SAVOY THEATRE.
THIS EVENING, at 8.30, HMS. PINAFORE; OR, THE LASS THAT LOVED A SAILOR. Messrs. G. Grossmith, R. Barrington, J. G. Robertson, R. Temple, R. Cummings, R. Lewis; Misses Leonora Braham, E. Bond, and R. Brandram.—At 10.40, Mr. Grossmith's Drawing Room Sketch, "Homburg; or, Haunted by the Minuets."

OPERA COMIQUE.
THIS EVENING, at 8.45, AS IN A LOOKING-GLASS. Mdmes. Eva Sothern, Muriel Aubrey, Ashford, Marie Wynter, and Mrs. Richard Barry; Messrs. J. G. Graham, Buckhay, A. M. Denison, Arthur Manvell, H. Grattan, H. Deane, H. W. Brame, and Mons. Marius.—Preceded, at 8, by MY LITTLE GIRL.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications must in every case be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but in pledge of good faith.

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NOTICE.

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HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE.
To-Day—Morning, 0h. 53m.....Afternoon, 1h. 19m.
To-Morrow—Morning, 1h. 44m.....Afternoon, 2h. 8m.

LONDON, WEDNESDAY, December 14

Lord Granville, together with Lord Spencer and a number of members of Parliament, was the guest of the Eighty Club last evening at a dinner given at Willis's Rooms. Lord Granville delivered an address, in which he expressed the opinion that some of the Dissentient Liberals would rejoin the Liberal party and some go over to the Conservatives. With respect to Irish measures, it would be the duty of the Opposition carefully to examine anything that was submitted, to take nothing for granted, and to seek for the truth, but not to shrink from examining and criticising what might appear, from their knowledge of the facts, open to censure.

Speaking last night at Oldham, Lord Rosebery criticised the speeches delivered at the late Dissentient Liberal banquets in London and Dublin, asking why, if the loyalists in Ireland had the influence claimed for them, they did not change the aspect of the elections. He especially dealt with the Duke of Argyll's denial that old Whig traditions were opposed to the Union, and feared that the tone of the Dissentient Liberal proceedings forbade the hope that the split in the ranks of the Liberal party would be healed even after the next election.

Sir George Trevelyan, speaking at Sunderland yesterday, declared that his experience in Ireland had shown him that three branches of Irish administration—the development of the resources of the country, local government, and education—ought to be placed unreservedly in the hands of the Irish people.

Mr. Labouchere and Mr. Bradlaugh addressed their constituents at Northampton last night, both alluding to the work of last session. With regard to the coming session, Mr. Labouchere said that Liberals must not accept a sham Local Government Bill, and that a Bill to simplify the transfer of land, desirable though it might be, would not satisfy the democracy, who wanted a radical alteration of the land laws. A vote of confidence in the two hon. members was unanimously carried.

Speaking at West Islington last night, Mr. Broadhurst said that the Liberal party in the country was being rapidly re-united, though he could not hope for the reunion of the Liberal leaders.

An adjourned meeting of the Irish Landlords' Convention took place in Dublin yesterday, when a resolution was adopted affirming that, on various grounds, landowners were entitled to compensation from the State. A decision upon the further question as to what form the compensation should take was postponed.

Sir Robert Fowler, M.P., presided at a breakfast given at the Westminster Palace Hotel yesterday by the Aborigines Protection Society to Colonel Coope and the deputation from the Chiefs of Amatongaland, who are visiting England to ask the Government to establish a Protectorate in their country and to assist the Chiefs in suppressing the drink traffic. Members of the deputation, Earl Delaware and others, addressed the company, and a resolution expressing the hope that the deputation would be successful in their efforts was passed.

Presiding last night at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute at the Whitehall Rooms of the Hotel Metropole, where Mr. Walter Hazell read a paper on "Practical Means of Extending Emigration," Mr. Childers said he believed that if emigration societies would act more together the large amount of information they possessed might be more advantageously used. The work of selecting emigrants could be done better by individuals and agencies than by the Imperial Government.

The Council of the Baptist Union yesterday appointed a deputation to wait upon Mr. Spurgeon at Mentone and deliberate with him upon the question how the unity of the denomination in true love and good works may best be maintained.

The Fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society met at South Kensington yesterday to consider the position of the society. Sir Trevor Lawrence, who presided, spoke of the difficulty of obtaining a site, and of the need for further funds. Ultimately the meeting approved of certain proposals in the circular of the council. It also requested the council to consider the advisability of obtaining a supplementary charter, and to vary the bye-laws in such a way as to give the Fellows full control over the election of the council.

The seventh exhibition of the St. Bernards Club was opened at Lillie Hall, Lillie-bridge, yesterday, and will be continued until to-morrow night.

President Carnot's Message was read in the French Chamber yesterday. After referring to the honour conferred upon him by his election, M. Carnot says that he will strive unremittingly to justify the confidence of the National Assembly. With appeasement, security, and confidence the Government desires to assure to the country steady progress and practical reforms. It will especially study to improve the finances and effect a real equilibrium between revenue and expenditure. Much attention will be bestowed upon the land and sea forces. France, respected abroad and calm and prosperous at home, will thus be able to prepare peacefully for the celebration of the great Centenary of 1889.

The tribunal to which the charges against M. Wilson have been submitted has decided that there is no case to lay before the Courts, and no further proceedings will be taken.

A telegram from our New York Correspondent says it is believed that Mr. Chamberlain's visit to Canada is for the purpose of making it clear to the Government there that unless it modifies the position it has taken up in the Fishery Conference, no result can be obtained.

The trial of the action against Isaac Woolf, Harris and Louis Goldstein, tailors, of Spitalfields, and Adolph Silverstein, of New York, for fraud in the importation of about 1,700lb. of tobacco, was concluded in the Queen's Bench Division yesterday. The tobacco had been sent to Liverpool under cover of what appeared to be eight bales of cotton pickings. Treble duty, amounting to about 1,500*l.* or 1,600*l.*, was claimed. All the defendants who had not already pleaded guilty, except Louis Goldstein, were found guilty, and judgment was given for the Crown, execution being ordered to issue for the penalties.

Leon Serné, a hairdresser, and his assistant, John Henry Goldfinch, were indicted at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for the wilful murder of two sons of the prisoner Serné. The question for the jury to determine was whether the prisoners set fire to the shop, 274, Strand, as the fire caused the death of the two boys. Several police and other witnesses were called, and the Court adjourned until to-day.

At Wicklow yesterday, the trial of the seven Emergency men on the charge of murdering John Kinsella, at Coolgreany, ended in a verdict of not guilty being returned against all the prisoners.

In London last week the death-rate per thousand from all causes, which had been 23.0 and 21.1 in the two preceding weeks, declined to 19.5. There were 39 deaths from scarlet fever, or 11 below the corrected average, and fewer than in any week since the beginning of October.

Between the 1st April and the 10th instant the Exchequer receipts were 54,200,397*l.*, as compared with 54,911,864*l.* in the corresponding period of the last financial year; and the expenditure 56,175,332*l.*, as against 58,555,740*l.* On Saturday last the Treasury balances amounted to 3,066,172*l.*, and on the corresponding date last year to 1,721,376*l.*

The stock markets yesterday were firm at the opening, but relapsed at the close. A fair amount of business was transacted, considering the hindrance caused by the preliminary arrangements for the account. Money was fairly easy. Home railway stocks receded at the close, owing to a relapse in the price of pig iron. Foreign government securities were better, but American and Canadian Railways gave way slightly. Consols were easier at 101⅞, 101¾ for the account, but colonial stocks were good. At the Bank the sum of 50,000*l.* in sovereigns was withdrawn, and 50,000*l.* sent in.

The Eighty Club.

THE Eighty Club held last night its first dinner since the withdrawal of the Dissentient Liberals from its ranks, and never in the annals of the society have its proceedings been more enthusiastic or more satisfactory. Lord GRANVILLE was the guest of the evening, and delivered an excellent speech of counsel and encouragement. But the most remarkable incident which occurred was undoubtedly the reception given to Lord SPENCER. It was not in the programme, as Lord SPENCER himself modestly complained, that he should open his lips, except for purposes of refreshment. But at the conclusion of the regular business the calls for him were so loud and long that he was compelled to rise, and express in a few manly straightforward sentences his conviction of the necessity for Home Rule. Lord SPENCER, like his famous uncle, is not a professional orator. But just as Lord ALTHORP dominated the House of Commons by lucid integrity and plain common sense, so his nephew, who has been twice Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, impresses all who hear him with a force stronger than eloquence and higher than ingenuity. If the Irish Question could be decided by authority, Lord SPENCER would be a better witness than even Mr. GLADSTONE himself. It cannot be so decided, and it must be argued out until every argument on either side is torn into tatters, or worn into threads. But meanwhile it is worth noting that a picked assembly of English Liberals, all of whom have studied the politics of the day in their minutest details, welcome Lord SPENCER with fervour, not because he has anything new to tell them, but because they recognise in him a typical Englishman, with all the qualities of a ruler who has found by experience that England cannot rule Ireland in accordance with the first principles of the Liberal creed. Lord SPENCER said a few words last night upon the fatal error of supposing that to settle the question of Irish land was to settle the government of Ireland. It was Mr. DISRAELI, if we mistake not, who, in attacking Lord JOHN RUSSELL, first promulgated that mischievous doctrine. Too many Liberal Ministers have since accepted it, and before the general election of 1885 it could not be conclusively disproved. Since that time it should have been consigned to the lumber-room of politics, and it is only employed at the present time by those who, caring nothing whatever for Irish land, desire to defeat as best they may, and with any weapons that may be handy, the Irish demand for Home Rule.

Lord GRANVILLE, who was in great force and vigour, had undertaken to address the Eighty Club on the attitude of the Opposition. He had, as the Chairman, Mr. ROBSON, pointed out in his most felicitous introductory remarks, a peculiar qualification for the post. During the last twenty years Lord GRANVILLE has been at the head of a permanent minority in the House of Lords. But he has stooped to conquer. He has been beaten at the moment, not in argument but in debate, only to receive the submission of the victors after the next division in the House of Commons or the next appeal to the country. Every one knows with what graceful irony, with what tact and adroitness, with what barbed and polished wit Lord GRANVILLE has discharged his difficult and delicate task. He gave some specimens of his peculiar talent last night. In the flood of rhetoric with which the Dissentient Liberals deluged the country last week there are a few life-buoys to which the wayfaring man, though a fool, can cling. Such was the Duke of ARGYLL's exquisitely ridiculous allusion to the "grass-grown streets of Venice," which can only be compared with Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT's fiery denunciation of Mr. GLADSTONE for not sending the British fleet to the roots of the Caucasus, or the coast of Poland. Lord GRANVILLE put his finger upon another island in the ocean when he cited Mr. GOSCHEN's statement that the Austrian Governors of Italian provinces could not have got up such a meeting as the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER addressed in Dublin. "Public "meetings," said Lord GRANVILLE drily, "were not much in their line." And, indeed, it must be admitted that RADETSKY, with all his faults, was more honest than Lord SALISBURY. The Austrians did not shuffle and whine and cant. They frankly admitted that they were holding Lombardy and Venetia, not for the good of Lombards and Venetians, but for their own. They did not call together everyone who thought he had a pecuniary interest in their continued presence, and then claim that public opinion was on their side. The art of playing off individuals against representatives is another invention of the Dissentient Liberals. Lord GRANVILLE was unkind enough to prick the bubble. If, he said, you get your "whole party united in one building," it is not difficult to fill a town hall of ordinary dimensions in a somewhat inconvenient manner. Lord GRANVILLE set an example of conciliation in his references to his former colleagues which they are not likely to reciprocate, and which will probably be quite thrown away upon them. His compliments were elegant and becoming. But soft words butter no parsnips, and are wasted in Billingsgate. An admiring chronicler of the Dissentient Conference has drawn attention to Lord SELBORNE's attack upon Mr. GLADSTONE as the finest exhibition of personal bitterness ever afforded by a pious old gentleman of seventy-five.

Lord GRANVILLE did well to lay stress upon the totally new departure of reactionary Toryism in Ireland. Hitherto political parties in this country have agreed in respecting the law and the Constitution. But the present Government ignores the Constitution, and rides roughshod over the law. That is the broad, fundamental, and irreconcilable difference between the Liberal party and its opponents. We are determined that the law shall be enforced without respect of persons, and that it shall be the same for Ireland as for England. They are resolved so long as they have the power to impose exceptional disabilities upon Irishmen and to uphold the officers of the law on the other side of St. George's Channel in violating that which officers of the law are above all men bound to obey. So long as Lord HARTINGTON gives his countenance to this gross and shameful lawlessness, of which we have seen so many instances lately, reconciliation with him is impossible. He must forswear the society of Ministerial criminals before he can hope for political salvation. "The "two kingdoms," as Lord GRANVILLE well said, "are not yet united," and they never will be under the present system. Mr. BALFOUR of course believes no more in Lord SALISBURY's theories of government than he believes in Mr. FREDERIC HARRISON's theories of education. It is his present cue, which he despises no more than he would any other, to deal with those Irishmen who do not happen to agree with the opinions he happens to profess as the labourer in Lord GRANVILLE's story boasted that he dealt with his children. "I beats "'em whenever I sees 'em," said this great but unappreciated Tory statesman. "I beats 'em "when I wouldn't beat a dog." Yet, strange to say, they were still sometimes naughty. Lord GRANVILLE was deservedly thanked for his advice and illustrations in two most successful speeches, one by Mr. KENNEDY, Q.C., Senior Classic in a family where to be Senior Classic is no distinction, the other by Mr. CHARLES RUSSELL, son of the eminent member for South Hackney. His duty would not have been completely discharged if he had not dwelt for a few moments upon the scandalous manner in which her MAJESTY's Ministers have shirked the revival of Protection in the Conservative party. The political cowardice of Lord SALISBURY and Mr. GOSCHEN in this respect has been simply despicable. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, whose career since he took office in the present Government is a melancholy series of principles sacrificed to party, has only behaved as any intelligent observer of recent events might have expected of him. But Lord SALISBURY, who was always a Protectionist at heart, might at least have plucked up the resolution to say something on the great financial question of the day. Mr. JACKSON, the Secretary to the Treasury, has spoken out manfully for Free Trade, and all honest men will respect him for it. Even Mr. GOSCHEN must screw his courage to the sticking-place in the end, though a letter from him, which we publish this morning, shows that he has not done so yet. To come after Mr. JACKSON will be galling. But when a man divides his time between boasting of his valour, and running away from his difficulties, he is apt to find himself in thorny places.

President Carnot's Message.

PRESIDENT CARNOT's Message to the Chambers is worthy of himself and of the occasion. It is temperate and firm, and a profound intent underlies every passage of courtesy and congratulation. This intent we take to be the enforcement of the duty which the Chambers owe to themselves and to the country. On three separate occasions in the course of this short document the writer very plainly signifies his opinion that the responsibility for the harmonious working of the institutions of the Republic lies with the representatives of the nation. He has conveyed the lesson with no little adroitness, for in form it seems little more than a happy augury for the future derived from the concord and union that led to his election. In substance it is much more. Since the election, the Chambers have become more than ever the masters of France. The change which has been going on of late years, and which has gradually vested in their hands the administrative as well as the legislative functions, has culminated in the late display of their competence to unmake a President, and to set a new one in his place. This enormous power involves corresponding duties. If the Chambers cannot agree to a practical course, there seems to be no constituted authority outside of them to bring them to reason. There can be little doubt that they will see the necessity of agreement, especially after the weighty words to which they have just listened. If the Presidential vote the other day was a proof of their supremacy, it was also a proof of their statesmanlike prudence and self-control. No Assembly could have passed through a crisis with more credit to itself. While enforcing the necessity of union, the PRESIDENT gives some hints—they are hardly more—of the means by which it may be brought about. He shows that among objects of solicitude with his Government will be the labour question, public hygiene, thrift, the state of the finances, the simplification of the machinery of government, and of course purity of administration. To this, as our Paris Correspondent has shown, he might have added the abandonment of the policy of Colonial adventure. It remains to be seen how far this programme as it stands will conciliate the most advanced parties, who have hitherto exhibited but scant enthusiasm for projects that do not more directly affect the social condition of the labouring classes. Some of the Radicals, as we may infer from a remark of our Paris Correspondent, are likely to find their account in the promise of budgetary reform, and in the prospect of a policy of common sense abroad. For those who go beyond them in their demands, the Message contains one word of comfort in the mention of "mutuality" as an object of Presidential concern.

This word is even less significant than Mesopotamia to English ears, but it may be taken to refer to the whole series of social problems bearing on the relations of class and class, and especially on the relations of capital and labour. This is the prime, and indeed the only question, for vast numbers in the French towns, and beside it honour or glory abroad and mere administrative efficiency at home seem matters of slight moment. A small but determined school of French politicians wish to reorganize labour in a way that will secure its entire profits to the worker. The only schemes they condescend to notice are those which would ultimately make the State the universal landlord, capitalist, and employer, with the whole people as the ultimate board of arbitration in all disputes. The real cause of the mistrust of M. FERRY is that he is a mere statesman, and that, like GAMBETTA before him, he is disposed to say in his haste "*il n'y a pas de question sociale.*" In a certain sense, there is in France no question but that, for some trace of it is to be found in every party struggle. The feeling of the poorer population of the towns is that, now they have the power, they ought to use it to make themselves better off; and many of them, it is to be feared, will find but cold comfort in the recommendation to improve their condition by such slow processes of evolutionary reform as thrift and public hygiene. Beyond them, however, lie the immense masses of rural France; and with these, on the side of established order, are the innumerable holders of property of other kinds. The differences between the two sections are still far from ripe for passionless debate, and they belong altogether to a remote future in which neither President CARNOT nor any other statesman can be expected to feel much concern. In the meanwhile the Chambers must agree to a programme of real and visible, and, we could almost add, striking reforms. This we take to be the meaning of the PRESIDENT. His Message not only marks the opening of a new era, it seems to coincide with the definitive close of an old one. On the day of its delivery a French tribunal reported that there was no case against M. WILSON to lay before the Courts!

The African Deputation.

AT the breakfast which was held under the presidency of Sir ROBERT FOWLER, at the Westminster Palace Hotel, yesterday, the case of the Amatongas was for the first time brought clearly before the public. Amatongaland is a territory in south-eastern Africa which connects Zululand with Delagoa Bay; and the natives are therefore brought into contact with the Portuguese at that place. Colonel JESSER COOPE, who brought the deputation to England, speaks with a personal knowledge of the country, derived from several months residence in it. He was very favourably impressed with the character and habits of the people, especially with their industry and their freedom from the grosser forms of crime. As we have now annexed Zululand, it would no doubt be very inconvenient to us if any other European Power seized the Amatongaland coast—which contains more than one good port—and, at the same time, diverted to other channels labour which has proved so useful to the diamond fields and to the public works of the Cape Colony. But Colonel COOPE bases his appeal to the public largely on a laudable desire to save the Amatongas from being destroyed by the liquor traffic. At the present moment that traffic is confined to certain districts of the country adjacent to the Portuguese settlements. It is not only that traders from that quarter introduce large quantities of spirits, but the drink itself is of the vilest quality. The consequence is that it acts as a poison on the people, inflicting upon them great physical suffering, disease, and sterility. Colonel COOPE described the numerous pyramids of iron hoops from the gin casks which met his eye during his journey; and he remarked that each one of these heaps represented a considerable waste of human life. He urges that a treaty for the suppression of the traffic should be negotiated between Great Britain and Portugal. We think that every effort should be made to give effect to this suggestion, for but little can be done to stop the ravages of strong drink in any part of Africa except on the basis of an international arrangement. The Amatongas, or Maputas as Mr. ROBERT GRANTHAM prefers to call them, are anxious to obtain British protection; but while they are perfectly willing that we should control their external relations, they wish to continue to govern themselves in their own way. For this reason they do not desire to come under Natal native law or to be united to Zululand. They do not ask for British soldiers because the natural defences of the country, in the shape of an almost impenetrable bush, make it virtually impregnable. Queen ZAMBILE seeks only the moral influence and friendship of England. Sir HENRY HOLLAND will no doubt give a sympathetic ear to her request. In the meanwhile it would be well if he made public the terms of the treaty which the Natal authorities have lately entered into with Amatongaland, especially as the deputation insist that while it secures certain advantages to us it gives the natives none in return.

The Royal Horticultural Society.

THE meeting of Fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society, held yesterday at South Kensington, is decisive of a great change in the fortunes of the institution. The Society is being virtually turned out of its present home to make room for the Imperial Institute, and the question the Fellows had to decide was whether they should adopt the recommendations of their Council urging them to find a central site elsewhere, and largely to modify their system of management. They came to the wise resolution to adopt them. The Society will endeavour to reconstruct itself on a more popular basis, firstly by lowering the subscription, next, as it is generally understood, by including in its ranks the great body of professional gardeners who have hitherto been conspicuous by their absence. At present the Society is largely composed of amateurs, many of whom have the remotest possible connection with horticulture, either as a science or as a taste. It has, in a word, paid the penalty of trying to be ultra-fashionable. There will be no more of that: in the words of Sir TREVOR LAWRENCE, the Society will in future "ignore the fashionable world." Another site in London is said to be indispensable for the housing of the library, and for other purposes, above all, for the convenience of those who attend the fortnightly shows. This will no doubt be obtained, with all other necessary advantages, if only the Society will carry out its own programme of internal reform. The Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851 have been blamed for asking a rental that really constitutes a notice to quit, but in view of the condition into which their tenant has fallen, their rigour may be the truest mercy. Nothing less than this sharp warning would have enabled the Society to realise its position. It would be difficult to foresee any limit to its usefulness, if it were really popular in its constitution, for popular support would be quite consistent with due provision for the prosecution of scientific inquiry. When the Society has shaken itself free of the trammels of fashion it need no longer, as one of the speakers complained, have "to grow everybody's "rubbish" at Chiswick, free of cost. The passion of the English people for gardening is as strong as for most other elevating pursuits. Wisely directed, the Society might easily become the great technical school of an art that would beautify every home. The reduction of the subscription is a step of the first importance; and with this and the determination to welcome knowledge and skill wherever they may be found, without regard to rank or position, the Society ought to be able to secure a highly favourable renewal of its lease of life.

Hospital Sunday.

IT is gratifying to learn that the Hospital Sunday Fund shares in the general increase which marks the progress of the nation. The sum collected this year, as was stated at the annual meeting of the constituents of the Fund, is greater than in any year since the foundation. The increase is not very considerable, 40,607*l.* as against 40,399*l.* last year, but it compares well with the yield of the first year of collection, 1874, when it stood at only 30,000*l.* More congregations have contributed this time; on the other hand, there are more institutions to share in the bounty, and that, of course, means more suffering. In all probability therefore public liberality increases only in proportion to the need of it. Some slight heart-burning was manifested at the meeting as to the distribution of the Fund. South London, it was said, had not received an award proportioned to the amount of its contribution. Where it is possible to avoid raising questions of this kind it is better to do so; there is a certain breadth of charitable sentiment in the general appeal which discussions as to the special application may tend to diminish. The awards, it is to be supposed, are made on the proportional system; in that case South London, whatever the amount of its subscription, ought to have been relieved according to its needs. This principle of distribution will, no doubt, account for the great variety in the grants. Thus, while the French Hospital gets 208*l.*, and the Italian only 67*l.*, the German Hospital gets 677*l.* The largest grant seems to be the 1,979*l.* given to the Middlesex Hospital. St. George's does not fare badly with 1,875*l.* Among special institutions, the Consumption Hospital at Brompton takes the same sum as St. George's; and very properly, in view of its high usefulness, it heads the list in this section. The two largest convalescent institutions—at Bexhill and at Eastbourne—receive about 600*l.* each, the first a little over that sum. These would be substantial additions to the resources of any charity, and they entitle the originator of the plan of universal Sunday collection to rank among the benefactors of his kind.

A CONVENTION of landlords is now, by the grace of the LORD-LIEUTENANT of IRELAND and of Mr. BALFOUR, sitting in Dublin to discuss grievances and to formulate demands upon the Government of the country. Conventions of tenants are on a different footing. Their great convention, the National League, is practically suppressed. It has preached principles and advocated legislation which, at first repudiated, have, with the ripening of time, proved to be imperative. A Coercionist Government itself passed a great portion of the Land Bill of the National League's leader, and then proclaimed the League. The landlords, now that they have a clear field to themselves, hold their Convention, and have, so far, passed one comprehensive resolution confidently proclaiming a title to compensation from the State. They are now in the middle of a discussion, which will be resumed to-day, as to the form in which they will take that compensation. Meanwhile they must expect to find the statement in their first resolution on which their claim is founded decisively negatived by the public voice. The ridiculous doctrine that the legislation of 1881 amounted to a Parliamentary guarantee of the landlords' rents is not likely to be accepted simply because of persistency in its repetition; nor can it be allowed in the face of the Report of the COWPER Commission, that "rents have in many cases been reduced far below what could be justified by reference to economic causes alone." The Duke of ABERCORN, who has been fortunate enough to dispose of a third of his Irish estates on very favourable terms under Lord ASHBOURNE's Act, says the landlords loyally accept the legislation of the past, but both resolutions and speeches at the Convention prove that the Duke, when he said this did not know the mind of his fellow landowners. Conventions of landlords invariably give the impression that only the owner of the soil should never suffer from adversity. For the tenants there was no compensation when their interests were confiscated, and their rents extracted not from the produce of the soil, but from the earnings of children in England or America. The answer of too many landlords to warnings that they should be merciful was like SHYLOCK's, "On what compulsion must I?" In framing their demands for compensation now let them not tempt SHYLOCK's fate.

MR. VINCENT CAILLARD has published an interesting pamphlet on Turkish finance, which has been for some years in commission for the benefit of British bondholders and other creditors. He considers that this arrangement has been favoured by improved administration, so that, although Turkey is impoverished in consequence of an unhealthy system of credit, adverse exchanges, and a stringent money market, the bondholders' revenues have increased. He expresses a strong hope that the elasticity in the revenues administered on the bondholders' behalf will continue, especially in outlying regions, the control of which still admits of improvement. He has also great hopes that Tribute payments will be resumed by Eastern Roumelia, but expresses no opinion on the probability of payments by the other contributory Balkan States. In common with all studies of Turkish finance, the present report inspires regret that so fair a country should be so ill-administered by native rulers.

THE Society for Promoting the Return of Women as Poor Law Guardians is doing good service at the present time by pointing out that if women were associated with the administration of the poor law, many of the acknowledged defects of the existing system might be remedied. Mr. WALTER MCLAREN, M.P., at a recent meeting at Norwood, urged that the ratepayers' money had been sadly wasted by the building of great barrack schools, but that if women were appointed guardians the boarding-out system could be worked with great advantage both to the ratepayers and to the children. He illustrated the advantages of female supervision by referring to a workhouse in which the children suffered much from cold feet and chilblains. A lady guardian, whose suspicions were excited, caused the little ones to take off their boots, and then found that the feet of the stockings had been cut off to save the trouble of mending them. In another case a hundred and ten yards of stuff were purchased in order to provide materials for the making of six aprons, and other examples of reckless extravagance were also cited. Mrs. ASHFORD, of Birmingham—who spoke from personal experience—dwelt upon the value of the supervision which ladies could exercise over pauper girls from fourteen to eighteen years of age. The results already accomplished fully justify the steps which are now being taken to bring forward next year as many lady candidates for the office of guardian as possible. Mr. SHIELEY proposes to make the path more easy by abolishing the property qualification which candidates must now possess. For this purpose he will introduce a Bill into the next Session of Parliament.

BRAZIL nuts, which figure so conspicuously on the stalls of Covent-garden market at this season, have now become so important an article of commerce that our colonies are making resolute efforts to acclimatise the Castenea tree. The official bulletin of the Royal Gardens, Kew, just published, contains some interesting particulars on this subject. The Castanea is a native only of South America, and is scarcely known outside the tropics of the New World. It grows gregariously in large forests, reaches a great height, and produces the nuts in a spherical shell about the size of an infant's head, which contains from 15 to 25 nuts. So thick and hard is this outer shell that it is necessary to break it with a heavy axe before the nuts can be extracted. In May, 1881, a large supply of seeds was obtained by the Botanical Department of the Government of Jamaica, and distributed among the cultivators in the island. Plants have also been distributed in like manner. Similar experiments, we learn, are in progress at Kew, and persevering attempts in the same direction are being made in North Queensland and at Singapore; but the germination is curiously slow, and it appears that nothing can yet be reported as to the results. Meanwhile better information regarding the conditions of successful cultivation is being obtained, and there seems good reason to hope that Brazil, Guiana, and Venezuela will ere long lose their old monopoly in this field. At the present time about seventy thousand bushels of Brazil nuts are annually imported into this country.

THE indebtedness of science to photography is one of the themes on which the Astronomer Royal for Ireland is eloquently discoursing in lectures which he is at present delivering in the provinces. As an astronomer Sir ROBERT BALL could not fail to take notice in this connection of the remarkable work now being carried on as a memorial of HENRY DRAPER in America. This was enthusiastically acknowledged, at the June conversazione of the Royal Society, by Mr. NORMAN LOCKYER, who took great pride in showing some DRAPER photographs which have been of the greatest aid in spectrum analysis. Mr. DRAPER's widow devoted all her husband's photographic instruments and an adequate endowment to the continuation of his work, and Sir ROBERT BALL makes the emphatic statement that the results obtained by Professor PICKERING and others are such as to constitute one of the noblest monuments an astronomer could desire. As the Astronomer Royal for Ireland says, some of the faintest and most distant stars have now been analysed with a minuteness and accuracy which a few years ago it was thought impossible to realise in the case of our own sun. Now that men of science have got the length of making the sun and stars write the story of their own constitution on photographic plates, who shall assign a limit to their future achievements?

AN exhibition building is for sale. It held the glories of the Manchester Royal Jubilee Exhibition, and the last of what are called internal fixtures and loose materials were disposed of yesterday. To-day the big shell comes under the hammer. The Manchester gentlemen, who a short time ago were so full of pride at the success of this enterprise, are reported to have found this dismantling sale dull and depressing. No wonder there is a desire to sell the building en bloc and have done with the melancholy transaction. A project, however, has been mooted to save "Old Manchester and Salford." This was an imitation of ancient City features somewhat after the model of that "Old London" with which we were familiar at South Kensington. There is a talk of acquiring that and setting it up permanently in a public park. Happy Manchester, to whose Corporation appeals can be made to act with the necessary rapidity in such matters. In London no representative body thus collects the feeling of the whole of the citizens, and not merely imitations but real bits of old London are left to lie neglected like old rubbish heaps, or are given away to decorate private parks.

WE have more than once had occasion to note with satisfaction the energy of provincial magistrates in enforcing the adoption of those precautions against fire in theatres, the necessity for which was so strongly brought home to us by the disasters in Paris and at Exeter. It is equally pleasing to note that the lessees are in most cases displaying ready acquiescence in the views of the magistrates, and showing due alacrity in the satisfaction of the public sentiment. The Bristol magistrates the other day paid a high compliment to the proprietors of the Prince's Theatre for the ungrudging manner in which they had incurred expense to meet the views of the justices. These gentlemen, in the circumstances, did not conceal their sympathy with proprietors, who having originally planned and equipped their theatre as completely as in those days was considered essential, were now reluctantly put by the magistrates to unforeseen expense. In these notes of sympathy and compliment, the public will heartily join when they are attended on both sides with a diligent discharge of duty and a supreme regard for the public safety. We hope the same spirit will prevail in the metropolis.

LAST week a singular festival was held at Bitti, in Sardinia. In the presence of the Prefect of the Province, the Archbishop of NUORO, a provincial deputation, the Syndic of Sassari, and other authorities, a formal oath was taken by the members of two families which had been at enmity for many years reciprocally to pardon all offences and to live in peace and harmony. The number of the members of the two families was 670 persons. A large crowd filled the parish church in which the ceremony was performed, and the next day a banquet was given in the country, for which had been ordered 10 oxen, 14 pigs, 60 sucking-pigs, two hundredweight of macaroni, three hundredweight of bread, and five of fruit, with 10 hectolitres of wine.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint the Right Hon. Viscount Gormanston, K.C.M.G. (Governor of the Leeward Islands), to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of British Guiana, on the retirement of Sir H. Irving, K.C.M.G.

Her Majesty has also been pleased to appoint Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Charles Bullen Hugh-Mitchell, K.C.M.G. (Governor of Fiji, and her Majesty's High Commissioner for the Western Pacific), to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands.

The Queen has also been pleased to appoint Sir John Bates Thurston, K.C.M.G. (Lieutenant-Governor of Fiji), to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of that colony. Sir John Bates Thurston has also been appointed to be her Majesty's High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

THE COURT.

WINDSOR CASTLE, DEC. 13.

Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, with Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud of Wales, attended by Lady Emily Kingscote, arrived at the Castle yesterday at 1 o'clock.

The Queen drove out in the afternoon, accompanied by her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales and Princess Maud of Wales.

Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg drove out, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Princesses Louise and Victoria of Wales.

Her Royal Highness Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein visited her Majesty and her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales yesterday.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Lothian arrived at the Castle, and had the honour of dining with the Queen and the Royal Family.

The Marquis of Lothian had an audience of the Queen, when her Majesty handed to him the seals of office as Secretary and Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Lothian have left the Castle.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, TUESDAY.

The Prince of Wales, attended by the Hon. H. Tyrwhitt-Wilson, left Marlborough House for Windsor Castle to-day on a visit to the Queen.

MR. GLADSTONE ON THE STATE OF IRELAND.—At a meeting addressed by Mr. Stansfeld at Dunoon on Monday evening, the following letter from Mr. Gladstone was read: "If you have my friend Mr. Stansfeld to address you on Monday, I feel sure your meeting can require neither information nor stimulus from me; nor do the people of Scotland generally, or of Argyllshire in particular, need much aid in order to perceive what shocking and painful discord is now created in the name of union, as once the worst crimes were committed in the name of liberty, or how sadly the state of Ireland has grown worse since the present Government came into office."

MR. JOHN MORLEY.—Sir Andrew Clark and Dr. Laukester, who are in attendance upon Mr. John Morley, issued a bulletin late last evening stating that their patient was rather better. During the day numerous inquiries were made at Elm-park-gardens after Mr. Morley's condition. Among others who called were Lord Hobhouse, Lord Spencer, Lord Justice Bowen, Lord Arthur Russell, &c.

Sir John Puleston, M.P., presiding yesterday at the annual meeting of the Royal Albert Hospital, Devonport, said he regretted the action of Parliament in repealing the compulsory clauses of the Contagious Diseases Acts, and announced his intention at the commencement of the next session to introduce a Bill in Parliament entitled "The Retention in Hospital Bill." It would apply only to women who came to the hospital voluntarily, but would compel them to remain there until they were cured.

THE SUGAR BOUNTY CONFERENCE.—Yesterday morning most of the members of the International Sugar Commission were received at the Foreign Office by Baron Henry de Worms and the Earl of Onslow, who conducted them through the Houses of Parliament, and gave them a good deal of interesting information on English Parliamentary procedure. The Conference will meet again at the Foreign Office to-day. Mr. White, from the United States, will again be present, though not in a formal capacity.

FIRES.—A fire occurred on the premises of Mr. R. Spurgeon, mantle-maker, No. 536, Kingsland-road, at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The brigade were summoned by fire alarm, and but a short time elapsed before there were two stand pipes in operation. When the flames were extinguished it was found that the front shop (a projecting one) and show-rooms in the rear had been burned out, together with the contents, and the rest of the house damaged by fire and heat. Mr. Spurgeon was insured in the Phœnix Office.—At noon yesterday an intimation of an outbreak of fire in Russell-place, Guildford-street, Southwark, reached the brigade station at headquarters, Southwark-bridge-road, and a manual was at once "turned out." On the arrival of the brigade it was found that at No. 4 a back room on the ground floor, occupied by a lodger named Moll, was alight. It seems that three young children were left alone by their

"The African Deputation." Daily News, 14 Dec. 1887. British Library Newspapers, link.gale.com/apps/doc/BA3203185082/BNCN?u=ucl_ttda&sid=bookmark-BNCN. Accessed 2 Apr. 2023.