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THE SOUDAN DISASTER.

Professor Vanherr on the Mahdi.

Professor Vambery, the well-known Eastern travelle has published a statement in connection with the receivictory of the Mahdi. He cannot, he says, undersamely why this has been invested with so much importance, it is quite clear that Mahomet Achmet is not a real Mahdi. is neither a descendant of the Koreish family, not as he is neither a descendant of the Kereish family, nor has his coming been marked by those signs which, according to the creed of Islam, are to attend the coming of the real Mahdi. The Islamic doctrine lays down that the advent of the True Prophet will be heralded by the falling of stars, that the sun will rise in the west, and that an anti-Christ will make his appearance at the same time; and, needless to say, not one of these three things has happened. The Dongolawi Mahdi, therefore, will certainly not be accepted by Mahomedan theologians, although they all agree that one of these three tinings has happened. The bond golawi Mahdi, therefore, will certainly not be accepted by Mahomedan theologians, although they all agree that he is a man of much more importance than the Mahdis who are constantly appearing in Persia—only, however, as a rule, to be promptly imprisoned. Professor Vambery thinks that the capture of Khartoum by the False Prophet is by no means unlikely, unless reinforcements are sent to the Soudan at once. He also states that half-measures should be at once abandoned in favour of a more energetic policy, as the appearance of the Mahdi is probably a virtual continuation of the movement originated by Arabi. At the same time, he has not the smallest doubt that the present movement could be at once suppressed by a few British regiments, who would find little difficulty in dispersing the ill-disciplined and fanatical horde composing the Mahdi's following. Should, however, culty in dispersing the ill-disciplined and fanatical horde composing the Mahdi's following. Should, however, the Mahdi's conquests extend, it would become the imperative duty of the Sultan, Abdal Hamid, to take some action in the matter, as any extension of the movement would be sure to endanger the safety of Syria, The disaster near El Obeid, Professor Vambery regards as in great measure due to climatic causes, and chiefy to a lack of water, although he also believes that treachery will be found to have had much to do with it. The European officers in command of the expedition evidently believed too implicitly in the truthfulness of their subordinates, whereas, as he points out, it is a part of the Mohammedan belief—authority for which will be found in the Koran—that there cannot be such a thing as treachery towards Chrisauthority for which will be found in the horan—that there cannot be such a thing as treachery towards Christians, as Infidels have no right to be admitted to the truth. Finally. Professor Vambery considers that there is not the smallest ground for fearing that the Soudan disaster is likely to lead to a general rising of the followers of Mahomet.

DISTRESSING BREACH OF PROMISE

CASE. CASE.

Mr. Justice Cave and a common jury were recently engaged in the Queen's Bench Division, London, in hearing the action of "Lee v. West," in which the plaintiff sought to recover damages for the breach of a promise of marriage: and the only question was what the amount of those damages should be. Mr. Waddy, Q.C., and Mr. Lofthouse were for the plaintiff: and Mr. Grain and Mr. Newson for the defendant, Mr. Waddy, to the west of his convince me he said that the public that the plaintiff: Grain and Mr. Newson for the defendant. Mr. Waddy, in the course of his opening spech, said that the plaintiff was a young lady who at the time of the engagement was 19 years of age, and lived with her parents at Epsom, the defendant being then 36 years old. He was a clerk in the Legacy Duty Office, Somerset House, and he was also organist at a church in the neighbourhood of the plaintiff's residence. The correspondence, which began in 1880, related to musical matters, and continued for upwards of two years and he had before him a mass of correspondence. years, and he had before him a mass of correspondence which was of the ordinary character, except that it was if possible, warmer and more passionate than any which he had been accustomed to hear in cases of this kind. He must say further, that there was not in it a word that should not have been written by a highly honourable man. The defendant spoke of the byrdensome cha-racter of his duties at Somerset House, but still he racter of his duties at Somerset House, but still he could sometimes write two or three letters in a day, and each several foolscap pages in length, to the plaintiff. He generally addressed her as "My own Aggie," or "My dear Aggie," and he signed "Yours affectionately—Edmund;" but no fault could be found with his correspondence down to September, 1882, when his letters began to grow cool. On October 20 he wrote saying, "If I can possibly join you at Dore's Gallery to-morrow afternoon I shall be glad to do so, the Liese I shall not be able on account of the state of but I fear I shall not be able on account of the state of and in consequence of having to pay a visit to the organ-builder's yesterday, I am all in arrear, and he concluded by saying, "Whether I am able to join you or not, I hope tionately." In Nov., 1882, he wrote "My dear Aggie, I feel that I ought to have written to you long since, and I can offer you no valid excuse for not having done so; and, indeed, I can only ask your forgiveness for apparer meglect of mine that has caused you pain!" and further on he said, "The conviction has grown upon me that through my own fault and defect we could not be happy together. I should not be happy, and therefore I could not make you happy." Further on he said, "You have been not only blameless but so kind towards me, that I feel myself a monster of ingratitude towards you." The young lady answered, "My dear Edmund,—I cannot tell you with what pain it was I read your letter last night. I kept hoping all might end right, but now it seems greater than I can bear, my load is so great. I cannot bear any anger or nourish ill-feeling, although you must know that you have not acted fairly. My life will now be little worth living for. I feel wretched!—Believe me, yours-incerely, Agnes Lee. I only hope, as a last wish, that you may be happy, whatever befalls me." Some further correspondence followed. The neglect of mine that has caused you pain !" and furthe as a last wish, that you may be happy, whatever befalls me." Some further correspondence followed. The vicar of Epsom tried to prevent litigation, but in the end the present action was brought. Miss Lee, the plaintiff, was called, and said that her father was formerly and for many years Congregational minister at k psom, and she first met the defendant at Christmas, 1879, and in the summer of 1880 he asked her to marry him. It was arranged that they should be married in the suring of 1882. In March. they should be married in the spring of 1882. In March 1882, the defendant said that he was looking out for a house. In cross-examination it appeared that the plaintiff had not originally been in favour of the action plaintiff had not originally been in favour of the action being brought, but that she now adopted it. (The wit-ness during her cross-examination went into hysteries, and was taken out of court.) During her absen arranged that no further questions should be put, and the plaintiff's case was taken as concluded. Mr. Grain for plaintil's case was taken as concluded. Mr. Grain for the defendant submitted to the jury that it was a great pity that this action had ever been brought, and he pressed upon them that it was clear, even upon the correspondence itself, that the plain-tiff had never desired that it should be commenced. As late as February 3, 1883, she wrote to the defendant in these terms: "My dear Mr. West,—It may be wrong of me to write under present circumstances, but I wrong or me to write under present circumstances, out I cannot help that -inleed, I care very little now whether I disobey my father or not. I have heard that indirectly it is through you I may practise again on the organ. You know what music is to me, and I cannot thank you enough. One other thing I wish to say—how ashamed I feel that your things have never been returned to you I feel that your things have never been returned to you yet; but, I elieve me, it is not in my power to do so, or you should have had them long since. Forget that you have heard from me, and please never allude to it in any way, for I know what trouble I shall get into." Then sgain, as late as April 6, 1883, she wrote to the vicar of Epsom: "My dear Mr. Bockett,—I repeat what I said in a former letter—that I have authorised no one and in a former letter—that I have authorised no one to bring an action against Mr. West, neither do I wish it," and asking that her note should be forwarded to the solic'tors. The learned counsel further said that the appeared from a letter of the plaintiff to the defendant's solicitor that the plaintiff never consented to the action being brought, and that it had, indeed, been brought against her wish. The learned counsel, in conclusion, said that his client had always been willing to pay the plaintiff a reasonable amount of damages, had the plaintiff wished to receive them, which she never did; and he hoped that, under the circumstances, the amount of damages would be strictly reasonable. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff—damages £700.

A FARMER named Thomas, residing near Car-marthen, dropped dead while transporting a bier which he was fetching for the funeral of a neighbour next day. At the inquest a verdict of "Death from natural causes"

THE MANUFACTURE OF MINERAL

WATERS.

At a recent meeting of the Society of Arts, held in their rooms, John-atreet, adelphi, a paper on the manufacture of mineral waters was read by Mr. T. T. P. Bruce Warren, an analytical chemist. The chair was taken by Dr. B. W. Richardson, F.R.S. Omitting any account of the history of the manufacture, the lecturer remarked that there was an important link between the past and present which could not be overlooted. Few could fail to be struck with the elegant and smart appearance of some of these bottled beverages, compared with what they were a few years ago. He must have been a man of very strong nerve who first ventured to depart from the old-fashlored form of bottles. There was no doubt that these beverages had become much more fashionable from the fact that a dinner-table could be laid out and decorated with them, especially when bottled in apphons. The term mineral water, however, no longer properly described the nature of the products now turned out from "soda-water" works. Not many years ago ginger, lemons, citric and tartaric acid, and sugar were the only representatives derived from the vegetable ginger, lemons, citric and tartaric acid, and sugar were the only representatives derived from the vegetable kingdom; these, together with about half-a-dozen inorganic salts, constituted what might be called the sateria medica of the mineral water manufacturer. A glance at the collection of variously-favoured aerated waters and compounds on tables in the room would give some idea of the stock in trade of the present day. When people were content to drink these mineral waters, principally as inselleinal agents, or as media for diluting brandy, do,, there was no room for the development of that artistic skill which it might be fairly said promised now to alter the taste of mankind in the matter of drinks. now to after the taste of mankind in the matter of drinks. Entering then upon a detailed account of the process and machinery employed in the manufacture of all kinds, he dwelt upon the care taken in the works of the larger firms to secure care taken in the works of the larger firms to secure purity in the water used; to get rid of organic or excessive mineral matters in auspense or solution, to prevent the water from dissolving atmospheric air in the process of bottling, when only the admixture of carbonic acid was desired; to guard against metallic contamination from attrition in the machinery; and, lastly, to ascertain the freedom of the cartonic acid from objectionable or deleterious substances which might be communicated by the chemicals used for its production. The introduction of patent series stoppers was leading to a great development of the business, for by the use of the simple appliances a small quantity of an aerated water might be taken from a bottle, for an invalid for instance, and the remaining portion kept quite fresh. It was mentioned that about 800 patents for new forms of bottles had been taken out. Speaking on the subject of what might properly be called Speaking on the subject of what might properly be called mineral waters, he safe it was no exaggeration to state that we had at present no scientific mineral water maker. Some enterprising person was wanted to take up the manu-facture of the new mineral waters which had recently been introduced, as the late Mr. Hooper, of Pall-mall, formerly took up the manufacture of waters resembling those of numerous German spas. His successful manufacture of

lithia water, at the suggestion of Dr. Garrard, was an instance of what might be done in this direction.

Dr. Richard-on, in opening the discussion which followed, remarked that to all who had the cause of Dr. Richard-on, in opening the discussion which followed, remarked that to all who had the cause of temperance at heart, this paper would be interesting as showing that there was an important rivalry established against those drinks which they considered injurious to mankind, and in favour of those which were simple in their character, useful, and at the same time free from all danger. Although he had devoted some attention to the subject, he confessed that the variety of machinery exhibited that night and the indications given of the magnitude of the consumption of these aerated waters had surprised him. He thought that the public should be particularly grateful to the manufacturers of these drinks for the attention they paid to the purity of their manufactures. The last point referred to in the paper was, he thought, of much importance. Mineral waters might, he telieved, be made in this country in such perfection that it would be unnecessary to import foreign mineral waters, though, at the same time, there was doubtless much in the beneficial effects of a journey on the Continent which could not be derived merely from drinking the ingredients of the waters they found in the spas. Still the production of chemically pure mineral waters would be a great boon to physicians, who often preferred to prescribe them to be used at table rather than to give less pleasant drugs. Among speakers who followed, one referred to the wonderful increase in the consumption of aerated waters within a comparatively short period. The first machine made by the firm to which he, belonged would enable a maker to turn out perhaps 150 dozen bottles of soda water per day-of ten hours. The aggregate producing espacity of the machines they sold last year would probably be some 30,000,000 bottles of aggregate producing capacity of the machines they sold last year would probably be some 30,000,000 bottles of soda water per day, the large machines now in use being equal to an out turn of 3000 dozen bottles per day. He knew that one firm had machinery which enabled them to make 17,000 dozen bottles of soda-water a day. to make 17,000 down bottles of soda-water a day. Another speaker referred to the great impetus which had been given to the sale of aerated waters by the introduction of small bottles, or "splits," but maintained that if manufacturers could get publicans, hotel-keepers, and ehemists, who were their principal customers, to retail the waters at a more reasonable charge the trade would benefit enormously. At present aerated waters were sold with a profit of 400 to 600 per cent, for the retailer, 154, per do en, or 1½d, per bottle, being considered a fair price by the manufacturer for aerated waters for which 4d, and 6d per bottle was charged to the public. 4d. and 6d. per bottle was charged to the public.

MEN of noble birth are noted to be envious towards new men that rise; for the distance is altered, and it is like a deceit of the eye, that when others come on they think themselves go back .- Bacon.

AT Leicester several thousand persons recently attended the sale of the goods of ten persons, including a guardian of the poor, seized for non-payment of fines for refusing to vaccinate their children. The approaches to refusing to vaccinate their children. The approaches to the sale yard were packed with dense masses of people, and is the yard the chief constable, fifty policemen, and many detectives were present to preserve order. The auctioneer was received with groans, and Mr. Amos Booth, the secretary of the National Anti-Vaccination Society, protesting against the proceedings, the auctioneer called upon the police for remove him. The crowd yelled and rushed on the policemen, driving them back, but at length Mr. Booth was removed. The furniture was sold amidst the wildest disorder. At a mass meeting, attended by many thousand persons, in the Market-place, attended by many thousand persons, in the Market-place resolutions were passed condemning the proceedings.

resolutions were passed condemning the proceedings.

JAMCS YATES, aged 41, gunmaker, of Newtonrow, Birmingham, has been remanded on a charge of
stabbing his wife with a bayonet, with intent to murder
her. After escaping from the Borough Lunatic Asylum,
where he had been confined, the prisoner went to his
former home, and, seizing the weapon, stabbed his wife
three times, causing such injuries that her recovery is
denbtful.—James Rogers, a traveller in the employ of
Mr. W. H. Hart, provision merchant, the Chairman of
the Watch Committee, was also committed for trial at
the same court on the charge of embezzling £228, the
moneys of his employer.

the same court on the charge of embezzling £228, the moneys of his employer.

At the Police-court, Wolverhampton, Sarah Baker, wife of Frank Baker, buther, Wombourne, was lately fined £5 for two aggravated assaults upon a young girl named Alice Baker, an illegitimate child which had been entrusted to her care. The child stated that defendant laid her across a chair, and beat her with a birch rod until the tlood ran from a wound that defendant had previously caused with the rod. The defendant had previously knocked one of her teeth out with her fist. She did not have enough to cat, and very rarely had her meals did not have enough to eat, and very rarely had her meals with the defendant, who made her wash her own clothes, besides cleaning the house. The defendant had also forced a quantity of hot porridge down her throat. It was so hot that it burnt and blistered her mouth. She had often been sent to school without breakfast. The child's statement was confirmed by the evidence of her schoolmistre and a surgeon who had examined her.

and a surgeon who had examined her.

A REPRESENTATIVE CONFERENCE of members of the Liberal Secretaries and Agents' Association has been held at the City Liberal Club, Walbrook, London, in order to discuss the provisions of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act. At the conclusion of the proceedings, the measure having been freely discussed in all its bearings, it was resolved to appoint sub-committees for counties and for boroughs to draw up rules of procedure, both for county and borough electoral contests, and to appoint gentlemen to act permanently as counsel for the association.

IMPORTANT ACTION AGAINST A

IMPORTANT ACTION AGAINST A

BENEFIT SOCIETY.

In the City of Loudon Court, before Mr. Commissioner Kerr, an adjourned action was recently heard, at the instance of Mr. Henry Finch, horse-keeper, Retreatplace, Hackney, agrinst Mr. A. H. Lamb and others, trustees of the Trainway and Omnibus Compasies' Employés Legal Aid and Provident Association, to recover £1 16s. for sick allowance alleged to be due. At the former hearing only Mr. Lamb appeared, and his defence was that he had no knowledge whatever of, the matter; the secretary, a man named Millard, had the satire management of the concern. A document was handed to the Bench showing that Lord Shattesbury was president of the association, and the Rev. W. Cuff, of the Shoreditch Tabernacle, a vice-pre ident, with a large committee. Mr. W. Parrott, of the Archway-road, Upper Holloway, now appeared along with Mr. Lamb, and said. I never authorised my name to be used as a trustee. I know nothing whatever alcuit the association except that I have paid in money like other people. Millard has been going abouf swindling tramway and omnibus servants for over two years; in fact, he is the association. (Laughter.) The Commissioner: What you say about swindling is no doubt true. Mr. Parrott: I told Millard that I considered the thing a dead swindle, and asked him to strike out my name. The Commissioner: The facility with which working people part with their hard-earned money, on the most times pretexts, is absolutely astounding. The Plaintiff: The association is registered, and I was told that the Rev. Mr. Cuff actually paid £23 for printing. Mr. Parrott: Mr. Cuff wrote some time ago to the papers stating that he had refused to allow his name to be used any longer. I believe the same remark applies to Lord Shaffesbury. The Commissioner: It is obviously a case for a magistrate rather than for a civil court. Mr. Parrott: Mr. Cuff wrote some time ago to the papers stating that he had refused to allow his name to be used any longer. I believe the same remark applies to Lord Sha cah te made liable. I must, therefore, direct a nonsuit The Plaintiff: It is a very hard matter to many of us The Commissioner: I am corry for you, but I cannot

belp you. THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY AND THE

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY AND THE HOMES OF THE POOR.

A deputation from the Amalgamated Society of Riverside Workmen and other industrial organisations recently waited on the Marquis of Salisbury at his residence, Arington-street, Piccadilly, London, in order to urge upon his lordship the necessity of using his powerful influence to aid the efforts now being made to give the people of London of the poor class better house accommodation. Mr. T. M. helly, Mr. G. Potter, Mr. Samuel Peters, Mr. F. Whetstone (past-president of the Amalgamated Society of Riverside Workmen), Mr. Charles Robbins, and others addressed the noble lord, and urged upon him that there was an absolute necessity for legislative measures to provide sanitary plute necessity for legislative measures to provide sanitary couses for the poor of London. The Marquis of Salis houses for the poor of London. In sandquis of Sains-bury, replying to the deputation, said that his great object was to get this question of proper homes for the poor perfectly clear from politics. (Hear, hear.) It would be impossible for him, making a speech upon a question of this kind, not to notice an article which appeared from Mr. Chamberlain, but he did not wish that a question so important should degenerate into a appeared from Mr. Chamberlain, but he did not wish that a question so important should degenerate into a merely personal squabble. (Hear, hear.) He was not indisposed, as the deputation might be possibly aware, to enter into a party contest—(a laugh)—but he thought it would be doing harm to this particular cause if it was made the point of a party fight. (Cheera.) He was very grateful to the deputation for the opinion they had expressed in regard to his action on this question but, while he should be very glad to secure good dwellings for the working classes, that was not his object so much as to provide for their general, social, material, and mocal benefit. (Cheera.) He hoped that, above all things, the question would not be allowed to degenerate into a party wrangle. With respect to what Mr. Potter had so well and ably said about the ground landlords, there appeared to be, as far as he (Lord Salisbury) was concerned, considerable misapprehension. It should not be forgotten that everything that bore his name did not belong to him, and he might say that name did not belong to him, and he might say that streets which were called Salisbury-street and Cranbourne-street should not be a ppo ed to be his property. It was true they belonged to his family some 200 years ago, but having had the mistortune of having had thriftless ancestors, the property had passed into other hands. His property in London was very small, and within a very small area, and not in any one of the districts where these unsanitary, overcrowded dwellings existed. With respect to the suggestion as to the philanthropic action of the ground landlords, he did not believe the time was come for it; but, as to the demolition of rookeries, he certainly thought the owners ought not to receive the compensation which they claimed on their own behalf. (Hear, hear.) If by legislation on their own behalf. (Hear, hear.) If by legislation any attempt was simply made against the ground landlords, what would be the result? London was a constantly overcrowded city. It was adding some 40,000 a year to its population, but at the same time he should not think it well to act too hastily as regards special legislation for the ground landlords. As regarded the general question of the homes of the poor, which the deputation had so ably brought before him, he thought more light was wanted on the subject. If any immediate action ight was wanted on the subject. If any imu light was wanted on the subject. If any immediate action to ld be taken, he certainly should not hold back. Still he thought further in juiry was necessary, and as he hoped to show that in the article in the National Review, there was no heroic remedy for the evil complained of. It must be attacked in many ways. The suggestion was made that the Duke of Westminster should agree to give sites for working men's dwellings on his estate, but what benefit would that be to the people of the National's He told the deputation that as a rule of the National's He told the deputation that as a rule his estate, but what benefit would that be to the people of the East-end? He told the deputation that as a rule the landlords in the congested districts—he meant the ground landlords—were not a wealthy or a prosperous class, but shopkeepers and small freeholders. The noble lord said he wanted more information as to how the people could be more taken into the country. He should carefully consider the case placed before him by the deputation, because the matter interested him deeply. The deputation thanked the noble lord for his courteous recention, and retired.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE FREEMASONS.

eception, and retired.

A quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of A quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of Englisis Freemasons was recently held in the banquet hall of the Freemasons' Tavern, London, the Earl of Carnarvon, pro-Grand Master, on the throne. There was an unusually large attendance, including a large number of brethren from the provinces. The Grand Lodge-room was far too small to accommodate the members present, and the pro-Grand Master gave instructions that two other rooms should be set apart for those who were unable to obtain admission into the hall, and that all should have the operating to going non any resoluunable to obtain admission into the hall, and that all should have the opportunity of voting upon any resolution proposed. Most of the grand officers, including, in addition to the pro-Grand Master, the Earl of Limerick, Mr. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Sir John B. Monckton, Colonel Shadwell H. Clerke, General Brownrigg, C.B., Sir Albert Woods, Mr. M'fatyre, Q.C., &c., were present. The Earl of Carnarvon expressed pleasure at seeing such a large meeting, and hoped it would result in the benefit of the craft. Some discussion took place with regard to the revised block of constitutions, and ultimately the constitutions, as amended, tions, and ultimately the constitutions, as amended, were unanimously agreed to. Major Harding, of the St. Andrew's Lodge (231) nominated his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales as Grand Master for the ensuing twelve nonths. He felt sure he need not occupy the time o months. He felt sure he need not occupy the time of Grand Lodge by using any words in support of that proposal, because he knew his Royal Highness was so regarded by them that not a word of dissent or contradiction would be heard. The nomination was received with loud cheers. The formal election takes place at next quarterly communication. For the Grand Treasurership, Brother Alcroft (the present treasurer), and Brother Horace Brooks Marshall were nominated. Grand Lodge afterwards addugmed. Lodge afterwards adjourned.

MR. MUNDRLLA, M.P., who is a native of Leicester, has consented to take part in the proceedings in connection with the opening of a new Sunday-school Union Memorial Hall, on Thursday, the 20th inst.

MAGISTERIAL CONDEMNATION OF EARLY MARRIAGES,

At the Southwark Police-court, Lendon, John Walter Everett, 18, labourer, was recently charged with stealing a gold locket, a gold chain, a pair of carriags, a purse containing 12s, and three sovereigns, the property of his mother, at 7, Great Charlotte-street, Blackfrian-road. The prosecutrix said that the prisoner had not lived with the fee the last two months on account of his investigation. containing 12s. and three sovereigns, the property of his mother, at 7, Great Charlotte street, Blackfrian-road. The prosecutir's said that the prisoner had not lived with her for the lest two months, on account of his irregular habits. He recently called on her and asked for a coat, as he was going into the country to work. Site gave him the coat and he left the bouse, but afterward, was admitted by a ledger, and he was seen to go upstairs and leave the house in a hurried manner. About one in the afternoon she had occasion to go to her room to get some money from her purse, when she found her drawer open and missed the purse and money. She also found her jewel-box open, and missed three sovereigns, a gold locket and chain, and a set of sliver carrings. Being satisfied her som was the thief, she gave information to the police, and had seen a ring in possession of the police which she also missed from her drawers. Elizabeth Fietcher, 17 years of age, said she worked at a machine in Holland street. She knew the prisoner, and had kept company with him two years, and they were engaged to be married at an early day. On the previous evening he met her and gave her £1 5s. to buy some clothes with, and at the tamp time he gave her an engagement ring (produced). While they were walking past a jeweller's he called her in and gave her a wedding ring. Mr. Bridge asked her if she had a mother. On her replying that she had, his worship asked her if her mother knew of their engagement. She replied that she did, and approved of it. She was in court. The mother here came-forward, and asid she knew of her daughter's intended marriage, and although they were both so young she did not oppose it. Mr. Bridge thought her conduct was very reprehensible in advising such young people to get married. They were hardly in a position to support themselves, and he did not wonder at the cry of overcrowding among the poor when such early marriages took place with the consecut of the parents. If glekness overtook these young did not wonder at the cry of overcrowding among the poor when such early marriages took place with the consent of the parents. If sickness overtook these young people, or on the husband losing his work they went, for shelter, to live with either of the parents. He strongly condemned these early marriages, Detective-sergeant Martle, L division, received information of the robbery, and saw the prisoner and the young girl enter a jeweller's shop. The prisoner selected a wedding ring, and fitted it on her finger, and he paid for it with a sovereign he took from his pocket. Witness took him into castody, and found Ss. 9d. on him. The young woman handed him the ring identified by Mrs. Everett and the wedding ring. She also handed him £1 5s, which she said the prisoner had given her to buy clothes. Mr. Bridge remanded the prisoner for a week, in order to enable the constable to make further inquiries.

BLACKRIDINGS Mill, Oldham, containing forty ousand spindles, has been completely destroyed by fire, a damage is estimated at £20,000, and is covered by

insurance.

SPEAKING at a recent Conservative demon stration held at Warrington, Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, M.P. patering to the recent utterances of Mr. Chamberlain on unearned increments, asked if he had ever given a single sixpence to any of his workmen beyond their bare market value. Yet he would denounce the landowners, making where, Yet he would denounce the landowners, making mo mention of his own large fortune which had been earned for him by his workmen. Were landowners to be plundered, and Radical manufacturers, with their immense fortunes, to so free? Such men were fond of investing their capita. Treign countries and manufactures, and then preaching so-called free trade, in order that those products might come in free, whilst English were everywhere taxed.

HE seldom lives frugally, who lives by chance. Hope is always liberal, and they that trust her promises make little scruple of revelling to-day on the profits of

o-morrow.—Johnson.

A DIOCESAN MEETING in support of the A DIOCREAN MEETING in support of the scheme for the estal lishment of several new parishes in Tynemouth was recently held at Newcastle-on-Tyne under the presidency of the bishop. Substantial assistance was volunteered by several influential firms and families. The scheme has been devised by a commission appointed by the bishop, and proposes that twelve new parishes sheuld be formed and seventeen clergymen bedded to the present parishes. The capital necessary for the accomplishment of the scheme is estimated at 100 100 which it has been decided shell be reliefed. 208,120, which it has been decided shall be raised by subscriptions extending over five years. The fund will be known as the Bishop of Newcastle's fund.

sad and fatal accident has be fallen an old hero of the Indian mutiny named Young. The deceased, who was 84 years of age, and partially-blind, was returning home from the country, where he had been hawking tish, and in the darkness wandered into a deep pit and was drowned. The body was not recovered for three days, and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

of "Accidental death."

An influential deputation of the principal carriage builders and workmen of Bath has waited on the City members, Sir A. Hayter and Mr. Wodehouse, and asked their support to a proposal to abolish the carriage tax: the present import resulting in a vastly diminished trade and the impoverishment of workmen. The hon members promised attention to the subject. There was also a deputation of elementary school teachers, asking for an increase in the grant of pensions to disabled school teachers, as the present Government allowance as insequences and leaves a large number in indirence. adequate, and leaves a large number in indigence.

Ar Williton, Scmersetshire, John Burge, a moulder, and his wife have been committed for trial on the charge of grossly ill-treating and half-starving the man's child, aged 51 years. The child weighed only 21b instead of 45ib. The police with difficulty pre-vented the crowd lynching the princers.

vented the crowd lynching the prisoners.

MR. PIRES WAUDURTON, M.P., in recently addressing his constituents at Northwich, said that the signs of the times pointed to a reaction which had already set in. He was surprised how men of honest and indevendent considers explain the property of the property pendent opinions could continue to support a Government that had been false to its promises and false to the best traditions of England. As to retrenchment, they spent many thousands more than their predecessors; and as for peace, it had vanished ever since the Radical Government came into power. Ireland was no letter now than it was two years ago. Messrs. Parnell and Healy were still going about the country preaching sedition and raunting the flag of rebellion. Mr. Davitt ought to have been hanged years ago, but the Government had connived at agitation and treated with shame and ignominy those who stood honestly in desence of their religion and their countries. honestly in defence of their religion and their country.

As long as the present Government remains in office no honest men in Ireland were likely to get their own, and if the Government remained much longer, those who had a little left would not be able to keep it.

In the Rickmansworth Town Hall Mrs. John White, of Parsonsee Farm, has held he appears.

In the Rickmansworth Town Hall Mrs. John White, of Parsonage Farm, has held her annual bazaar and sale of useful fret work and other articles made by the members of the Working Lads' Industrial Club, whose head-quarters are in the High-street, as well as somenecessary and ornamental articles made and presented by ladies of the neighbourhood, who kindly assist at the stalls in aid of the Lads' Club and the National and Infants School Children's Boot Club. In the evening the club lads, under the title of "The Rickmansworth Rooks," gave in the hall an entertuinment of vocal and Instrumental music for the same objects.

Rooks," gave in the hall an entert inment of vocal and Instrumental music for the same objects.

At the police-court, Newport (Mon.), a serious stabbing affray was recently partially investigated. A Norwegian seamen named Anderson, in the coarse of a street fight with other foreign seamen, stabbed no fewer than six spectators who crowded round to see what was the matter, and one was so seriously wounded that he is not yet out of danger. The other five appeared in court with their arms bandaged, and spoke positively as to identity, although the prisoner's shipmates came to prove he was not there. One of the injured men is an eld soldier, who took a prominent part in the riots at Tredegar last year. The case was remanded.

The whole of the traffic in the Midland station at Leicester was lately disorganised by a train of cattle

at Leicester was lately disorganised by a train of cattle and pig trucks getting off the line through missing the points and being overturned. Fortunately no one was injured, and a block of some hours was the sole result, the traffic having to be conducted on the other lines. The accident occurred about four o'clock, and the noise and confusion entailed for a time was indescribable. Happily the breakdown gang eventually effected a

About one o'clock in the morning, recently, passing calman, discovered that the premises, 101, Brompton-road, London, were on tire. He at once called the attention of a policeman to the fact, and the alarm was given at the Raiton-mews Station of the Fire Brigade, which is within a couple of hundred yards of the spot. By the time the engine arrived, however, the fiames had not only obtained a thorough hold of the abop in whigh they originated, but had communicated with the two adjoining houses, Noz. 103 and 105, which, like the one in which the fiames first broke ont, were used by Messey, Harrod and Co., in their business as purveyors of all kinds of stores—provisions, furniture, drapery, and various other goods. From the Raiton-mews fire-station the intelligence was telegraphed to other parts of London, and in a short time steam-engines from Ken-ington, North Kensington, Paddin, ton, Chandos-street, Water-loo-road, Baker-street, Regent-street, and other places, and manuals from Knightsbridgs and Hammersmith were on the spot. The firemen, who were present in strong force, and who were assisted by a number of "auxillaries," or volunteers, and a detachment of the Salvage Corps, worked with the greatest energy, and by GREAT, FIRE IN THE METROPOLIS. were on the spot. The firemen, who were present in strong force, and who were assisted by a number of "auxiliaries," or volunteers, and a detachment of the Salvage Corps, worked with the greatest energy, and by means of the engines already mentioned and a number of standpipe were enabled to throw yast quantities of after on the dames. Their efforts did not, however, seem to have much apparent effect, for the flames burnt so fercely that in a short time it was evident that the three large houses occupied by Mes. ss. Harrod must be destroyed. The attention of the brigades were, consequently, devoted towards preventing the spread of the flames, but in this they were not completely successful, as at about half-past two o'clock the backs of Nes. 107 and 103, occupied respectively by Messrs. Jeffcoats, brushmakers, and C. de Costers caught, and it was only after great labour that the flames were confined to the backs of these premises. The wind was also blowing freshly, and such serious fears were entertained for the safety of some small cottages in Richmond-gardens, a narrow court situated at the back of the burning block, that the poor people hastily removed their furniture and piled it in the read. In queen's gardens, an another narrow thoroughare running down at the side of 109, Brompton-road, the flames created great consternation, as it was feared that the brigade would not be able to prevent them spreading beyond some stabling that was in course of erection. At three o'clock, however, the exertions of the firemen began to tell, and it was then visible that the fire would not extend beyond the backs of Nos. 107, and 109, although the houses 101, 103, and 105, and their contents, were destroyed from basement upwards. The reflection, which was visible over the whole of the western portion of the metropolis, attracted several thousands of spectators to the spot; and was, in fact, the The relection, which was visible over the whole of the western portion of the metropolis, attracted several thousands of spectators to the spot; and was, in fact, the means of summoning a portion of the fire brigade from a fire in King's-road, Chelsea, where they had been engaged for some time. The cause of the fire is unknown; but the damage, which will amount to many thousand pounds, is completely covered by insurance.

THE BELGIAN PARLIAMENT HOUSES

DESTROYED BY FIRE.

The Palace of the Belgian Legislative Chambers has been destroyed by fire. The Cuamber of Representatives, with all its outlying buildings, is a mass of roins, but the fears at first entertained that the department of Foreign Affairs and Education had been greatly damaged prove to have been exaggerated, the buildings named having suffered little from the flames. Several firemen were injured, and it is reported that some Grenadiers were killed when the walls of the burning building fell in. The Senate was preserved from the flames. So far as can be ascertained the fire broke out in the cupola of the Chamber, and originated with the sun burner used for lighting the House. The flames were fanned by the draught from the ventilating shaft, and spread rapidly. A strong north-east wind was blowing at the time, and when once the flames had got a hold on the building lent additional force to the fury of the conflagration. The House was sitting when the fire broke out. broke out.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF ATTEMPTED

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At the Guildhall Police-court, London, Mary Stafford, 72, Warwick-street, Pimlico, fashionably dressed, was charged with threatening to commit suicide, having previously attempted to do so. Mr. Kent appeared for the defendant. Mr. Thomas Broadbent Cartwright said bewas a solicitor, at 4, Lothbury. On the previous afternoon the defendant called on him on some business, and and that unless certain conditions were consulted in the control of the control o a client of his he would go down to her father's place at Horsham, and commit suicide. She was wonderfully at Horsham, and commit suicide. She was wonderfully excited at the time. She had made similar threats to him before. She attempted to commit suicide about two months ago by taking about two ounces of chlorodine. He was able to state that only on information he had received. He had known the prisoner for over twelve months. She had been living with a client of his as his wife. A separation had taken place, and that was the cause of her excitement. Mr. Kent urged that it was only a hasty remark made by her, and that she never intended to put her threat into execution. Robert Outram, detective sergeant, sail that at about twenty minutes to lour o'clock on the previous afternoon he was called to Mr. Cartwright's office, where he saw the defendant, and told her she was charged with threatening Robert Outram, detective sergeant, sail that at about twenty minute to lour o'clock on the previous afternoon he was called to Mr. Cartwright's office, where he saw the defendant, and told her she was charged with threatening to commit suicide, and she said "Yes; and neither you nor anyone else shall take me." He sent for assistance, and then, by persuasion, she went quietly in a cab with him to the station. She was in a very excited state. Adderman Nottage said he must remand the defendant to have the opinion of the medical officer of the prison as to the state of her mind. Mr. Kent asked that she should be admitted to bail, and handed over to the care of her sister, who would be responsible for her. Alderman Nottage said he could not do that because it would destroy the very object he had in view, and that was to have the opinion of the prison surgeon on her state of mind. Mr. Thomas Edward Edwards said that he was a surgeon in practice at 98, Gloucester-creecent. He was called to the defendant in the early part of October by the defendant's sister, stating that she had taken poison. He had before attended, and had declined to go again, but all it was a case of poisoning he had no alternative but to try and save her life. He took with him his batteries and other things necessary. He found her insensible, and her eyes glazed, and he thought she was dead. He applied a strong galvanio-battery, and somewhat revived her. He then administered strong emetics, and after several days he saved her. The defendant's sister gave him a bottle which contained two ounces of chlorodine, and which she said the defendant had drunk in her presence. Cross-examined: He was called in to save her life, and he did so. His fee for that was twenty guineas. By the Alderman; If he had not been called in she must have died from the poison. After she was out of danger she declared that she would commit soicide, and that she would write to the coroner about the inquest, and also that she would so Mr. Mansfield, and tell him all about it. Al

A WRITER in the Demerara Chronicle, under the date of October 30th, takes the State-paid ministers severely to task for accepting their stipends from publichouse revenues. Referring to Canon Wilberforce's famous letter to the Times on "The Established Church and the Liquor Traffic," he says: "If in England the rents of public-houses go to swell the amount in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for the benefit of the Established Church of England, here in British Guiana are the salary of the clergy of the Churches of England and Scotland, and grants for the maintenance of the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Churches, paid in part out of the revenue obtained from the licensed grogshops and the direct taxes on intoxicating drink, which amount to about one-third of the whole revenue of the Colony: so that one-third of the whole revenue of the Colony: so that one-third of these ecclesiastical subsidies is paid by means of the taxes of intoxicating drink."—Christine Globs.

The Wanderers' Club, Pall-mal London, is about to be purchased by the members, is success since its foundation having induced the committee to consider arrangements for constituting ft a members' club-General his Serene Highness Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar and Lord Houghton have joined the committee. A WRITER in the Demerara Chronicle, under