and that it is desirable to devise some mode in which that difficulty can be obviated. With regard to the money which has been already expended and which is now being expended upon these public works, a claim has been made that the whole of it should not be a burden upon Ireland. The calamity is so severe and extensive, that, passing by the remote causes of it, and looking how heavily it has pressed upon the present possessors of property in Ireland—upon the whole, I think it right that the whole burden should not remain upon Irish property. We should, therefore, propose that an arrangement should be made by Parliament, by which, in each succeeding year, when an instalment becomes due, upon half that instalment being paid, the other half should be remitted; that the whole debt should be kept up till one half of it is paid, and that when the half of it is paid the remainder should be remitted; and thus it would be provided, that one half of the whole charge should be upon the public. I should state, on the financial part of this question, as regards the sums now issued, that they are issued out of the balance in the Exchequer, they are issued out of the Consolidated Fund, and that neither is there nor has there been any intention of making any new issue of Exchequer Bills to meet that demand. But it must, at the same time, be considered, that, when I make such a proposition as that which has now been laid before the House, it is one which places a very considerable burden upon the finances of this country (hear, hear); and that, placing that burden upon the finances of this country, I do feel myself disabled from making some propositions I should otherwise have made, but which, considering the very heavy burdens arising from the destitution this present year, I should think it hardly fair to the people of this country to bring forward. It may be said, 'Let the burden be borne by the Consolidated Fund; let it be borne by the Imperial Treasury and Exchequer.' I trust always that those sums are not to be granted by Government or Parliament without most serious consideration (hear, hear); that these are sums derived from payments by the people of this country. (Hear, hear.) It is what they pay on their soap, their sugar, their tea, their coffee. (Hear, hear.) It is that which forms the surplus by which we are able to come to the assistance of Ireland; and, while I believe there is every disposition to do all that is liberal, I do think that we must, in justice to the people of this country, consider their difficulties and their privations, and how, by hard labour, they are earning their daily bread. (Cheers.) As to the other part of this subject which I mentioned, namely, the advances made under authority of the Lord-Lieutenant's order, and of the letter of my right hon. friend (Mr. Labouchere)—the advances having been made to persons who really wished to assist in carrying this measure into effect, and to effect improvements, making their own estates liable—we do think it necessary that the terms of the Treasury minute of the 1st of December should be applied to those who have accepted advances under Mr. Labouchere's letter, and that, instead of requiring repayment in ten years, a period of twenty-two years shall be taken; that the provisions for carrying this proposal into effect should be in terms of the Drainage Act of last year; and that, in regard to its beneficial employment, the whole of that money will be expected to be paid as under that act." (Hear, hear.)

The noble Lord added that he proposed to advance £50,000, to be repaid on or before the 31st of December, 1847, to the proprietors of Ireland, to furnish seed for sowing their lands. He did not intend to advance any part of it to the small cottier-tenants, as it might not be used for the purposes for which it was intended; but he thought that if the advances were made to the proprietors of the soil, the measure might be safe and useful. "In stating these measures," continued Lord J. Russell, "I wish at the same time to declare that we cannot expect, and that we do not expect, to be able by any measures which the Government, or by any measures which Parliament may adopt, to ward off or prevent the effects of the awful visitation under which Ireland is suffering. (Hear, hear.) It is not in the power of man to do away with the effects of such a calamity." (Hear, hear.)

Lord J. Russell thus described the mode in which Government could interfere:—"Interference may be given in three ways, and these three ways ought, as far as possible, to be kept separate and distinct. First, the Government, with the support of Parliament, may grant assistance to individual proprietors for the purpose of enabling them to improve their private properties. Secondly, it may assist them in public works, by making roads, or partly by grants in aid of public works, which are evidently of public utility. And, thirdly, it may enact that relief should be given by law to the destitute. Now, I think that these three modes should be kept, as far as possible, distinct—that is to say, that when money is advanced to private individuals for the purpose of improving their property, you should take security so far that it is used for that purpose, and not spent in extravagances in Paris or Naples; but that beyond this there should be as little interference as possible, with the outlay of the money—that there should be as little interference as possible; for instance, to compel the proprietors to employ a certain class of labourers, or to conduct their works in a certain particular manner which the Government may lay down as the best, or in any other way which would prevent the proprietors having the free use of the money advanced."

In referring to the subject of relief to the poor, Lord John Russell said, "I am of opinion that the workhouse should always be kept as a test for the able-bodied poor. But, at the same time, as we have seen, there are cases where the workhouses are insufficient to afford accommodation to all the unfortunate persons who are crowding round their doors, and we think the Poor Law Commissioners should have power in these cases to make an exception. With respect to able-bodied paupers, I may remark that relief is to be given in food only. We likewise propose that there should be relieving-officers appointed, and that it should be the duty of such relieving-officers, in cases of urgent distress, where there is a danger of starving on the part of persons applying, to give relief, either in or out of the workhouse, until the next meeting of the Board of Guardians, who shall make provision for such cases, according to the general rule which they have sanctioned. Such, therefore, is the nature of the measures which we propose to introduce immediately. There are other measures, which are under the consideration of the Government. Connected with the first class of measures to which I have alluded, namely, those which are to enable proprietors to make a better use of their property, to increase their capital, and to improve their estates, we have under consideration a measure for facilitating the sale of encumbered estates." (Hear.)

Bad as was the condition of Ireland, he yet anticipated happy days for it. "I think there is no reason why Ireland may not, at a future day, rise to a state of great happiness and prosperity. I will read the description of a country in which these evils were stated to occur by an old English writer:—'The husbandmen be thrust out of their own, or else, either by covin or fraud, or violent oppression, they be put beside it; or, by wrongs and injuries, they be so wearied that they be compelled to sell all. By one means, therefore, or by the other, either by hook or by crook, they must needs depart away, poor, wretched souls—men, women, husbands, wives, fatherless children, widows, woful mothers with their young babes, and the whole household, small in substance and much in number; as husbandry requireth many hands; away they trudge, I say, out of their known and accustomed houses, finding no place to rest in. All their household stuff, which is very little worth, though it might well abide the sale—yet being suddenly thrust out, they be constrained to sell it for a thing of nought; and, when they have wandered about till that be spent, what can they then do, but steal, and then justly, *parby*, be hanged, or else go about a-begging?' This was a description not unlike that of parts of Ireland, where whole families, being turned out of their holdings, were driven at once either to the commission of robbery, or to go about begging. Yet the description I have read is that given of England, by Sir Thomas More (hear, hear, and cheers); that was an account of England in his day. If any one should suppose this was an effort of the imagination, I can assure him that we have other authentic accounts which corroborate it: one, written by a magistrate, states that in every county, there are from 200 to 300 persons who live by thieving; that gangs carry away sheep from the field; that husbandmen had no security against their attacks; and that 70,000 of these marauders were hanged in one reign (hear, hear); that is a description of a country in which we now see so much security prevail, in which there is such an almost total absence of the scenes described as constantly occurring by the writers of that day. This is a proof that the evils referred to had their origin in the state of society, and not in the nature of the country."

Lord J. Russell then read an account of the wretched condition of Scotland in the seventeenth century, and concluded in these eloquent terms:—"I think we should not be acting as becomes the representatives of this country if we despaired of the state of Ireland. I am not one of those who think that, apart from political rights—apart from other questions connected with political institutions—a merely beneficent Government can make a country flourish. (Hear, hear.) It is my opinion that other measures will be required, and when the proper time comes for proposing such measures, I shall be ready to undertake anything which I think will be for the ultimate benefit of Ireland. But this I feel with respect to these and all other measures, that there are some things which the town can not grant, which Parliament cannot enact; these are the spirit of self-reliance and the spirit of co-operation. I must say plainly, that I should indeed despair of this task, were it not that I think I see symptoms in the Irish people both of greater reliance on their own energies and own exertions, and greater willingness to co-operate with each other. I believe, if they will encourage this spirit among themselves,—I believe, if they will look to what has been done in this country and in its neighbour, Scotland, by industry, by perseverance, by never despairing of success—if they will go on, not looking always to the Government proposing this, and Parliament enacting that, but will see what is the task immediately before them, and set themselves heartily and strenuously to perform that task, that there are means, there are resources in Ireland, which may bring these matters to a happy issue. There is no doubt of the fertility of the soil; that fertility has been the theme of admiration with writers and travellers of all nations. There is no doubt of the strength and industry of the inhabitants; for the same man who is loitering idly by the mountain side in Tipperary or Kerry, whose potato crop has just furnished him with occupation for a few days, whose wages and whose pig have enabled him to pay his rent and eke out a miserable subsistence, has perhaps a brother in Liverpool, Glasgow, or London, who in the sweat of his brow is, from morning to night, competing with the strongest labourers of England and Scotland (hear, hear), and earning wages equal to any of them. (Hear, hear.) I do not think, therefore, that either the fertility of the land, or the strength and industry of the inhabitants, are at fault; but there have been faults, there have been defects, and happy will it be for us if we can lay a foundation of the means of curing those defects (cheers); happy will it be, indeed, if the Irish themselves take for their maxim, 'Help yourselves, and Heaven will help you' (cheers); and then I trust they will find there have been some 'uses in adversity.'" (The noble Lord's speech was greeted with loud and prolonged cheering from both sides of the House.)

After Lord John Russell had sat down, a number of questions were asked from all sides of the House as to the details of the measures he had described, and very favourable opinions of the proposed scheme of relief were expressed by members of the most opposite politics.

In answer to some remarks upon the distress in Ireland,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that active measures were in progress for the establishment of soup kitchens in the distressed districts in that country, and for the distribution of gratuitous relief. A steamer had been sent to Ireland with a large supply of boilers for preparing soup, and he understood that, on the remission of the Corn Duties, 500,000 quarters of grain would be released from the bonded warehouses. He was also happy to say that a reduction in the price of grain had been perceptible in the Dublin market.

Lord G. BENTINCK expressed his admiration of the tone, temper, and beautiful language of the speech of his noble friend (Lord John Russell.)

Sir R. INGLIS said he should feel himself to be unworthy to occupy the humble place he held in that House, if he suffered such a speech as that just delivered by the First Lord of the Treasury to pass by without, at once, expressing his cordial admiration of it. (Cheers.) The speech was as remarkable for what it stated, as for what it omitted. (Hear.)

In pursuance of Lord John Russell's proposals, Mr. PARKER brought up a bill to indemnify certain acts done by the Executive Government of Ireland, which was read a first time, ordered to be printed, and to be read a second time on Monday next. Also a bill to make further provision for the poor of Ireland, which was read a first time, ordered to be printed, and to be read a second time on Monday next.

SUGAR IN BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES.

The Report of the Committee on the Customs and Excise Acts was brought up. Leave was given to bring in a bill founded on the resolutions, and the bill was brought in and read a first time.

We subjoin an Official Copy of these Resolutions:—

1. That it is expedient to suspend, for a time to be limited, the Duties on the importation of Buck Wheat, Buck Wheat Meal, Maize or Indian Corn, Indian Corn Meal, and Rice.
2. That it is expedient to allow the use of Sugar in the brewing of Beer.
3. That there be allowed and paid a Drawback of five shillings, and five per centum on the exportation to foreign parts of every thirty-six gallons of Beer or ale, the worts used in the brewing whereof shall not be of lower specific gravity than 1·054; and a Drawback of seven shillings and sixpence, and five per centum on the exportation of Irish Beer or Ale, the worts used in the brewing whereof shall not be of less specific gravity than 1·081.
4. That an allowance of twelve shillings and tenpence be granted to every Distiller of Spirits in the United Kingdom for and in respect of every eleven gallons and a half (and so in proportion of Spirits produced from Sugar used by such Distiller in the making of Spirits upon which the Duties granted by Law shall have been paid.
5. That it is expedient to make Regulations relative to the Distillation of Spirits from Sugar, in England, Scotland, and Ireland.
6. That in lieu of the Duties of Customs now chargeable on the articles undermentioned, imported into the United Kingdom, the following Duties shall be charged, viz.:—

Spirits, or Strong Waters, for every gallon of such Spirits or Strong Waters, of any strength not exceeding the strength of Proof by Sykes's hydrometer, and so in proportion for any greater or less strength than the strength of Proof, and for any greater or less quantity than a gallon, viz.:

Spirits, or Strong Waters, the produce of any British Plantation in America, not being sweetened Spirits, or Spirits mixed with any article, so that the degree of strength thereof cannot be exactly ascertained by such hydrometer,		
If imported into England, the gallon	8s.	4d.
" Scotland "	4	2
" Ireland "	3	2

—Rum, the produce of any British Possession within the limits of the East India Company's Charter, not being sweetened Spirits, or Spirits so mixed as aforesaid, in regard to which the conditions of the Act 4 Vic. c. 8, have or shall have been fulfilled,

If imported into England, the gallon	8s.	4d.
" Scotland "	4	2
" Ireland "	3	2

—Rum Shrub, however sweetened, the produce of and imported from such Possessions, in regard to which the conditions of the Act 4 Vic. c. 8, had or shall have been fulfilled, or the produce of and imported from any British Possession in America,

If imported into England, the gallon	8s.	4d.
" Scotland "	4	2
" Ireland "	3	2

The House adjourned about ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

SUSPENSION OF THE CORN AND NAVIGATION LAWS.

The Royal Assent was given by Commission to the Corn Importation and Navigation Law Suspension Bills.

Nothing else worth notice occurred, and the House adjourned till Thursday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

ABSENTEE-TAX.—Mr. W. S. O'BRIEN gave notice that, on the 9th of February, he would move for leave to bring in a bill to impose an Absentee Tax for Ireland.

FACTORY LABOUR.

Mr. FIELDEN moved for leave to bring in a bill to limit the hours of labour of young persons and females in factories to ten hours a day.

Sir G. GREY said he would assent to the introduction of the bill, which, he believed, was the same as that of last Session; but he would reserve all discussion upon the subject until a future stage.

Mr. TRELAWNY objected to the bill, as calculated to reduce the wages of the operatives, and he should, therefore, resist the motion, and take the sense of the House upon it.

Mr. FERRAND warmly supported the bill, and hoped a seconder to the amendment would not be found within the walls of the House of Commons.

Sir G. STRICKLAND also supported the bill, which was necessary, to protect young persons and females from the overwhelming power of capital.

Sir ROBERT PEEL regretted that Mr. Trelawny had expressed his intention of dividing the House on the question of bringing in the bill. His (Sir Robert Peel's) opinions remained the same as they were last year, in respect to this measure, and he was prepared to take the same course he then took; yet he thought it would not be paying proper respect to the feelings of large masses of the people interested in this bill if the House should refuse to have it brought in and fairly considered.

Mr. HUME advised Mr. Trelawny to withdraw his opposition.

After a few words from Mr. B. ESCOTT,

Mr. TRELAWNY bowed to the universal sense of the House, and withdrew his opposition.

Leave was given to Mr. Fielden to bring in the bill, which was subsequently read a first time.

CLEANING THE PICTURES AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

Mr. HUME moved an address for a copy of the minutes of the trustees of the National Gallery during the years 1845 and 1846, with the names of all the trustees present at each meeting; also, for copies of the orders and instructions to the keeper of the Gallery, respecting the cleaning of the pictures, and any directions in respect to their arrangement. Allegations had gone abroad, to the effect that several valuable pictures had been destroyed; but, considering the high character and great reputation of the gentlemen entrusted with their conservation, he was unwilling to believe these reports, and should, at all events, at present confine himself to moving for the papers he had alluded to.

Sir R. PEEL, as one of the trustees of the National Gallery, seconded the motion. The trustees could have no object other than that of affording the fullest information—and that the more particularly, seeing that the House of Commons had always behaved with such liberality to the institution. He thought that his honourable friend had pursued a proper course in forbearing to make any comment on what had taken place, until he was in possession of all the papers, which would be found to give the most complete information. The trustees had felt it to be their duty, in consequence of the observations which had recently been made, to call upon the gentleman immediately in charge of the pictures to make a full report upon the subject. He hoped, then, that the House, in consideration of the grave character of the charge, and considering also the great eminence as an artist of the gentleman implicated, his high private character, and the position which he held in the artistic world, of which he was so distinguished an ornament—he hoped that the House would suspend their judgment until they were in possession of the fullest information. (Hear.)

Mr. HUME inquired when the report alluded to would be ready.

Mr. PEEL: An order had been made by the trustees for a full report, which was to be furnished by Monday; so that a few days would necessarily elapse before it could be laid on the table of the House.

Lord J. RUSSELL having stated that there was no business of importance for Wednesday, the House adjourned till Thursday.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

THE POOR LAW BILL.—Lord BROUGHAM presented a petition from the Mayor and Corporation, and several other inhabitants of East Looe, in Cornwall, and again urged on the Government the necessity of introducing the Poor Law Bill in the first instance in their Lordships' House. Parliament was now on the eve of a dissolution, which would take place this year.

Earl FITZWILLIAM.—Not necessarily.

Lord BROUGHAM.—But it must take place very soon, and under these circumstances it was not likely that the subject could calmly be discussed in the othe House of Parliament. The noble and learned Lord then adverted to the plan in agitation for raising £50,000, for the purpose of sending missionaries to Ireland, in order to take advantage of the distress of the people for procuring their conversion from the Roman Catholic religion. This he described as a most diabolical plan, calculated to sow dissension throughout the land. (Hear, hear.)

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE laid on the table, by command of her Majesty, the correspondence which has taken place between the Commissariat and the Board of Works in Ireland, relative to the distress prevalent in that country.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

NEW MEMBER.—Mr. Chaplin took the oaths and his seat for the City of Salisbury.

IRELAND.

Lord G. BENTINCK gave notice that, on Wednesday next, he should move for leave to bring in a bill, the object of which would be to afford employment to the people of Ireland in the construction of additional railroads. (Hear.)

Mr. ROEBUCK gave notice of a motion, to extend the Property and Income-Tax to Ireland; and also that the property of the Protestant Church in Ireland should be appropriated to the purposes of education. (Hear.)

The same hon. member then asked Lord J. Russell what was the sum he considered would be necessary to carry into effect his proposed plans for relieving the present distress in Ireland, and in what mode he proposed to raise the sum needed.

Lord J. RUSSELL said, upwards of one million had been already advanced, and there remained two millions in the Exchequer to be employed in public works in Ireland, and, according to the present rate of expense, he considered five or six millions more would be required. He thought the plans which the Government proposed would incur a cost of seven millions; and he hoped the House, at the proper time, when the subject was under discussion, would think that the Government plan for raising the proposed amount would not be objectionable.

HULKS AT WOOLWICH.—Mr. T. S. DUNCOMBE moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the treatment of convicts on board the hulks at Woolwich. The hon. member said the question was one of great importance; he was certain the House had no idea of the cruelty which existed, or of the alarming extent of the deaths which monthly take place. Mr. Duncombe went into various revolting details of the alleged ill-treatment of convicts on board the hulks.—On the motion being put, Sir G. GREY said that under the present circumstances, he was quite unable to follow the hon. gentleman through his details, but he did agree with him, that if there were any foundation for them, that they were quite unworthy of a Christian country. He must, at the same time say, that he had made the utmost inquiry into the conduct of the medical officers at Woolwich Dockyard, and so far as he could ascertain there was not the slightest foundation for the serious statements which had been made. If the hon. gentleman would furnish him with the particulars of the cases which he had stated to the House, of others which might come within his own knowledge, he would institute the most searching and rigid investigation, but it would not be well to institute an inquiry unless it were clear that there were grounds for making it. (Hear, hear.) He hoped, therefore, the House would not accede to the appointment of the Committee. The motion was lost on a division by 121 to 44.

Mr. FERRAND then brought forward his motion for a Select Committee to enquire into the mode adopted by the Poor Law Commissioners in drawing up their reports, and their treatment of Boards of Guardians; also into the control exercised by Sir James Graham over them while he held the office of Secretary of State He supported his motion by a long statement of the feuds and internal quarrels of the Commissioners themselves, the details of the Andover Inquiry, the disputes of the Keighley Union, and matters that have been frequently before the public.—Sir J. GRAHAM replied to the charges made against him; and, after some discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

The House adjourned at half-past twelve.

POLICE.

AN ARTFUL FEMALE SWINDLER.—At WESTMINSTER Police Office, on Tuesday *Mary Ann Collins*, a woman about twenty-five years of age, was again examined before Mr. Broderip, charged with defrauding a great number of tradesmen. The depositions had been taken in no less than five cases against the prisoner on the previous examination, and three fresh charges were now added to the number, from the whole of which it was evident that she had carried on her depredations in various parts of the metropolis for many months with great dexterity and considerable success. The cases differed but slightly in the mode in which the fraud had been committed. In some of them she had, on entering a tradesman's shop, asked for some trifling article, in payment for which she put down a sovereign, and on the change being given to her discovered that the article was too high-priced, or otherwise did not suit her, and returning what appeared to be the full change she had given to her, received her sovereign back, and then left the shop; but whenever an opportunity occurred, from the circumstance of the tradesman knowing the amount of silver he had in his till, of counting the change after her departure, it was invariably discovered that she had, whilst putting it into his hand, contrived to purloin a portion, but so dexterously as to disarm suspicion. In other cases she engaged the person who was serving her in conversation, and required so many alterations to be made in the coin given in change, which was invariably either too large or too small, that he became confused, and, thrown off his guard by the prisoner's plausible manners, supplied alleged deficiencies caused by her having adroitly abstracted a portion of it. Whenever the chances of detention appeared to be very considerable, from the circumstance of the tradesman declaring that he was positive he had given her the whole of the change, the missing money, by some species of legerdemain, was suddenly found upon the counter, and the culprit escaped. The prisoner was fully committed to the Central Criminal Court for trial on eight charges.

IMPUDENT BURGLARS.—*Herbert Glenroy* and *Malcolm Greame*, the latter of whom was tried a short time ago in the name of *Jemmy Kemp* for a burglary, were on Monday charged, at the MANSION-HOUSE, with having broken into the house of Mr. Taylor, in Bishopsgate-without, and stolen a quantity of plate.—Mary Cullen, housemaid, said when she went to bed on Saturday night all the doors and shutters were fastened, except the back-parlour window, over which there was a skylight, which was closed but not fastened. The back-parlour was on a level with the drawing-room on the first floor. Witness heard no noise in the night; but, on rising on Sunday morning, found the plate, which was all safe in the plate-basket in the parlour cupboard when she went to bed, lying in a heap on the ground, and separated from articles of baser metal, which were put aside as unworthy of notice by the thieves. In the warehouse there was one of the plated articles near a hogshead, in which the prisoners were subsequently found by the police, who were called into the house by Mr. Taylor.—Mr. George Taylor, stated that upon examination of the house, many of the apartments of which the prisoners had certainly visited, he was convinced that a considerable quantity of time, probably three or four hours, had been occupied by the thieves in looking for property. Some of the furniture in the drawing-room had been removed from the places which they occupied when the family went to bed. The prisoners said that, as they were passing along, at five o'clock in the morning, they saw the side door open, and having been in bed all night, and having no means of providing themselves with one, they walked in, and laid down to roost in the sugar hogshead. They declared that their intention was merely to get a nap, and that if they meant robbery they could easily have got out of the house. The prisoners were committed for trial.

A REGULAR SWINDLER.—At the MANSION-HOUSE, last Saturday, *J. E. Carnegie* was charged with being what is called by tradespeople, "a common swindler." The prisoner represented himself to a Mr. Smith as Capt. James Henry Carnegie, of the Royal Engineers, cousin of the Hon. Captain Carnegie, of the Royal Navy, and also of the Hon Fox Maule. He said that he would introduce Smith to those persons, and he borrowed £5 in sovereigns, which he promised to return in a few days. It was afterwards ascertained that he was not related at all to them. Smith said he met him first in a public coffee-room, and he introduced a lady to him whom he said was his wife, and whom he described as the Countess de Beaumont, the daughter of the Duke de Puma, and related by blood to the Royal family of Spain. (Laughter.) He had met him, previously, at the London Tavern, at the Scottish dinner, on the 30th of November, 1844, and then he borrowed three sovereigns, to pay, as he said, his contribution to the charity. (Laughter.) He said that he had property in Spain and Portugal, and the East Indies, and introduced him to several respectable persons, who became acquainted with him accidentally.—Mr. H. Dircks, Mr. C. W. M'Bride, and Mr. H. Hoche, said they had been swindled in a similar manner.—The prisoner was remanded. The prisoner Carnegie was again examined on Wednesday. Mr. Smith, the prosecutor, was cross-examined by Mr. Humphreys at considerable length. That gentleman urged that there was no case against the prisoner, but the Lord Mayor said he had heard quite enough to warrant a remand of the prisoner.

MR. COBDEN AT GENOA.—Mr. Cobden was entertained at a public dinner a Genoa on the 16th inst. The company sat down to the number of about sixty-five to a very showy Italian dinner. The Marchese Alezio, a man well known in Italy for his patriotic liberality and literary talents, presided; having on his right Mr. Cobden, and on either side, the Marchese Balbi and his brother, the Marchese Raggi, &c., and the British, French, Spanish, Belgian, and other Consuls, with a number of the richest and most influential Genoese merchants, the English bringing up all their forces. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, the French Consul, in a speech of great eloquence and warmth, proposed "The Health of Mr. Cobden."—Mr. Cobden, in returning thanks, said, "The free-traders in England have only had one object in view—the removal of those restrictions which impeded the progress of commercial intercourse between the different nations of the earth. We never entered upon the field of party politics; we abstained from all interference with the forms of Government; we confined ourselves strictly to a question of economical science, which affects equally the prosperity and happiness of every nation, whatever be its form of Government. For where is a Government that is not interested in ruling over a rich, flourishing, and contented people? I look for the progress of Free Trade in all countries, because it will promote alike the interests of the governors and the governed. There is a great lesson to be learned by Governments—a lesson as yet learned by but two nations—which will teach them how to increase their revenues by lessening their customs duties, a process which augments the population, wealth, and commerce of a nation, and thus increases its ability to contribute to the revenue of the State."—The company separated about nine o'clock, and Mr. Cobden, with his wife, was about to proceed to Leghorn and Rome. It is suspected that Mr. Cobden was obliged to submit his speech to the authorities before he could deliver it.

THE WRECK OF THE "SPHYNX" STEAM SLOOP.—Notwithstanding the gale of Saturday and Sunday last, the *Sphynx* lies nearly in the same state: the tides being neap, the swell and surf did not reach her sufficiently to injure her, and she is further protected by the reef of rocks which are situated outside her. She is still whole, and sits upright, but, from hanging amidships, has hogged considerably, otherwise she is not strained, nor has she opened much. No further attempt will be made to float her till the next spring tides; and, as the water has not a rise of more than eight or nine feet, there is some talk of trying again to get her off.

TORONTO.

A letter, dated Toronto, Dec. 12, 1846, states:—"Business has been very dull this fall, partly owing to a very great quantity of rain, which has rendered the back roads almost impassable, and partly owing to the low prices the merchants and millers have been giving for produce, which has made all who could hold, in hopes of better prices in the spring. The finest wheat is only from 2s. 9d. to 3s. a bushel of 60 lb. weight, and good spring wheat is selling in London for 2s. 2d.; Indian corn I saw offered for 1s. 6d. per 50 lb."

This account is not unimportant in connection with "the crops of Canada," generally; and it suggests the propriety of presenting to our readers a pair of Engravings of the capital of Canada West, in illustration of the importance of the possessions which Great Britain still retains on the continent of North America. These views, we should premise, are from paintings by Mr. J. F. Sanders, and have been obligingly forwarded by Mr. Capred, of Toronto.

To have anything like a true conception of the value and extent of the vast possessions which Great Britain still retains on the continent of North America, we must place before us the Map of North America. Pass your eye round the Bay of Fundy—along Cape Sable—the rocks of Nova Scotia, and the shores of the Gulph of St. Lawrence, on both sides to Quebec; add to these the coast of Labrador to Hudson's Bay—the shores of Newfoundland, Cape Breton, Prince Edward, Anticosti, and many other islands scattered over this immense surface, and you have a seaboard far more extensive than any other nation of the world possesses, and embracing the most profitable and inexhaustible fisheries on the globe. Here are materials of power and public wealth which are almost beyond calculation. Cast your eyes again over the map, and you will perceive that the British possessions *enfilade*, and, therefore, command the whole coast of North America. With fleets at Halifax, St. John's, Newfoundland, and Bermuda, no ship, without our permission, durst put to sea from Cape Sable to New Orleans, or any part of this immense coast, or any West India island be safe from the attack of this great Northern Empire.

Nor is this all. Open the St. Lawrence for a ship navigation—join the Lakes of Canada—works already nearly completed—and you add five thousand miles of coast, and a fertile country nearly equal to the half of Europe. Hence it appears

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