greatest? Is it he whose sword
Cuts straight a road to glory? He whose feet
Are swiftest in the race for fame: whose seat
Is aye above his fellows at the board?
He who has heaped up countless golden hoard?
Or even he whose life is most replete
With richer stores than oil, and wine, and wheat
With love, best good that this world can afford?
No: he who follows where his Master led,
Through lowly ways; who strives but to fulfil,
By humblest service, all that Master's will.
He is the greatest; so our Lord hath said;
He falls who strains up high to reach renown;
Who stoops shall find the kingdom and the crown.

—*Emma Rhodes, in Argosy.*

Melancholy Boat Accident.—A melancholy boat accident has, says *Galignani*, just occurred at Saint-Brieuc (Côtes-du-Nord). Five priests, attended by a sailor, were on their way in a boat to the island of Bréhat, and were going for shortness sake through the Trou d'Etain which has several sunken rocks, when the craft struck against one and capsized. Two of the ecclesiastics were able to swim, and struck out for the nearest land, but one very soon succumbed and sank, and the other, after an hour's desperate exertions, reached the shore on which he fell insensible. His name is the Abbé Le Goff, and those of his four unfortunate companions, the eldest of whom was not 35, the Abbés Doué, Chatté, Cavan, and Le Corneo; that of the sailor, who leaves a widow and three children, was Lehon.

The Japanese Dead.—A Japanese cemetery we visited was so full of tombstones, we thought it most probably belonged to the sect who are economical of space and burn their relatives. On each tombstone there were two small holes and one large one—the former to hold bamboos filled with water, in which were placed bouquets of flowers and evergreens, while the larger one is intended to contain rice for the occupant of the grave on fête days. Except that they have graveyards, and do no bury their dead promiscuously all over the country, the Japanese seem to treat their deceased relations in much the same manner as the Chinese, for though one sect "cremate" and the other do not, all unite in the respect paid to their ancestors. As in China, there are certain seasons of the year more especially set apart for feasts in honour of the dead. On these occasions the spirits of the departed are supposed to be present, and when all the rites are concluded, they are sent off again to the place whence they came in little boats neatly modelled in straw, in which are put rice, water, and a small lamp to light them on their way. Numbers of these little boats may be seen on the "Inland Sea" at some periods of the year.—*Letters from China and Japan.*

Shipping Disasters.—The Italian barque Enrica, Guaginino master, from Mazagan for Falmouth for orders, with beans, was in collision on Friday night, 20 miles west of the Lizard, with the ship Samuel Plimsoll, from London for Australia, and the former vessel immediately sank. The Falmouth pilot and two of the crew of the Italian vessel were drowned. The remainder of the crew were landed at Falmouth on Saturday evening by No. 6 pilot cutter. The Samuel Plimsoll proceeded on her voyage. The Vanguard, screw steamer, Captain Garson, has arrived in the Tyne from Lisbon. When off Sarn Middle Lightship last Thursday night she came in collision with the schooner Hellechiena Amelia, Captain Redeker belonging to Wilderbank, and sank her. The crew were saved, taken on board the steamer, and landed at Shields. On Saturday, at midnight, the fine brig Globe was pitched upon the rocks at a place called Joe's Nab, a few miles south of Whitby. She was laden with coal from Shields, bound for London. The sea, which was very high, dashed with great fury over the vessel, and in a few hours she was reduced to a complete wreck. The National lifeboat at Whitby put off to rescue the crew, but it was found that they had escaped by their own boat, and at about four o'clock on Sunday morning they were landed safely at Whitby. The vessel was 233 tons register, and belonged to Whitby. She was insured.

Paris Cabmen.—The Paris correspondent of the *Pall-mall Gazette* writes under date Sunday: "The cabmen here during the recent rains became really unbearable, perhaps from overwork. One curious case of incivility in the first place and assault in the second, has been brought into court. During a heavy downpour a cabman who had forgotten his waterproof pulled up and attempted to seek shelter inside his vehicle. His fare naturally objected to this arrangement, and a fight ensued, which ended in the fare being dragged out of the cab. The struggle was being continued on the pavement, when a couple of policemen, gallantly quitting the shelter of a doorway, arrived on the scene, and having separated the combatants, who looked as if they had been pulled out of the river, installed themselves in the cab, and took down the depositions of both parties. It is expected it will go hard with the coachman; it has already gone pretty hard with the fare."

The Case of Colonel Baker.—The *Army and Navy Gazette* says that as soon as Colonel Baker was convicted, his resignation was placed in the hands of the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief. The *Gazette* adds: "When Colonel Baker ceased to be an officer on the staff he passed out of Horse Guards' jurisdiction, and became subject to the control of the War Office. When his resignation was placed in the hands of the Duke of Cambridge it devolved on his Royal Highness to consider whether he should advise the Queen to accept it, and we believe that the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, looking at all the circumstances of the case, felt that he could not recommend that Colonel Baker's resignation should not be accepted. There have been serious consultations at the War Office, and as far as we can learn the Secretary of State for War has not yet decided on some points of minor interest in the case. But the resignation of Colonel Baker is accepted, and it remains to be seen if the circumstances under which he is to leave the service will be mitigated by regard for his previous career, or if he will be treated with the utmost severity.'

London and Country Markets.

The Money Market.

REDUCTION IN THE BANK RATE.

CITY.—The directors of the Bank of England at their usual weekly court reduced the rate of Discount from 2½ to 2 per cent. The weekly return is favourable, the percentage of assets to liabilities having increased from 50½ to 52¼ per cent. There is, however, no special feature to call attention to, the changes being comparatively insignificant.

The Corn Trade.

CURRENT PRICES OF BRITISH GRAIN AND FLOUR IN MARK-LANE.

				Shillings per Quarter.	
WHEAT, Essex and Kent, white				new 49, fine	57
" " red				" 46, "	52
Norfolk, Lincinsh., and Yorksh., red, new				47	53
BARLEY	38 to 44	Chevalier, new		45	47
Grinding	31 34	Distilling		40	43
MALT, pale, new	69 71	brown		54	58
RYE				42	44
OATS, English, feed	29 to 35	Potato		—	—
Scotch, feed	— —	Potato		—	—
Irish, feed, white	26 31	Fine		—	—
Ditto, black	25 30	Potato		—	—
BEANS, Mazagan	46 48	Ticks		45	47
Harrow	48 53	Pigeon		55	55
PEAS, white, boilers	43 43	Maple	46 to 47	Grey	44 45
FLOUR, per sack of 280lbs., best town households				43	47
Best country households				40	42
Norfolk and Suffolk				35	39

FOREIGN GRAIN.

				Shillings per Quarter.	
WHEAT, Dantzic, mixed	54 to 59	extra		—	to 59
Königsberg	50	54	extra	—	58
Rostock	50	—	old	—	58
Silesian, red	48	51	white	51	54
Pomera., Meckberg., and Uckermrk			red	49	51
Ghirka 46 to 48	Russian, hard	45 to 48	Saxonska	48	50
Danish and Holstein, red	46	51	American	46	48
Chilian, white	50	California	52	Australian	53 55
BARLEY, grinding	27 to 33	distilling		35	38
OATS, Dutch, brewing and Poland	24 to 34	feed		23	31
Danish and Swedish, feed	23 to 33	Stralsund		27	33
Canada	24 to 27	Riga, 20 to 26, Arch.	22 to 29	P'sbg.	27 32
TARES, Spring per qr.	small — to —	large		—	—
BEANS, Friesland and Holstein				42	47
Königsberg	46 to 48	Egyptian		38	40
PEAS, feeding and maple	44 45	fine boilers		42	44
INDIAN CORN, white	33 34	yellow		31	34
Flour, per sack, French	—	Spanish, p. sack		—	—
American, per barrel	28	32	extra & double	37	40

BRITISH SEEDS.—Mustard, per bushel, brown 11s to 12s; white, 7s to 12s; canary, per qr., new, 230s to 250s; old, 220s to 240s; clover seed, fine red and dark purple, 68s to 68s; common, 74s to 90s coriander, per cwt., 16s to 20s; tares, winter, new, per bushel, 10s d to 11s d; trefoil, old and low, 20s to 22s; new fine, 24s to 26s; ryegrass, per qr., 24s to 30s; linseed, per qr., sowing, 63s to 66s; crushing, 55s to 56s; linseed cakes, per ton, £12 0s to £12 10s; rapeseed, per qr., 58s to 62s; rape cake, per ton, £7 0s 0d to £7 15s 0d.

HAY, London.—There was only a small supply of fodder, which cleared without difficulty at a slight advance—Prime meadow hay, 90s to 144s; inferior ditto, 55s to 75s; prime clover, 100s to 144s; inferior ditto, 55s to 95s; new clover, —s to —s; inferior ditto, —s to —s; straw, 35s to 38s per load.

HOP (Borough).—Rather more business is moving in market; the stocks being limited, demand renders prices firm. East Kent, £6 15s to £8 0s; Mid Kent, £3 0s to £6; Weald of Kent, £5 6s to £7 10s; Sussex, £5 0s to £7 10s; Worcesters, £0 to £0 0s; Farnham and country, £6 0s to £7 0s; yearlings, £0 0s to £0; Bavarian, new, £0 0s to £0 0; and Belgians, £0 to £0 0s.

CATTLE, Metropolitan.—The cattle trade has been quiet in tone. Supplies rather large, prices ruled week. Per 8lb. to sink the offal. Coarse and inferior beasts, 4s 4d to 4s 6d; second quality ditto, 4s 8d to 5s 4d; prime large oxen, 5s 0d to 5s 4d; prime Scots, &c., 5s 4d to 5s 6d; coarse and inferior sheep, 4s 6d to 5s 0d; second quality ditto, 5s 0d to 5s 6d prime coarse woolled, 5s 6d to 5s 8d; prime Southdowns, 5s 8d to 7s 0d; large coarse calves, 4s 6d to 5s 0d; prime small ditto, 5s 0d to 5s 8d; large hogs, 4s 4d to 5s 0d; small porkers, 5s 0d to 5s 4d; lamb, 5s 0d to 7s 6d.

MEAT, Metropolitan.—The market was moderately supplied with meat, but the demand was slow at the quotations annexed: Per 8lb. by the carcase. Inferior beef, 3s 4d to 3s 8d; middling ditto, 4s 0d to 4s 6d; prime large ditto, 5s to 5s 4d; prime small ditto, 5s 4d to 5s 8d; veal, 4s 6d to 5s 0d; inferior mutton, 3s 4d to 4s 0d; middling ditto, 4s 4d to 5s 0d; prime ditto, 5s 4d to 6s 0d; large pork, 3s 8d to 4s 0d; small ditto, 4s 8d to 5s 4d; lambs, 5s 10d to 6s 4d.

POULTRY.—Large fowls, 5s to 7s 6d small ditto, 3s 6d to 5s; chickens, 2s to 3s 6d; goslings, 5s 0d to 8s 6d; ducklings, 3s 6d to 6s; rabbits, 1s 6d to 2s 6d; wild ditto, 8d to 1s 2d; pigeons, 1s 0d to 1s 6d.

PRICES OF BUTTER, CHEESE, HAMS, &c.—Butter, per cwt: Dorset, 130s to — s Friesland, 116s to 124s; Jersey, 98s to 104s; fresh, per doz., 16s. Bacon, per cwt.: Wiltshire, green, 84s; Irish, green, f.o.b., 86s. Cheese, per cwt.: Cheshire, 70s to 80s; Double Gloucester, new, 58s to 72s; Cheddar, 74s to 80s; American, 50s to 60s; Hams: York, 104s to — s; Cumberland, 104s to — s; Irish, 80s to 100s.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.—Covent Garden.—Fruit: apples, per ½ sieve, 2s 4s; cobs, per lb., 2s 0d; figs, per doz., 0d to 0s 0d; filberts, per lb., 0s 0d; grapes, per lb., 4s to 10s; lemons, per 100, 8s to 12s; melons, each, 0s to 0s; oranges, per 100, 8s to 12s; peaches, per doz., 0s to 0s; pears, per doz., 0s; pine apple, per lb., 6s to 9s; strawberries, per oz., 1s to 2s 0. Vegetables: artichokes, each, 4s to 0d; asparagus, per 100, 5s to 6s; beet, per doz., 1s to 2s; broccoli, per bundle, 0s to 0s 0d; Brussels sprouts, per ½ sieve, 0s; cabbages, per doz., 1s 0d to 2s; capsicum, per 100, 0s; carrots, per bunch, 6d to 0s 9d; cauliflowers, per doz., 2s to 6s; celery, per bunch, 1s 6d to 2s; chillies, per 100, 0s; cucumbers, each, 1s to 2s 6d; French beans, new, per lab, 0s; herbs per bunch, 2d to 4d; horseradish, per bundle, 3s to 8s; leeks, per bunch, 2d to 4d; lettuces, per score, 1s to 2s; mushrooms, per bottle, 1s to 2s; onions, per bushel, 4s to 6s; parsley, per bunch, 4d to 1s; peas, new per bushel, 0s to 0s; potatoes, new, per lb., 0d; radishes, per bunch, 2d to 4d; rhubarb, per bunch, 0d to 0d; salsafy, per bunch, 1s; scorzonera, per bunch, 0d; sea kale, per punnet, 0s; shallots, per lb., 3d; spinach, per bushel, 0s; tomatoes, per doz., 4s 0d to 0s; turnips, per bunch, 6d to 0d; potatoes, early regents, 80s to 120s.

WOOL.—The English wool trade remains much in the same position. The demand has been on a fair average scale, and prices have been unaltered. Colonial wool firm. Fleeces: Southdown hogs, 1s 6d; half-bred, ditto, 1s 6; Kent fleeces, 1s 6d; Southdown ewes and wethers, 1s 5d; Leicester ditto, 1s 6½d. Sorts: Clothing, picklock, 1s 7d; prime, 1s 5d; choice, 1s 3½d; super, 1s 2½d; combing, wether, mat, 1s 8d; picklock, 1s 5d; common, 1s 5d; hog matching, 1s 3½d; picklock matching, 1s 5d; super ditto, 1s 4d.

TALLOW.—The following prices are quoted from the "Official Market Letter," issued by the trade weekly: Town tallow, per cwt., 42s 9d; rough fat, per 8lb., 2s 0d; melted stuff, per cwt., 29s; rough stuff, per cwt., 15s; graves, 12s; good drogs, 6s; yellow Russian, new, 44s 3d per cwt.; Australian mutton tallow, 42s 0d per cwt.; Australian beef ditto, per cwt., 40s 0d.

OIL.—Olive, Florence, half-chests, 60s; Lucca, 00s; Gaipoli, per 52 gals., 46s; Spanish 44s; linseed, per cwt., 25s 6d; rape, pale, 33s; brown, 30s; cod, per ton, 36s; seal, pale, £—; brown, yellow, &c., £34; head matter, 00s Southern, £34; cocoanut, per cwt., 39s; palm, 32s. Resin, French, 12s 0d; American 11s. Pitch: British, per cwt., 8s; Archangel, 11s; Stockholm, 00s. Tar: American: Archangel, 35s; Stockholm, 34s Turpentine: French, 00s; American, 33; rough, 00s.

THE MODERN ROGUE'S MARCH.

(*From the "City Press."*)

The "Rogue's March" goes to various tunes, and the procession is a long one. When the great commercial contingent which leads the van has gone by, and the actual swindlers come in view, there appears to be no end to them. The variety presented by the ranks of rascaldom would be interesting if it were not for the tokens of moral degradation and national disgrace which are expressed by it. False weights, unscrupulous adulteration, and fraudulent measures, are the common and daily means by which dishonest tradesmen increase their profits; and it would appear that such nefarious practices are not confined to the retail dealers. Only the other day attention was called to the misrepresentations made in the width of cotton piece goods, which are avowedly, and even by a statement stamped on the piece, 40 or 36 inches wide, while by actual measurement they are only 39 or 35½ inches. The tradesman who buys them is deceived by a trick. A dexterous doubling of the goods makes what appears to be half the width considerably more than half, the under side falling short to the extent of half an inch or an inch at the edge. But it is also now quite common in cotton and flax goods, and, indeed, in trimming goods generally, to find the length of the piece considerably less than what it professes to be. Against deficiency of width the buyer has some little protection, as he can, if he sees the goods at the time of buying, make some approximate measurement. But against deficiency of length he has none. He cannot possibly judge whether a piece of goods be its proper length or not when he buys it, and can only satisfy himself thereupon when he measures the goods at home. This system of short measure has now developed to such an extent that some manufacturers find it an inducement to customers to imprint upon the goods that they are warranted thirty-six inches to the yard, and if not found so are to be returned.

EXTRAORDINARY ESCAPE OF CONVICTS.

The officers of the small steamboats which are used for transporting convicts to and from the various islands in the East River, New York, used for public purposes, have always asserted that when prisoners were placed in their quarters in the hold they were just as safe as if they were confined in the Penitentiary or in the Tombs. One evening recently the confidence of the officers received a shock, as several convicts escaped from the hold of one of the steamboats. Eight convicts from Blackwell's Island were taken up to Randall's Island in the morning, and kept at work there until about five p.m., when it was time to take them back. They filed down the wharf in regular order, and went on board the steamboat Minnie Hannock, which was to take them down the river to Blackwell's Island. The officers in charge saw