LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

SEVERAL of the metropolitan volunteer corps are now in the habit of holding holiday times to good account by taking spells of route-marching and camping out on breezy commons. Notwithstanding the rather unpromising aspect of the weather on Saturday—an aspect which was more than sustained by the doleful weather on Whit-Monday—musters of corps and detachments took place at various points. There was a pretty large muster of the St. George's rifles, who went by rail from Victoria to Dorking, where Colonel Hamley laid the scene of the imaginary battle, in which the British suffered defeat at the hands of the invading German. The London Rifle Brigade showed a strong force when they marched off from the Guildhall to Mitcham common, where they remain in camp throughout the week. A small party of the Civil Service Rifles, not more than fifty in all, left Somerset House for St. Albans, where they only intended making a short stay. The Great Western Railway conveyed about two hundred of the Queen's (Westminster) to West Drayton, whence they were to march to Maidenhead and afterwards to Clifden, joining there the main body of the regiment under the Duke of Westminster.

Many, belonging to the numerous non-volunteer part of the population, could not make up their minds where to go or what to do until they actually saw what Whit-Monday was to be like in the matter of weather. A scare has been given to all those who, belated on their return to town from Epsom on the Derby Day were caught in the deluge of rain that came pouring down in sheets from the burdened clouds, and got home in a pitiful plight, drenched to the skin. It was a lucky circumstance that, owing to the Metropolitan-day accommodation now provided at Waterloo Station, more Derbyites went to the Downs this year by rail than by road, and hence the drowned mice were not as numerous as they might otherwise have been. All who had taken time by the forelock, setting off on their homeward journey as soon as the great race of the day was over, had some reason to congratulate themselves when they heard the rain about nightfall coming down in torrents, and plashing loudly on the pavement. It is a practice of many, however, who go to Epsom on the Derby Day to spend the evening in some of the theatres or other place of amusement, and thus it came to pass that great numbers, who had returned to town before the storm began, found themselves awkwardly situated when at the time of the closing of the theatres—the rain being then at about its worst—cabs were not to be had at call, owing to the greatness of the demand. In many instances the heaviest part of the day's expenses came last. Cabby makes his hay, not when the sun shines, but when the rain falls.

The spectators who went, according to custom, to see the return of the Derbyites had also a bad time of it, which lasted longer than the proverbial *mauvais quart d'heure*, when the rain began to descend. How did it happen that so many were provided with umbrellas? Silk, alpaca, cotton, or antique gingham—up went the umbrellas, miles on miles of them, increasing the difficulties of locomotion, and sadly trying the good humour which is a pleasant characteristic of London crowds. The endless train of vehicles, four-horsed, two-horsed, and one-horsed, were also crowded with umbrellas, and presented a striking contrast, in dingy sombreness, to the liveliness and gaiety of the passing panorama in genuine summer weather, when brilliant bonnets and white hats with blue dust-veils attached are in the ascendant. The drenched crush at the stations—Clapham worst of all—to be followed by another crush in close-packed railway carriages, made a long walk home in the wet, in the experience of not a few, seem the least of two evils, and they accordingly made it their choice.

To playgoers there is at present a great attraction at the Gaiety Theatre in the performances of the sociétaires and pensionnaires of the Comédie Française, who were welcomed, on their arrival at Charing-cross, by a considerable crowd, composed chiefly of their own countrymen and countrywomen, who are numerous enough to form a French colony in London. During the stay of this celebrated company, some of the choicest plays of Corneille, Molière, Racine, Voltaire, and Georges Sand will be performed. On the opening night the second act of "Phedre" was introduced in order that Madame Bernhardt might make her first appearance in a worthier work than "L'Etrangère," which was set down for the following night. This Madame Sarah Bernhardt is the most famous actress of the company, besides being extremely attractive in personal appearance. Her dramatic powers are not her only intellectual gift. She has won renown as a sculptor, a poetess, and a musician. Though wanting, as a tragedian, what has been called the commanding power of Rachel, she is universally allowed to be the only possible successor to the parts of the great Jewess. Mlle. Croizette also gets the credit of being a remarkable actress, and Madame *Barnette* being the character which is said to have saved MM. Angier and Sandeau's "Jean de Thommeray" from shipwreck.

The qualities which distinguish the Comédie Française Company—the permanent qualities, I may say, as it has a standing on the Paris stage of two hundred years—are good sense and good taste. These qualities it inherited from Molière, and they have always been pretty well sustained, though more pronounced of course at some periods than in others. A writer—who is evidently well versed in the history of French dramatic literature and the Parisian stage—mentions it as a strange fact that it was in the earlier part of the decade, 1830-40, during the *débuts* of Victor Hugo and the prime of Scribe and Delavigne, when the fortunes of the Comédie Française were at a lower ebb than ever before or since. So interested was the great Napoleon in this company that, even in his terrible Moscow days, he drew up a code (the theatrical Code Napoleon it might be called) of 101 articles for its regulation, and of these the chief provisions are still in force. If the performances at the Gaiety have the effect of creating emulous refinement on the London stage, there will be much reason to be satisfied at the results of this season's visit of the members of the Comédie Française.

The only special entertainment in London, in celebration of the centenary of Thomas Moore, was given by the Mohawk Minstrels, at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, which was appropriately decorated for the occasion. The general enthusiasm which characterised the Burns centenary in 1859 was wanting on the part of Moore, and this circumstance may be held as indicating how widely different they were in their depth, range, and power as song-writers. Burns touched and thrilled, not only the heart of his native country, but of the world, whereas Moore only wakened the fitful echoes of

"The harp that once thro' Tara's halls
The soul of music shed."

Though he wrote "Irish Melodies," Moore could scarcely be considered, in the usual acceptation of the word, a national poet. He was the pet of society, not the darling of the people. He was, in fact, an Anglo-Irishman, liking London far better than Dublin, and much in request at Holland House, where the world of fashion used to hiss singing his own songs to his own accompaniments. It must, indeed, have been a treat after its kind to see Tommy Little seated before a piano, and hear him singing, "Rich and rare were the gems she wore," or some other of his well-known songs. At the time when he was the lion—say rather the nightingale—of London society, he resided at Lalla Rookh Cottage, situated in Hornsey, which was then a rural district. In his Diary he makes mention of walking along a very pretty path between Edmonton and Enfield through the fields. It is interesting also to trace his footsteps when in the City. He speaks of dining at Horace Twiss's in Chancery-lane, where he took of an old dinner in a borrowed room, with champagne, pewter spoons, and old Lady Cork. Another entry in his diary contains the interesting reminiscence that Sheridan and the poet Campbell to a little bedroom he had taken in St. Paul's Churchyard. On another occasion we find him breakfasting at the London Coffee-house in Ludgate-hill, and there it is best to leave him in fancy, sitting more quiet and composed, probably, than if he had been in his brother poet's little bedroom. D. G.

LIFE AND FIRE ASSURANCE.

The fortieth report of the General Life and Fire Assurance Company, which has just been submitted by the directors to the proprietors, shows the continuance of a highly prosperous state of affairs. Notwithstanding the prevalence of great commercial depression, the business of the company attained to success never previously equalled since the first establishment of the institution.

In the Fire Department the net premiums amounted to £56,433 1s. 3d., showing a net increase of £2186 3s. 7d. over the returns of the previous year. The losses, less than in the previous year, amounted to £31,459 6s. 8d., leaving £24,973 13s. 3d. for expenses, profit, and addition to the reserve. In the Life Department the figures show equally gratifying success. The premium income amounted to £346,480, showing a net gain sum of £446,880, and producing a premium income of £15,290 16s. 2d. From all sources the total income was £397,231 19s. 11d., showing an increase of £14,214 7s. 1d. during the year. To the Life Reserve Fund there has been an increase during the year of £52,720 19s. 9d., and to the Fire Fund of £4033 13s. The claims of the company are remarkably light, across under 137 policies, while twelve endowment policies matured for payment. By the natural valuation of the Life Assurance Branch of the company contracts a large surplus was exhibited as available for division among the participating assurers. It may be mentioned that the directors have felt justified in recommending the shareholders to declare a dividend of eight per cent. on the paid-up capital.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

(From the "Illustrated London News.")

The will (dated December 22, 1876) of Mr. James Pulleine, late of Clifton Castle, Thornton Wattlass, and of Crakehall, both in the North Riding of Yorkshire, who died on the 29th April last, was proved on the 2nd ult. by Captain Thomas Cowper Hincks, the nephew, and Sir John Clayton Cowell, K.C.B., the son-in-law, the acting executors, the personal estate being sworn under £90,000. The testator confirms the settlement made on his marriage and also the one made on the marriage of his daughter, Georgina Elizabeth, Lady Cowell; and he leaves to the latter all the household furniture and effects at his mansion-house, Crakehall; to Captain Hincks, £100; to his nephew, the Rev. Thomas Pulleine, the present incumbent of Crakehall, Yorkshire, and £200; and the residue of his real and personal estate to his wife, Mrs. Anne Caroline Pulleine.

The will (dated February 21, 1871), with two codicils (dated May 26, 1871, and September 24, 1876) of Mr. William Rutter Bayley, late of Cotford House, Sidbury, Devon, who died on the 19th of March last, at 34, Hill-street, Berkeley-square, was proved on the 9th May by Hector Monro and Philip Hodge, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £70,000. The testator gives to his wife, Mrs. Flora Bower Bayley, Cotford House and £10,000 for life, in addition to the provision made for her by marriage settlement; to his executors, £150 each; and legacies to his servants. He devises all his property in the parish of Sidbury, subject as to Cotford House, to his wife's life interest, all his real estate in Gloucestershire, and certain freehold property in Wiltshire for the benefit of his grandson, Arthur Bayley, and his heirs; and he paid out of the income to Mrs. Susannah Bayley, the widow of the deceased son William Rutter Bayley, during her widowhood; and subject to the above, to Mr. Hodge, the grandchildren Arthur and Florence Bayley to take their deceased's father's share, subject to the payment thereout of a legacy of £1000 to their mother.

MR. JAMES STARTIN, M.R.C.S., Surgeon to St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, says: "The only soap for the complexion is Cuticle Soap." It is called "*Sapo Carbonis Detergens.*" Highly and extensively recommended for the complexion by the late Mr. Erasmus Wilson, M.D., Mr. McCall Anderson, M.D., F.F.P.S., Glasgow; and the other leading Members of the Profession. In tablets, 6d. and 1s. each. Beware of spurious imitations. Invented and introduced by the Sole Proprietors, W. V. Wright & Co., London.

INTENT TO MURDER.—A gentleman of independent means, named Gardner, who lived at Hillingdon, near Uxbridge, Middlesex, was found guilty of shooting at his wife with intent to murder her and was sentenced to twenty years' penal servitude.

HAVE IT IN YOUR HOUSE.—LAMPLOUGH'S PYRETIC SALINE—and use no other. The only safe antidote in Fevers, Eruptive Affections, Sea or Bilious Sickness, Smallpox, and Headache; nearly peculiar and exclusive merits. Use no substitute. See per petual injunction against imitators; also the unanimous judgment before the Vice-Chancellor Justice Bacon and Lord Justice Brett, and Cotton, 22nd Jan., 1878, in Lamplough's favour. 113, Holborn-hill, London.

THE INTER-OCEANIC CANAL.—The Inter-Oceanic Congress in Paris has adopted, by ninety-eight votes against eight, the proposal in favour of cutting the canal through the Isthmus of Panama by the Bay of Limon to Panama, for which project General Turr is the concessionaire. Of the English and American members of the Congress, Sir John Stokes and Messrs. Appleton, Lazard, and Christiansen, voted for the scheme; Sir Charles Hartley, Admiral Amund, and Messrs. Bell, Lobnitz, Johnston, Smith, and Mencoal abstained from voting; and Sir John Hawkshaw and Messrs. Lewis, Evans, and Selfridge were absent. The session of the Congress was then closed by Admiral de la Roncière le Noury. The delegates to the Inter-Oceanic Congress gave a dinner at the Continental Hotel to the members of the French Geographical Society. M. Gambetta, who was among the guests, made a speech, in which he described the protected Inter-Oceanic Canal as a noble and meritorious undertaking in the interest of progress and civilisation. The speaker added that, thanks to the good fortune that the Chambers of Deputies now sitting under French auspices was composed of distinguished representative men from all parts of the world.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.—Judson's Dyes are most useful. Children's frocks, gentlemen's coats, and articles of dress, may be dyed in ten minutes without soiling the hands—18 colours. Sold by chemists everywhere, Judson's Dyes, price 6d. and 1s.

BILLINGSGATE MARKET.—The Court of Common Council in London met to discuss the motion for the removal of the Billingsgate Market to a more central position. It was stated that eighty-five per cent. of the fish supply now comes by train, and that the present market is both inadequate in point of space and highly inconvenient for trade, the approaches to it being the narrow lanes of old walled London, which were daily completely blocked by hundreds of wagons and carts bringing the perished fish to market. The motion was rejected by a large majority.

CADBURY'S COCOA ESSENCE contains far more nutritious and flesh-forming elements, and goes three times as far as the best cocoas prepared with starch. Caution is necessary in buying, as shopkeepers often push imitations for the sake of extra profit.

A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY recently occurred at Edgley, a village near Stockport. A young man named Shirt was seen to stagger out of his house bleeding from a wound in the throat, which he said had been inflicted by his wife. The latter immediately followed him, and rushing to the adjacent reservoir first stabbed herself and then sprang into the water. She was taken out dead, but Shirt may recover.

DR. WILLIAM H. RUSSELL has gone out with Sir Garnet Wolseley to Zululand as special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph.*

"KEATING'S POWDER" destroys BUGS, FLEAS, MOTHS, BEETLES, and all other insects, whilst quite harmless to domestic animals. In exterminating Bugs the success of this powder is extraordinary. It is perfectly clean in application. See you purchase "KEATING'S," as imitations are noxious and ineffectual. Sold in tins, 1s. & 2s 6d each by all chemists.

ATTACK UPON MOIROSI'S MOUNTAIN IN BASUTO LAND.

The following extracts from the journal of a member of the Cape Mounted Rifle has been sent to a contemporary by the relatives to whom he forwarded it:

"Monday, Feb. 23.—Started from Quillier Camp up to Moiroi's Coss — *i.e.*, mountain—about two hours out, when came upon a small body of natives; they retired into a cave. Had a long, hard fight to get at them. Killed one, and brought the others out at last. Seven of our men wounded, one killed; fifty of the enemy killed and about forty horses captured. Terrible fight; blood and dead bodies everywhere. Curious Sunday.

"Sunday, 30th.—Got here, close to Moiroi's stronghold. It's a small mountain only on the bridge of the Orange River, standing alone. Horrid place to take; almost impregnable. We are about 500 Cape Mounted Rifles and Yeomanry and 5000 natives. It is now 11.30, and we expect to commence the attack at 12.0. God help and save us! We are sure to lose a great many men. If I live to finish this . . . . . Yours, &c., A. Z.

"March 4.—After all it was decided not to storm Moiroi in his mountain, as the loss of life on our side would be great. We had to retreat and get ready for the guns. We are lying all around his Coss, just out of gun-shot. There has been almost incessant firing going on between our men and the enemy, as they have been trying to come down, and we have to keep them up. At night there is always a strong picket goes out—about one hundred men; they go about half-way up the mountain, further you cannot get except a great risk. We go at sundown and return just before daybreak. It would not do to be there when they could see us, or else half of us would lose the number of our mess. As it is, all night at intervals they keep rolling down huge rocks, hoping to crush us; we hide behind big stones to avoid getting hit. We have been lying here about two days, expecting the guns hourly. I believe they are to be here to-morrow, Sunday. Strange, nearly all our engagements seem to fall on a Sunday. We often have rare fun falling after sheep and goats that come down the mountain. They are getting nearly starved up there, and the niggers find it almost impossible to keep them up. We wait till they get nearly to the bottom, then we up and after them; immediately a shower of bullets comes from the top of the Coss, then look out sharp and get some cover among rocks. It is a dangerous game, but we must have meat.

"March 7.—At last the guns have arrived, two seven pounders belonging to our artillery. A man job we had getting them up a mountain just opposite Moiroi's Coss. It seemed almost impossible to get anything to the shape of mountain up there. We did though, and well too. A span of bullocks to each and about sixty men, some at tow ropes, some at the wheels. Both bullocks and men were often on their knees. The guns are to play this afternoon at four o'clock for a short time, just to get the range. The great event comes off to morrow early, and then we go up under cover of the guns' fire.

"Easter Monday.—This was done up in case anything should happen, but, thank God, I am spared to finish it.

"We attacked Moiroi's Coss on 8th April. On evening of the 7th we started at dark—thirty Cape Mounted Rifles—and the Yeomanry—and got about half way up the mountain to a large cave, where we stayed all night. In the morning they shelled the mountain for about two hours, and then we started out (the cave we had crept round under cover) and came to the only so-called path that you can get up by. Directly we got under fire, a captain, two sergeants, one trooper of the Cape Mounted Rifles, and one private in the Yeomanry got shot. We kept on until we got nearly up to the top, all the time under a very heavy fire, and there we came to a standstill by some walls stopping us; the walls were lined, too, with niggers. Here another man got shot dead; one wounded through the leg, he died next day. One had his eye shot out, he is quite better; one had his hand blown off trying to throw over a shell as a last resource to save the men from what seemed certain destruction. I was sent with these poor fellows and the captain. How any of us escaped, God only knows. The people below ex pected to see us killed every moment. We stayed sometime on the top, but it was no good. We were obliged to retire a little lower down, taking the wounded with us. Heavy firing still going on from the top. Those poor fellows shot in the morning were in such a position that it was impossible to get them out till dark, when I and a few volunteered to go after them, which we did on hands and knees, and got them down to a safer place, from which they were carried in blankets down to the camp. We fought from about 10 till 4 in the morning. A terrible day; we can only easily forgotten. Twenty-two in all killed and wounded. Over a third of our men cut off. Every one is loud in our praise. I got praised and thanked till I was quite ashamed; I was only, after all, did what any other man would have done.

REWARDS FOR BRAVERY.

Various cases of saving or attempting to save life in different parts of the world have just been investigated by the committee of the Royal Humane Society, which has conferred the silver medal on Mr. Charles W. Hodge, of Roseau, Island of Dominica, was unanimously recommended for the silver medallion on account of his gallant conduct in the following circumstances: On the 22nd of December 14 last a boat containing A. C. Winston, E. Duverney, T. H. Boyd, and two other men started to pass a distance of about three miles from shore, and commenced to settle down. Hodge, assisted by the others, first dismasted and turned over the boat to get rid of the ballast, then righted it and attempted to pull ashore. Owing to a strong adverse wind, however, they made no headway; in fact, they drifted further out to sea. Hodge then volunteered to swim ashore and procure assistance. After being in the water four hours he accomplished the feat and made known the danger of his companions, whereupon a party proceeded to the rescue of the poor fellows, who were found clinging to the boat. The bronze medallion was awarded to Mark Grace, a police-constable, for saving Charles Payne, who attempted to drown himself in the New River on the 14th April; to Walter Pudney, a boy of 15, for saving his brother, who fell into the sea from the quay wall at Sumner Park, Surbiton, on the 10th April; to Alfred Hodge, for attempting to save Henry Brice, who fell overboard at sea on the 14th of August last while engaged in painting the ship's side, strong wind and considerable sea and tide running at the time; to Robert Lubb, a driver in A Battery, 5th Brigade, Royal Artillery, for saving a child named Elizabeth Ashford, aged 4, while playing, fell into the canal at Weedon on the 26th April; to John Richard Gough, for rescuing a woman named Maria Richards, who, while seized in a fit, fell into the Serpentine at Shrewsbury on the 25th April; to Rawai Ropia; for attempting to save Archibald Brown, who, while crossing a ford at Chatham Islands, on Christmas Day, the 31st of March, fell into the water; to Haparana Pana, who went to the rescue of Rawai Ropia, when the latter became exhausted and was also in danger of drowning; to William Bishop for saving F. Woodward, who, on the 26th April, fell into the River Avon at Malmesbury, and was carried by the current 100 yards under the arches of a bridge; to John Rymer Young, for saving Mary Caldwell, who fell off a drawbridge over the St. Helen's Canal, Warrington, on the 4th ult.; and to Leaster Dixon, for saving Ernest Wait, who was thrown into twelve feet of water in a pond at Whalley Range, Manchester, on the 19th April. Testimonials on vellum were also awarded to Thomas Coyle, Cornelius Goater, Frederick Harrison, Duncan D. Mackie, William Darling Andrews, and William Hoseason, for attempting to save Mr. Thomas Ashman, who possesses the society's medal, and Robert T. Delamaine.

THE TIME FOR RECEIVING APPLICATIONS for space to exhibit at the Melbourne International Exhibition of 1880 has been extended to the 31st of October. Applications will continue to be addressed to the Agent-General for Victoria, S, Victoria Chambers, Westminster, S. W.

THE FURIOUS DESTRUCTION OF HAWORTH CHURCH.—We (*Echo*) are glad to see that, at a large meeting at Haworth, by a very large majority, a resolution was passed expressing the proposed destruction of Haworth Church, where Charlotte Brontë is buried. We never could understand how any man could possess the idea of demolishing such a building. It is on record that a donkey once was led up the aisle, ridden by a man with his face turned the wrong way. The present rector's face is obstinately turned the wrong way; but we are glad the Haworth people decline to play the part of the donkey, and refuse to be ridden.

HORSMAN'S TEA, also per packet has been preferred.
HORSMAN'S TEA, supplied direct to the public
HORSMAN'S TEA, sold only in Packets.

THE CRISIS IN BURMAH.

VIOLENCE OF THE KING—ALARM IN MANDALAY.

A telegraphic despatch from Mandalay, dated June 1st, says: The King is perfectly violent. Twice the Ministers venture to approach him. Numbers of the Royal body guard are committing acts of violence in the town. The exercise of the war-boats has begun. There has been a great deal of fighting for the last three months of twenty lakhs. A memorial to the Government has been presented by the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce. The motives are: Ko Ko, Yan Mingoon Princes, who are refugees, have been heavily ironed. It was stipulated before by our Government that they should remain unharmed. The action has been taken yet. They will probably be starved.

Another despatch, dated June 3rd, says: Numbers of the Royal troops are going down the river. The forts near Mandalay are being garrisoned. Colonel Phayre, Judge of the Mixed Court, has been insulted in the streets. The offender was sent to prison. Preparations are being made for the coronation of King Theebaw. Much alarm is felt in the town. The King kept indoors yesterday. He shot up in his palace, and is said to go on drinking steadily, though and to say, as a cynical man here observes, he does not drink hard enough to give good hope of a speedy attack of delirium tremens. He has done away with the old order of Let-pay-yin-dan-tha, pages of honour, and has instituted a new body guard of youths of his clan, the Myingun, and he now seems to be a taste for brandy. This new class is dead against everything English, and clamours for war immediately.

ANOTHER EXTRAORDINARY POST-OFFICE ROBBERY.

At Bow-street Police-court, London, John Vose, 41, and Ellen Vose, 43, man and wife, living at 14, Hastings street, Buston-road, were charged with stealing a letter containing Bank of England notes of the value of £200. Mr. Breton Hewitt appeared to prosecute on behalf of the General Post Office. He said that the facts of the case were very extraordinary. The plaintiff, Henry Bright, had been in service of the Post Office for twenty-four years. So far back as the 30th November, 1877, a letter containing £200 in bank notes was made up by a person named Henry Horwood, then residing at Hyde-end House, Brompton-road, Reading. It was the man's savings for twenty years, but notwithstanding this fact and the value of the notes, he was imprudent enough to send the money in an unregistered letter to his brother, William Horwood, at his address, 2, Great James-street, Bedford-row, London. That letter in the ordinary course should have been delivered to the latter the next morning, December 1; but it never reached its destination, and notwithstanding the exertions of the Post Office authorities no trace of it was ever discovered. At that time the prisoner was engaged in the Western Central division, and although it could not have been within his delivery it would be his duty to assist in sorting, and in this way the letter probably passed under his notice. Great sympathy was manifested in Reading on behalf of the man who had sustained this loss, and a subscription was raised on his behalf at the time towards recouping him for the same. The money was deposited at the Bank of England, but none of them appeared to have been presented till Wednesday last, when the female prisoner, accompanied by a gentleman who is engaged to her daughter, presented one of them, for £20, at the Bank, to be changed. It was due to the young man to say that he bore a good character, and had acted in a very honourable manner. The note was identified as one of those which had been stopped in December, 1877, and the parties were requested to step into the secretary's office. A detective officer was sent for, and what passed would be stated in evidence. The female prisoner, who gave her name and address after some hesitation, said that the £20 note was given to her by a gentleman in Regent-street, but when the male prisoner was consulted about it the truth came out, and the fellow was admitted, the wife exclaiming that she had taken the compensation for the injury done to her husband by the "good conduct" stripes being taken from him for interference. The remainder of the money in the 1175 of the amount had been recovered would be detailed in evidence. Evidence having been given as to the presentation of the notes and the detainment of the female prisoner, Charles James Stevens, travelling clerk, General Post Office, said he found the male prisoner delivering letters in Bedford-row. He took him to the central office. The prisoner was then in custody on December, 1877, a letter was sent containing notes from Mr. Henry Horwood, of Reading, to his brother in London, and asked if he knew anything about it. He admitted stealing the letter. Witness told him that one of the notes had been stopped at the Bank of England, and was found in his possession. He said he did not know nothing of that. Witness told him there were other notes still out. He said, "Some of the notes have been changed, but the others are at home." He then told witness where they could be found. Witness went to his home, but could not find the notes in a picture as described by the prisoner, but found that the back had been torn as if something had been taken out. Witness then went to the General Post Office, where the female prisoner had been removed, and told her that her husband had admitted stealing the letter. He told her that he could not find the notes, and asked what she had done with them. After some hesitation she gave the information. Witness then returned to the prisoner's house, and found, in a saucepan under the bed, a £100 note and a £50 note, now produced, and in a fishing tin one £20 note. Upon more confirmatory evidence the prisoners were remanded.

AN OLD MISSIONARY'S VIEWS ABOUT THE PUBLICANS.

Lord Colin Campbell, writing from Argyll Lodge, Kensington, says: In a Blue Book on South Africa, recently issued, some light is thrown on the character of the information which has encouraged the friends of Sir Bartle Frere elicited from one corner of her Majesty's dominions in South Africa. Towards the close of the Blue Book, there appears a circular letter to "various missionaries of all denominations on the different borders of her Majesty's dominions in South Africa" (C. 2316, page 2). In this letter the missionaries were requested to send to the High Commissioner the result of their observations as to the effect of the late war on the native communities, together with any suggestions they might wish to offer regarding measures "calculated to promote the advancement, material as well as moral," of the races among which they lived. In the despatch (No. 3, C. 2316) forwarding the replies he had received, Sir Bartle Frere calls special attention to a most interesting letter from the Bishop of St. John's Kaffraria. But there is another letter (enclosure 2 in No. 3) to which he does not call attention. It is from the Rev. P. S. Hepburn, who writes from Mount Coke under date December 17, 1878. He refers to himself as "an old well-known missionary," and most people who read his letter and his suggestions regarding measures calculated to promote the moral and material advancement of the races among which he labours will allow that he has some claim to describe himself as "an old African" (page 3): "Only the utter destruction of the Zulus can secure future peace in South Africa. . . . . If our forces under Sir Bartle and Natal all native tribes in South Africa will rise against us. I am a man of peace. I hate war. But if war, let there be no dawdling and sentimental nonsense. . . . . Heathenism must perish; God wills it so." This philosophic and enlightened Christian comforts himself with the reflection that he and all who shared his opinions had "the approval of the Bishop of St. John's" and their consciences. The entire letter has not been published. The passages which have been expunged would, doubtless, give us further insight into missionary enterprise in South Africa.

NEW LIFEBOAT.—The National Lifeboat Institution has just sent from the letter lifeboats to be stationed on the Irish coast at Kingstown, Drogheda, and Tralee, and one to Kirkcudbright, N.B.

MACHINERY ACCIDENT.—A serious accident has occurred at the mill of Messrs. S. Anderton and Co., Leeds-road, Bradford. Something appears to have gone wrong with the engine, for while in full work the flywheel broke, and scattered fragments in other parts of the engine and completely smashed it. The consequence is that 600 persons are thrown out of employment. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

THE ART OF CONQUEST IS LOST WITHOUT THE ART OF EATING.—A gentleman writes: "When I feel out of sorts I take a dose of ENO'S FRUIT SALT one hour before dinner; the effect is all I could wish." How to enjoy good food, that would otherwise cause biliousness, headache, or disordered stomach, use ENO'S FRUIT SALT.—All chemists. Price 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d.

SARAH BERNHARDI AS "PHEDRE."

The *Times*, in noticing the first performance of the Comédie Française Company at the Gaiety Theatre, says: The second act of "Phèdre" gives some opportunity for *Mounet-Sully* in the character of *Hippolyte* a royal of his hidden flame for *Aricie*; and a great opportunity to *Phèdre* when, tearing off the thin veil of propriety in which she at first tries to conceal her guilty love, she stands revealed before her horror-stricken stepson, a creature of feelings in the submit human passion—"*toute de larmes et de feu dessèche*"—and after pouring out the lava-flood of her unnatural flame, in a transport of shame and despair, snatches the sword from the belt of *Hippolyte* with a hoarse cry of "Donnez," and tries to thrust it into her breast. This tremendous scene Madame Bernhardt rendered with a self-abandonment that took no measure of her strength. She succeeded in giving to the scene the torrent of her passion. And when at last the storm seemed to shatter her being, and she sank inert and unmanageable upon the arm of *Œnone*, the house seemed rather to be relieving its pent-up feelings in its tumult of applause than offering a tribute to the fair, frail creature, who had so held their breaths suspended on her fate. The costume was built at Poplar in 1865, and her stem constructed as a ram. Her armament consisted of fourteen Armstrong guns—twelve 70-pounder and two 150-pounder pivot guns.

A letter from Callao, in a agent at Lima, dated April 23, contains the following:

"I have now further to advise you of the bombardment of Mollendo and Pisagua. The former has suffered but little damage, and that principally about the railway works. The latter, however, has suffered very severely from shelling, being almost completely destroyed by fire.

"The Chilians attempted a landing, but were beaten off with several dead and wounded, while the Peruvians lost only one killed and wounded, the only about twelve persons wounded. Iquique still continues blockaded, and from last advices it would appear that the Chilians were about to attempt a landing in force."

The *Mercurio* of Valparaiso thus writes respecting the war: The war into which we have been drawn by the duplicity and conduct of Bolivia and her non-fulfilment of the treaties existing between her and this Republic, has extended into Peru, a country which, from the commencement of the conflict, manifested very hostile feelings towards us. Our Government at last became convinced that Peru neither could nor would remain neutral, as the contest to which we have been provoked by Bolivia; that it was evident that Peru was preparing actively for war, and that she had not even scrupled in sending muskets and cartridges to La Paz. The documents referring to these facts were laid before the Council of State, and this body on the 1st of April unanimously resolved to declare war against Peru. On the same day a message embodying the declaration of the Council of State was laid before the Chamber of Deputies, and the whole House rose up and approved the declaration in the midst of unanimous applause. The same took place in the Senate. By virtue of this, on the 5th of April, the anniversary of the battle of Maipu, the decree declaring war against Peru and Bolivia was solemnly proclaimed in Santiago. Our fleet, which was at that time at Antofagasta, immediately set sail for Peru. On the 5th of April it appeared off Iquique, the port through which nearly all the nitrate is exported, and declared it fully blockaded. The admiral of our vessel gave the ships anchored in the bay the term of ten days to clear out. There were 4000 soldiers of the line at Iquique, who retired to the interior on the arrival of our vessel. It appears there a part of the squadron marched northward, undoubtedly for the purpose of blockading Arica, and thus prevent the Peruvians from bringing any money from Lima to the south. Here it is expected and hoped that the Peruvian fleet will sail at once from Callao, and offer combat to ours. On the result of that naval encounter will depend, in a great measure, the success of the campaign that has commenced. The declaration of war has been received throughout the country with the greatest enthusiasm. This pacific nation, which owes everything to peace and to labour, is perhaps the most warlike in America when she sees that any one pretends to stain the honour of her country. The decree declaring the war has been proclaimed, both here and at Santiago, in the midst of the most enthusiastic manifestations of rejoicing. Great mob crowded meetings have been held, in which enthusiasm has been carried to the highest pitch. In these meetings all shades of every political colour have embraced each other fraternally; men who a few days previously at the electoral urns had appeared as irreconcilable enemies, now shook hands. Even the country is in danger all political emulties disappear in Chili. At one of the meetings in Valparaiso, from 10,000 to 12,000 men marched through the streets with both hack and bayonet. The Peruvians are singing the national anthem, There were many ardent speeches on the occasion. The streets and the balconies of the houses were crowded with spectators, so enthusiastic as those who formed part of the procession.

SERIOUS FIRE IN LONDON.

FIVE FIREMEN INJURED.

A fire which broke out in Islington during the time of the recent storm has proved to be very serious. The fire-brigade was first summoned about 3 o'clock. Forty-five, which was found to be raging at the residence of Mr. R. Marshall, 98, Englefield-road, Islington. Two manuals and a land steamer were brought from Farringdon-road, and another fire station, were speedily in attendance, but the whole of the family were rescued before their arrival. It was found that the fire was on the second floor, both back and front. The Firemen managed to surround the burning building, and were enabled to pour an immense stream of water upon the flames. In order to play upon the seat of the fire, upper rooms, five firemen, accompanied by Superintendent Gatehouse, got inside the back room. The superintendent had only just passed outside when a terrible crash was heard when a fearful crash was heard, and the whole of the ceilings were carried away by the weight of the falling roof, burying the firemen beneath the heavy rubbish, and had to be cut away before they could be rescued. The following are the names of the injured men: Engineer William Aslin, 38; married; severely contused and bruised on the right hand; A. R. Shepperd, 29, severely burnt on face and hands, and shock to the system; William Groom, 22, burnt on back, neck, and hands, and shock; G. Lonsdale, 24, and George Russell, 25, severe shock to the system and dreadfully burnt. In the afternoon Engineer Aslin was removed to his home, and the other three men are lying in St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The flames extended to the private residence of Mr. A. Lewis, 96, Englefield-road. Firemen Hood escaped by jumping out of the top window into the fire escape.

THE ERUPTION OF MOUNT ETNA.

A Rome correspondent, under date 30th May, says: The lava stream on the Bronte side of Mt. Etna stream is pouring down in a fiery river seventy metres broad. It has passed the carriage road between Bronte and Randazzo, and reached within two kilometres of the River Alcantara. The inhabitants of Mio, on the back, are flying for their lives, and their crops are threatened. Inexplicable damage has been done to the fields, vineyards, and chestnut woods. A telegram in the *Fanfulla* from Professor Silvestri says that a fearful eruption of lava has poured forth. Both flanks of Etna are cleft, and are pouring out lava streams.

The *Bersaglière* says that the lava from Mount Etna has poured into the River Alcantara, laving waste the surrounding country. It now threatens Giarre, having approached within two miles. Damage to property is considerable, the lava covering a tract eleven kilometres long.

FRAUD ON A BUILDING SOCIETY.—ARTHUR ROBERT, 48, and WILLIAM Creighton, 52, who were convicted last Old Bailey session of obtaining £300 from the Cavendish Building Society by conspiracy and false pretences, were brought up for judgment. It will be recollected that the female prisoner had possession of the lease of a house in Lower Belgrave-street, and she borrowed the sum mentioned from the society upon the security of this lease. The money was to have been repaid by instalments, but this engagement was not kept, and when the prosecutrix sought to enforce her rights under the lease, a sub-lease, alleged to have been granted to the defendant Creighton, was put forward, which was alleged to have been concocted by the two defendants for the purpose of defrauding the building society of their money. It was now stated by Mr. Besley, who appeared for the prosecution, that since they had been convicted the defendants had done all in their power to enable the society to obtain their rights. The Recorder sentenced the prisoners to six months' hard labour.

Image © THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AMERICA.

SINKING OF THREE WAR SHIPS.

The following telegraphic intelligence has been received at Lloyd's:

"Engagement off Iquique between the Chilian wooden vessels *Esmeralda* and *Covadonga* and the Peruvian armour-plated frigate *Independencia*, when all three sank.

"The *Esmeralda* is stated to have been originally a Spanish gunboat."

The *Esmeralda*, the vessel referred to in Lloyd's telegram, was built in England of teak by the Messrs. Green. She was a steam corvette. In 1875, during a heavy gale, she went ashore in Valparaiso Bay, and had her subsequently to forego some her hind pairs. She was named after a Spanish 40-gun frigate cut out from under the forts of Callao in 1865 by the Chilians and their allies, commanded by Admiral Cochrane. The *Covadonga* was a Spanish steam war sloop, and was captured during the subsequent war with Spain in 1865, when the Spanish fleet, under Admiral Funcon, blockaded the Chilian coast. The *Independencia*, the Peruvian ironclad, has for many years carried the admiral's pennant as flagship. She was built at Poplar in 1865, and had her stem constructed as a ram. Her armament consisted of fourteen Armstrong guns—twelve 70-pounder and two 150-pounder pivot guns.

A letter from Lima, dated April 23, contains the following:

"I have now further to advise you of the bombardment of Mollendo and Pisagua. The former has suffered but little damage, and that principally about the railway works. The latter, however, has suffered very severely from shelling, being almost completely destroyed by fire.

"The Chilians attempted a landing, but were beaten off with several dead and wounded, while the Peruvians lost only one killed and wounded, the only about twelve persons wounded. Iquique still continues blockaded, and from last advices it would appear that the Chilians were about to attempt a landing in force."

The *Mercurio* of Valparaiso thus writes respecting the war: The war into which we have been drawn by the duplicity and conduct of Bolivia and her non-fulfilment of the treaties existing between her and this Republic, has extended into Peru, a country which, from the commencement of the conflict, manifested very hostile feelings towards us. Our