READING ELECTION.

THE NOMINATION YESTERDAY—UPROARIOUS PROCEEDINGS.

READING, MONDAY AFTERNOON.

The nomination of a member of Parliament, in the place of Sir H. S. Keating, recently elevated to the judicial bench, was appointed for this morning at the Town-hall, at eleven o'clock.

The greatest activity prevailed in this otherwise quiet borough, owing to a Liberal and a Conservative candidate having appeared to contest the election, the former in the person of Sir F. H. Goldsmid, Q.C., and the latter in that of Mr. R. A. Benson, who is also a member of the bar; both candidates having contested the borough on a previous occasion with Mr. Francis Pigott, the present member, and Mr. Justice Keating.

The Town-hall was crowded in every part by the partisans of the respective candidates, and it was evident from the beginning that noisy and uproarious proceedings, such as followed, might be expected.

Mr. BLANDY, the Town Clerk, having read the Queen's writ for the election of a burgess to fill the vacancy occasioned by the appointment of Sir H. S. Keating,

The MAYOR (Mr. H. A. Symonds), who presided, briefly addressed the assemblage, asking a fair hearing for both candidates.

Mr. Alderman ANDREWS, the late mayor, then stepped forward amidst loud cheers to propose Sir F. H. Goldsmid as a fit and proper person to represent the borough of Reading. They had met that morning to return the best man to Parliament, and he would say no better man could be returned than the gentleman whose name he had proposed. (Cheers and hisses). Much had been brought forward in the present agitation of a religious character, but he (Mr. Andrews) contended that the object of their proceedings that day was not to send a person to Parliament to represent their religious views as in a convocation of the clergy, but one who would represent them in a deliberate legislative assembly. (Cheers and uproar.) Sir Francis Goldsmid was a good man—a man esteemed by all who knew him—(cries of "Oh, oh")—and he was a person full worthy of their confidence and support. (Cheers and dissent.) He was sorry that the question of religious difference had arisen in this contest, for he had indeed hoped that the Queen giving her sanction to the bill for removing all religious differences, and thus relieving the Jews of all disabilities arising from their profession of faith, would have been the means of settling such questions for ever. (Hear, hear.) Indeed, he trusted that the religious element would be laid aside in the coming struggle, and that whatever their difference in other respects might be, yet that they would know how to conduct themselves towards one another as fellow-townsmen, and that they would do nothing derogatory to them as Christians. (Applause and tumult.) It was stated that Sir Francis Goldsmid was brought forward to insult that constituency as Christians; but this, as all sensible men must know, was not true. (Hear.) Sir Francis Goldsmid came forward to claim that right which every Englishman possessed to claim their suffrages; and seeing that all disabilities were removed from the Jews, and that the City of London had returned a Jewish member to the House of Commons, what reason was there that Reading should not do the same? (Cheers and loud dissent, accompanied with discordant cries, cock-crowing, &c.) When Sir Francis intimated his desire to come forward, it was natural the Liberal party should adopt, and had adopted him; for he was fully qualified to fill the vacant post of honour, and they were determined the ban "Jew" should not be placed against him. (Hear and applause.) Sir Francis Goldsmid had many claims upon them. (Cries of "Oh, oh.") He was a man of independent position; he had the time to fully devote his services to the duties of the House of Commons; and he was a man of literary pursuits, fully conversant with all those historical details and other subjects necessary for an efficient member of the Legislature. It was not his religious, but his political, views they had to look to, and in these Sir Francis Goldsmid fully accorded with the Liberals of that borough. (Hear, hear, and No, no.) He was a steady advocate for Parliamentary Reform, a steady advocate for non-intervention, a steady advocate for keeping this country high up in the estimation of foreigners—not one of those to pare down to nothing—but a steady advocate to spend enough to keep up the dignity of the country, and no more. (Applause, and cries of "Oh, oh.") He was an advocate for the repeal of church rates, a steady supporter of an increase of the franchise, and a zealous advocate for the ballot. (Cheers.) In conclusion, Mr. Andrews further impressed upon the constituency not to mix up religious with political principles. Sir Francis Goldsmid, he felt certain, would be elected to-morrow their representative by a large majority; and this battle would probably be the last fought—and he sincerely hoped it would—in which was introduced the name "Jew" as a religious element of opposition. (Applause, and much noise and uproar.)

Mr. Alderman HARRIS seconded the nomination of Sir F. H. Goldsmid.

Mr. H. J. SYMONDS, chairman of the Reading Conservative Association, then rose amidst cheers and tumult to nominate Mr. R. A. Benson. He (Mr. Symonds) was not there as henchman on the part of Mr. Benson to parade his virtues, &c., as the nominator of their opponent had Sir F. Goldsmid's. (Laughter and applause.) Mr. Benson could introduce himself. (Hear.) With regard to Sir F. Goldsmid's character he (Mr. Symonds) had nothing to say; but with regard to the cry of civil and religious liberty that had been mixed, he would ask them to consider it as thinking men. He opposed Sir Francis himself on political grounds, and he fought with that as a substantial thing rather than with the shadow which was conjured up by the cry of civil and religious liberty. (Cheers, and cries of "Oh, oh.") It was a Pharisaical humbug this cry of "Liberty—Liberty—Liberty." (Laughter and cheers.) It was like the Pharisee going up, exclaiming "I am liberal—liberal—liberal." (Derision and applause.) Were Conservatives, he would ask them, better or worse masters than those who were continually raising this cry? were they better or worse fathers? (Hear, hear, and applause.) He (Mr. Symonds) was an advancing man, and he could foresee what must come to pass in the House of Commons under the present jarring state of various sections—the house would be divided into two parties, the one under the leadership of Lord Stanley, the other under Mr. Bright. (Applause and uproar.)

Dr. COWAN seconded Mr. Benson's nomination, observing that the present struggle was not a political, but a religious one—(cries of "Oh, oh," and laughter);—the nominator having, it would be remarked, spoken of it as entirely political.) He would say to Sir Francis Goldsmid, that for a Jew to come forward to represent a Christian institution, and to vote and sit in a Christian Parliament, was placing himself in a false and anomalous position. (Applause, interruptions, and disturbance.) He would say that the Liberal party, by bringing forward a Jew to represent them, had insulted a Christian community. (Uproar.)

No other gentleman having been nominated,

Sir FRANCIS H. GOLDSMID proceeded to address the constituency. Cheers and uproar followed his appearance. The noise having been quelled to a great extent, the learned gentleman said his opponent had now the desire he expressed fulfilled—that he would like to meet him (Sir Francis) face to face, to hear what he had got to say—(applause)—and he therefore hoped the friends of Mr. Benson would indulge him in that very laudable desire by their silence. (Applause and noise.) They would in the first place notice the difference of opinion between the proposer and seconder of his opponent. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) One opposed him (Sir F. Goldsmid) on political grounds, the other told them that he contested the question as a religious one. Leaving those two gentlemen to settle their little differences between themselves, he would put his own interpretation on the way the contest was to be conducted on the other side. (Hear.) He would say it was a political contest, in which the cry of religion had been used in the vain attempt to mislead the sections of the Liberal electors of the borough—(applause and confusion)—but he was happy to find the majority of the Liberal electors in his favour notwithstanding. (Cheers.) The Conservatives, finding they had no chance on political grounds in the borough, raised the religious cry, and the seconder of his opponent had gone so far as to say that if they voted for him (Sir F. Goldsmid) they would deny their Christianity. (Laughter, and much noise.) He would tell them that the admission of a Jew to Parliament, which had been stated could not be permitted by any Christian men, had been promoted by eminent statesmen, by men of the greatest piety, by prelates of the Church to which those gentlemen belonged. (Cheers.) Now, unless the Conservative party of Reading were ready to excommunicate all those eminent persons, he would say as Christian men they might send a Jew to Parliament. (Cheers and hisses.) He would not dwell on this point, for it was sufficient to mention, as supporters of the abolition of Jewish disabilities, such men as Lord Carlisle, Sir W. Page Wood, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Palmer—these were not only Christians, but Christians of distinguished piety, who advocated the election of Jews to Parliament. (Applause.) He might also mention, as advocates of the same cause, the distinguished Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Whately, the Bishop of London, the Bishop of Carlisle, and many other Churchmen, as also eminent Dissenters of all denominations. (Hear and cheers.) Then there was the example set by the City of London. A Jewish member was returned, not for one year, but year after year. (Cheers and uproar.) Was the borough of Reading to dissent to the opinions of all other Christian men, and excommunicate those fellow-Christians because they promote the admission of Jews to Parliament? (Hear, hear, and loud noise.) If they did pursue such a course, they arrogated to themselves the power of the Pope. (Hear, and laughter.) He was informed the other day that the Pope said to a Minister, because the latter supported the freedom of the Romagna, that he was denying the immortality of the soul. Was there anything more like such language than that used by the Conservatives of Reading, for, say they, whoever supported him (Sir F. Goldsmid) denied their Christianity. He thought that the Liberal electors of Reading would not agree with the new Pope—Benson. (Laughter.) Mr. Benson and his party should not forget that three eminent leaders of the Conservative cause supported the election of Jews to Parliament, and it would seem, by the opposition now exhibited, that it was not anti-Conservative but anti-Jew. (Applause.) Sir R. Peel, as leader of the Tories, delivered an eloquent address in support of a bill introduced for relieving the Jews of their disabilities, and Sir Robert said he would give his interest on behalf of the measure. The liberal sentiments then expressed by Sir R. Peel were, he (Sir F. Goldsmid) believed, those of the Liberal electors of Reading, though not of Pope Benson and his cardinal. (Cheers and yells.) Lord George Bentinck followed in the opinions of Sir R. Peel on a subsequent occasion when the question was being discussed; and Mr. Disraeli, the present leader of the Conservative party, took the same ground as his great Conservative predecessors. (Cheers and discord.) Lord Stanley, Sir J. Pakington, Sir F. Kelly, and other notable statesmen, gave in their support to the admission of Jews to Parliament, and under such circumstances how could his opponents, who took up this special ground of attack, say they belonged to the Conservative body? (Applause.) After alluding to certain printed statements and other matters connected with previous portions of his speech, the learned gentleman went on to say that it was at the request of 60 Liberals of the borough that he commenced his canvass, Mr. Lefevre having withdrawn rather than cause a split in the Liberal interest. He denied various statements that had been made by his opponents, amongst others an insinuation that had been thrown out that the borough was to be purchased by gold. Mr. Benson, in a speech in Shropshire, used the words (producing a local paper), "That he (Mr. Benson) had heard that if any one wished to secure the success of Reading he must secure himself with gold ingots." (Loud cries of "Oh, oh," and continued uproar.) Passing to political matters, he would briefly state that he would support a liberal extension of the franchise; he agreed in the advisability of the abolition of church rates, and also that, with respect to our land and maritime forces, England should be so protected as to secure her independence from foreign aggression. (Cheers.)

Much uproar again followed the conclusion of Sir F. Goldsmid's speech, which the mayor found much difficulty in checking. Silence having been partly restored, but only to be interrupted by sudden and frequent outbursts of tumultuous howls, shrieks, cock-crowings, &c.,

Mr. R. A. BENSON rose to address the meeting. He said that if the assemblage refused to hear him it would be the first time that he had been refused a hearing in Reading, and he felt that it was neither the wish of the electors nor the non-electors to create discord. (Cries of "Oh, oh," laughter, and applause.) Sir Francis Goldsmid had delivered a long and impressive address, and when he (Sir F. Goldsmid) called him Pope Benson, he could only reply Mr. Rabbi Goldsmid. (Laughter and noise.) He would touch as lightly as he could upon the religious part of the question. Some objections had been taken to certain remarks in his (Mr. Benson's) address, and amongst other matters that it had been asserted Sir F. Goldsmid had been selected by the Liberal party on account of his great wealth. Now Mr. Andrews admitted that was one of the reasons. (Interruption from Mr. Andrews.) Mr. Andrews now said that Sir Francis Goldsmid's election was not advanced on account of his great wealth, but this was a subsidiary advantage. (Laughter and uproar.) He (Mr. Benson) could prove that voters had been bribed on the side of his opponents. (Violent uproar, with cries of "Name, name.") The party bribed was a poor man, and a paper was signed in the presence of four persons. (Continued uproar, and exclamations of "Name, name.") The man was a poor man and he could not give the name.

Here a terrible outburst broke forth from all parts of the meeting, and the uproar continued for about half an hour—Mr. Benson having to resume his seat and the mayor to threaten the interference of the police, which he said were in a large body in the hall. "Name, name," was hurled at Mr. Benson every time he attempted to resume his speech, and eventually the tumult was somewhat suppressed by Mr. Benson promising to give up the name to the chairman and his opponent's committee.

Mr. BENSON then went on to say that if they wanted to obtain a proper member to represent them they should hear the candidates, and not send one to Parliament blindfolded. As he had said, he would not detain the meeting with any further remarks on the religious question, but at the same time he would remind those who did not wish to mix up religion with politics that the House of Commons was opened daily with prayer, and this was *primâ facie* evidence that the house was not inclined to be overcrowded with Jew candidates. (Uproar.) One of the first duties of the House of Commons in the coming session was to consider the alteration of the English liturgy, and Sir Francis Goldsmid would have to take his stand therein. That would be an absurd state of things. (Laughter and cheers.) Touching more upon political matters, Mr. Benson then went on to draw attention to the non-intervention policy of the late Derby Ministry with respect to the late continental war, and alluded to the present prosperous condition of the country, which, he contended, arose through the wise rule of the Conservatives. He had read with deep regret, as every thinking man must, the recent concluding observations of Mr. Bright at Birmingham, in which Mr. Bright called upon working men to use strikes for political purposes. Closing his remarks by condemning the reform scheme of Lord J. Russell, which, he contended, only added half a million more to the franchise, the same number having been promised under the Tory Reform Bill, Mr. Benson finally observed that he would not support an unconditional repeal of the church rates; that he was a stanch opponent of the ballot; and he had neither confidence in the Emperor of the French nor Lord Palmerston with his present anti-Gallic tendencies, while the equine pleasures of Compiègne were still sounding through his brain.

The candidates' names were then put to a show of hands, when the numbers, as far as could be judged in the uproar that followed, appeared almost equal. The chairman declared in favour of Mr. Benson, and a poll was therefore demanded by Sir F. Goldsmid's friends.

The polling was fixed for next day. In the meantime the greatest bustle and contention appears to be going on in the borough and the political belligerents are almost hourly hurling forth humorous placards and squibs—the latter in language, one would think, anything but pleasant to the characters who cut a conspicuous figure in the various caricatures.

DURHAM ELECTION.

The Solicitor-General was yesterday elected to represent Durham in the Commons' House of Parliament without opposition.

ALDERMAN SALOMONS, M.P., AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.—Last evening, at eight o'clock, a crowded public meeting of the electors and non-electors was held at the Literary Institution, Greenwich, for the purpose of hearing an address from Alderman Salomons, M.P., who attended to confer with his constituents relative to those public questions which are likely to engage the attention of the Legislature during the ensuing session. The chair was occupied by Dr. P. Purvis, of Blackheath.

THE FACTORY ACT.—A month ago the Union Mill Company at Pudsey were summoned by the sub-inspector of factories, Mr. Richards, before the West Riding magistrates, at Bradford, for a violation of the Factory Act, in employing their workpeople after six o'clock in the evening. The defence was that the mill ran from half-past six o'clock to half-past six o'clock, previous inspectors having granted permission so to work. Time was consequently given for reference to be made to Mr. Redgrave, touching the alleged permission to depart from the hours fixed by the law, and on Thursday the reply of Mr. Redgrave was received and read. Mr. Redgrave repudiated the idea that any such authority should have been given, and expressed himself unable to discover, even from the practice or the records left by predecessors in office, that any such authority had been given. At the same time he suggested that heavy penalties should not be rigorously sought in the case. With the sanction of the bench only mitigated penalties were therefore imposed.

THE MEMBERS FOR HEREFORD ON OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

A meeting in furtherance of the rifle movement was held at Hereford on Thursday afternoon. Colonel Clifford, M.P., Lord W. Graham, M.P., and Colonel Clive addressed the meeting.

Colonel CLIFFORD said—Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, a resolution has been put into my hands which I have great pleasure in introducing to the notice of the meeting. A movement so truly national as this is, in favour of volunteer corps, could hardly have spread, as this has done, throughout the length and breadth of the land, gaining strength from day to day, without reaching the city of Hereford—a city ever forward in loyal attachment to the country. I myself am no alarmist, nor have I the slightest want of faith in the good feeling and friendship of the Emperor of the French; but I think it is a manifest absurdity that this country, aspiring, as it justly does, to hold a prominent place among the nations of Europe, should allow itself to remain in that defenceless position which shows to other nations that it is not able even to defend itself, much less able to interfere usefully in the settlement of matters relating to the general welfare of the countries of Europe. (Hear.) Things are not as they were 20 years ago. The different countries of Europe have been arming themselves, not for defensive purposes only, but in many instances for the purposes of aggression. It is quite clear that at this moment our relations with our nearest neighbour—France—are of the most friendly character, and we have reason for thinking that they will continue so, notwithstanding the noisy talk of a small section of the people of that country. The great majority of the French people are well disposed towards this country, as they have ever been; and there is every reason to believe that material interests will induce them to cultivate the arts of peace for many years to come. (Hear.) But we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that at this moment there is in France not only an immense war-like force for the defence of the country—and that is quite reasonable—but also immense means for assailing an enemy, if they should think fit to do so. Now, it is very improbable—I hope we may say it is certain—that they have any thought of using those warlike means against this country; but it is quite clear that they will use them against any country with which they should unfortunately quarrel. (Hear.) The relations of nations, as of individuals, are not always so certain as to insure a peace; and it would be very unfortunate for this country to be placed in such a position as to have to succumb to a powerful enemy. (Hear, hear.) Therefore I think the movement is a right one. There are only two ways of providing for the defence of the country; the one is by largely increasing the standing army, and the other by encouraging the establishment of volunteer corps. I need not refer to the many objections there are against increasing the standing army. None of these objections can be taken against the establishment of a volunteer corps, against the keeping up a martial spirit in the country, and enabling the people to defend themselves whenever they may be required to do so. I think it quite unnecessary to advance any argument on that subject; but I will make one or two practical remarks in reference to the formation of a rifle corps in this town. There are two things which you may take as certain; one, that the funds will be forthcoming; the other, that the men will be forthcoming. (Hear.) I have no doubt that you will be able in a very short period of time, to establish the largest and most efficient corps this county has yet produced; but I think you should see all the difficulties which lie before you. First of all, before you do anything it is necessary that you should select a place for practice, and that it should be approved by the Government authorities. Without this, any other steps that you may have previously taken will be in vain. The place must be within an easy distance of the town. But of course those who are prominent in the movement have considered that already; I only wish to impress upon you the fact that all must fall to the ground without such a place for practice. Another difficulty will be found in the appointment of officers. The officers will be appointed by the corps, but it is of the utmost importance that there should be unanimity in the selection. The fact of one officer being selected by a majority over another is not all that is required. If it be possible, you should in the first instance choose a man to whom there can be no objection; because, if you don't, there will hereafter be heartburnings and difficulties which will interfere with the efficiency of the corps. I have seen this in other places; it is the almost inevitable consequence of not going rightly in the first instance. These are the difficulties which strike me as the most prominent, and I hope you will give your attention to them. In appointing your officers it will be necessary to select men who can freely give their time. The duties of an officer in a volunteer rifle corps are by no means nominal. I don't know anything where so much devolves on the officers; effective drill and harmony and good feeling in the corps all devolve on them. I hope you will pardon me for making these observations. In doing so, I am not supposing that, as practical men, you will fall into the difficulties to which I have referred. (Hear, hear, and applause.) The hon. and gallant colonel concluded by proposing the first resolution.

The Rev. ARCHER CLIVE seconded the motion, which was carried.

Lord W. GRAHAM, M.P., said—Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, I have been requested to move the second resolution, which I have great pleasure in doing. I quite concur in the observations which have fallen from the gentlemen who have already spoken, that this movement is eminently a pacific and defensive movement. We are all men of peace—we wish to remain at peace, and we trust to see the peace of Europe preserved. And yet, at the same time, notwithstanding these are our principles and objects, we see what we may call the strange sight of England arming from one end to the other. One naturally asks why this is? I think the answer is very simple. We are arming for the express purpose of preserving this peace which we are so anxious to maintain; we are arming to make it impossible for any enemy to invade these shores with any hope or chance of success. (Cheers.) We are not arming for war or conquest, but merely to maintain our own security, and to preserve inviolate the sanctity of our homes, our hearths, and our altars. (Cheers.) I don't think any nation has a right to take umbrage or offence at the preparations we are making. I think it impossible to deny that the peace which lasted 40 years had lulled us into a state of what we may call false security, and that we had got an idea that there never could be an European war again. Successive Administrations vied with each other in reducing our military and naval estimates to such a low pitch that our national defences were not consistent with the security of the country, or with that just influence which we ought to exercise over the councils of Europe. And when we look at the state of the Continent, when we see that it bristles with bayonets, and when we see large military Powers increasing their armaments, and large maritime Powers increasing their navies, it is high time for us to wake from our slumber, to gird up our loins, and be prepared for any contingency. (Cheers.) It is therefore with great satisfaction that I view this movement which is spreading throughout the length and breadth of the land. The people have taken the matter into their own hands; they are organising their defences after their own fashion, and as we cannot have a large regular army, we are determined to have a large volunteer force. A large regular army is contrary to our habits, our wishes, our principles, and our institutions; therefore, I think the volunteer efforts are the best way of meeting the difficulty, and I trust they will be widely spread throughout the land. I remember an anecdote which was told of George III. During the French revolution his Ministers advised him to call out a volunteer force. The King rather demurred to placing arms in the hands of the people, and said, "Supposing they turn these arms against my Government, my throne is gone." The Lord Melville of that day replied, "If your Majesty dreads your people, your throne is gone already." (Applause.) I say now, let us trust to the loyalty and patriotism of the people, and we shall not be deceived. Therefore let volunteers come forward and enrol themselves. Every man must make some small sacrifice; and when we consider what an important stake we have at issue, and reflect what would be the consequence of an invasion—our houses burned, our fields laid waste, and our population put to the sword—nobody will hesitate to say that we ought never to rest until we have placed this country in a state of ample security. (Cheers.) The first thing is for the volunteers to enrol themselves, then to appoint officers, and then to submit themselves to the executive powers. Discipline is absolutely necessary; without discipline and practice no volunteer force would be able to resist a regular army; but, with discipline and practice, I believe that indomitable courage which would animate the breasts of the 200,000 volunteers whom England would send forth would be amply sufficient to check any army which could be landed on these shores, and the nation who attempted to invade would have to rue the day. (Cheers.) I trust, therefore, that the city of Hereford will send forth a large body of volunteers, and thus show their loyalty to the Queen, their attachment to our institutions, and their determination to stand up for the rights and liberties of the nation. (Applause).

This motion was also carried.

Mr. GEORGE CLIVE, M.P., who met a very cordial reception, said—Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, it falls to my lot to move that which is, generally speaking, what I believe it will not be on this occasion, the most unpopular part of the day's proceedings—a resolution relating to the funds to be raised for the purpose of the volunteer corps. That these funds must be forthcoming I think is tolerably evident, for although I have no doubt that the greater portion of the persons who may enrol as volunteers will cheerfully pay for their own uniforms, and although the Government will supply, if not the whole, by far the greater portion of the arms, and possibly the whole, it is obvious that funds will be required for a great many purposes; for instance, the provision of targets, the preparation of the ground, and other necessary objects which will strike every person who hears me at this moment. I trust, therefore, that a response will be made to this resolution, and that sufficient funds will be cheerfully subscribed to show how earnest the city of Hereford and its immediate neighbourhood are in promoting the object which has found such extensive favour in the kingdom at large. With respect to the actual cause of this armament, so much has been said already, and in which I fully concur, that I do not think it necessary to do more than to state emphatically my own entire concurrence in the sentiments put forth by the gentlemen who have preceded me. I hope—and at the risk of being considered over-credulous, I venture to say I believe—that the European Powers will show their rivalry more in arts and commerce than in the ancient struggles for power and dominion. It may be that Russia, and other countries bordering on what may be called the barbarous regions of the world, will seek by aggression to increase their already too large dominions; but I do not believe that in Europe the time will ever come again when nations will find it to their interest to cut each other's throats for the purpose of enlarging the territory over which their rulers may preside. We have seen that the conquests of the first Napoleon came to a very premature and unfortunate end for him. We have seen the result of the great lust of dominion which characterises the House of Austria; it is one large empire, which, so long as it was properly governed, proved its strength, but it is now doubting whether it can claim the allegiance of Hungary or not. We have seen the desperate and fruitless efforts she has made to crush Italian liberty and nationality; we have seen her expending much money and losing many valuable lives year after year in getting dominion over territory which has been wrested from her grasp with the greatest ease, and that not so much by the assistance of the French Power, as by the spirit of independence the Italians displayed. We have also seen Austria struggling with another province, that of Venice, of which she still keeps a hold, though the money requisite to keep the Venetians in order is more than the whole revenue the province produces. The increased spirit of nationality displayed in all parts of the world will in all probability teach sovereigns, however despotic and military they may be, and however many legions they may command, that the time for territorial aggression has nearly passed away. I have that feeling very strongly at heart myself, though there are many people who believe that the world will go on in the same old way to the end, fighting on as before. I believe that the spirit of intelligence, and above all of interest, will make that impossible. (Cheers.) A great deal of this apprehension—I will not call it fear—but a great deal of the opinion prevailing about the aggressive designs of the Emperor of the French has arisen from the things which he may have said in former days when it was his interest to say them, but he does not feel them at all now. Long before he was President of France, when he was arraigned in a court of justice and was on his trial for his invasion of France, he said in his defence, "I represent three things—a principle, a recollection, and a sentiment. The principle is universal suffrage, the recollection is the empire, and the sentiment is revenge for the defeat at Waterloo." Those words spread far and wide all over Europe, and no doubt gave rise to that feeling that there was something in his breast that would eventually issue in an attack upon Europe, and that we were the last of the European Powers that he intended to devour. I cannot tell whether that really is in his mind now; but I do know that he is a very sensible man, and that, therefore, he cannot think it would be to his interest to invade this country. The French armies have seen that British soldiers, however ill-handled, can fight when there is need. They saw that at Inkerman; and they have read how a small body of English troops resisted the great body of the Sepoy mutineers in India, and gained many victories besides those of Lucknow and Cawnpore. With this knowledge of what British soldiers can do, even while fighting under disadvantages, for the maintenance of foreign dominion, they may calculate what the same men would be likely to do when fighting for their own homes. (Cheers.) From some slight knowledge of a few eminent bankers and others who are in a position to know about these things, I don't believe that the manufacturing, the commercial, the intellectual, portion of the population of France has the smallest feeling of aggression or dislike against this country. I believe that feeling to be confined to the more thorough peasant population, who are in a state of extreme ignorance, and to a few military men who require occupation. That, I think, is the whole thing, but although it may be so, the question still remains, Are we to be unprotected or not? (Hear.) We have got a very valuable position. The French papers tell us, "You are showing great cowardice and fear in arming in this way, when there is no real danger." Other foreign nations say, "You had better arm, because he is coming directly, and six months is the outside we can give you." Now, there is some truth in all this; for, as I said before, we have a valuable position, and we should take the common precaution of barring our doors, however strong our police force may be, to protect and keep it as long as we can. Beyond that interest there is the position which this country occupies in the world. Although not prepared, as the Emperor of the French was, to go to war "for an idea," yet we wish well to struggling nationalities, and I believe that the general feeling of the country is favourable to Italian emancipation from Austrian tyranny. That being so, although we may not be prepared to go to war, undoubtedly we are prepared to afford the whole strength of our countenance and counsel in any straits in which these struggling nationalities may be placed. (Applause.) These being our sentiments, we must have the means of carrying them out. Our army cannot be disposable for that purpose unless we have a strong force at home to take their places in any emergency. Our weight on the Continent and among other nations will be doubled and trebled by the knowledge that we have a power with which to enforce our opinions if we will. They know that we are a peaceful and commercial country, but they know also that, when excited, we become a very pugnacious people; and, knowing that we have the means of fighting, depend upon it they will avoid a quarrel with us. In the words of the old Latin proverb, "If you wish for peace, prepare for war.' It all turns upon that aphorism, that while we are prepared for war we are determined to keep the peace, as well for ourselves as for all foreign nations. I hope you will come forward and enrol yourselves, and last, though not least, I hope you will be prepared to put your names down for subscriptions to carry out this movement. I believe the cause to be one in which the most peaceable men may fairly draw a sword or shoulder a rifle. It is only the feeling of security—I will not say protection—which makes home and all else valuable, which makes property itself more secure, and promotes the cause of commercial intelligence, and education all over the world. (Cheers.) Without that security none of those things can prosper; with it everything will go as smoothly as a marriage bell. I will now only allude to one little matter personal to myself, and I hope you will consider my mentioning it merely as arising from my wish to be useful. I have a son in the army, who is pretty well up in these things, and who has studied for several years at the School of Musketry. If he can assist you, his services will be entirely at the control of the Hereford Volunteer Corps, as far as military duties will allow him to devote his time to the purpose. (Cheers.) The hon. gentleman concluded by moving the next resolution.

A large subscription was made, and upwards of 100 "effectives" were enrolled.

CRICKET.

KENNINGTON-PARK CLUB.—The half-yearly general meeting of the members of this club was held on Thursday at the Park Tavern, Kennington. A balance-sheet, showing the state of the finances, was laid before the meeting, and it was gratifying to learn that the treasurer's exchequer was in a very healthy state. The hon. secretary read a report, which was a summary of the doings of the club during the past year; he also showed the aspect of affairs at present, which gave great promise of commencing a prosperous season this year. The election of officers then took place, and they are as follows:—president, Mr. G. Hepburn; vice-president, Mr. S. Davey; treasurer, Mr. Smith; hon. secretary, Mr. T. Cooke. During last year the club played eight matches, winning four and losing four.

ROSEMARY-BRANCH GROUND, PECKHAM.—During the "close" season, F. Chadband, the proprietor of this ground, has been indefatigable in rendering it in first-rate condition for early practice this year for the various clubs that play on it. The Camberwell Albion Club, only formed last year, has greatly increased in numbers, and will be one of the first to take the field in the forthcoming season.

CENTRAL FARMERS' CLUB.—The following subjects have been selected for discussion at the monthly meetings during the ensuing year:—Feb. 6. "The Sewerage of Towns, as it affects British Agriculture;" proposed by Mr. Alderman Mechi, Tiptree Hall, Kelvedon. March 5. "The Over-Preservation of Game;" by Mr. H. Corbet, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars. April 2. "The Merits of Pure-bred and Cross-bred Sheep;" by Mr. C. Howard, Biddenham, Bedford. May 7. "Wheat Growing on the Lois-Weedon System;" by Mr. J. Algernon Clarke, Long Sutton, Wisbeach. June 4. "To what extent is the Farmer benefited by the substitution of Steam Power for Horse and Manual Labour?" by Mr. J. Wells, Booth Ferry House, Howden. Nov. 5. "The Public and Private Trials of Agricultural Implements—Can they be made more Efficient?" by Mr. W. Fisher Hobbs, Boxted Lodge, Colchester. Dec. 10. "The Condition of the Labourer in England and Scotland, and his state on the Continent;" by Mr. R. Scott Burn, Stockport, Cheshire.

A PLOUGHMAN'S FRUGALITY.—An old man, 86 years of age, has just died at the Muir of Durdie, leaving a sum of money to the amount, as is stated, of £600 or £700. He was for 40 years a common ploughman, and during that period contrived, by his frugality, to amass this very considerable sum.—*Perthshire Courier*.

THE ORIGIN OF SPEECHES.*

As Mr. Buckle's volume that recently created so great a sensation in educated society is only prefatory to a greater undertaking, the work before us is only an introduction to that important inquiry to which Mr. Darwin has devoted his mature wisdom and the best years of a laborious life. To criticise it narrowly at the present stage of the proceedings would be unfair to the author and injurious to the public; for, although by itself it is the most valuable contribution that has for many years been made to natural science, it is little more than a statement of the line of argument the philosopher intends to adopt in the treatment of the subject he has taken in hand. Many of the positions in this introduction are merely announcements of the conclusions at which the author has arrived, accompanied by a general indication of the reasoning which has brought him to them; but the facts by which he was guided, and by which alone the reader can form a correct estimate of the soundness of the arguments employed, are reserved for the great work. Indeed Mr. Darwin is somewhat in the position of a counsel who has made a powerful statement of what in many respects unquestionably appears to be a strong case, but has not yet had time to call witnesses. Of course until all the testimony has been heard and sifted, the Court, whatever may be its first impressions, cannot proceed to deliver judgment. That this is the nature of his position Mr. Darwin makes no secret. He frankly avows that he does not in his volume discuss a single point on which there cannot be adduced facts leading to conclusions directly opposed to those at which he has arrived. "A fair result," he says, "can be obtained only by fully stating and balancing the facts and arguments on both sides of each question, and this cannot possibly be here done." A writer makes no trifling demand on the public when he comes before them with an important and highly interesting treatise, perfectly opposed to scientific orthodoxy, and requests that a decision on its merits may not be made until "two or three more years" of labour shall have enabled him to complete the sequel. But under certain circumstances, and by a few writers, such a petition may be reasonably preferred; and in the present case we are of opinion that the impaired health and high character of the author fully justify him in confiding himself to the forbearance, gratitude, and justice of those whom he addresses. In one important respect the "Origin of Species" resembles the "Vestiges of Creation," which some years since struck with consternation so many worthy persons who were more remarkable for religious enthusiasm than strength of intellect, and which, notwithstanding the daring and untenable hypothesis on which it is based, will long continue to interest all students of natural science capable of appreciating the adroitness as well as courage of its reasoning. Both the "Vestiges" and the "Origin of Species" argue in support of the progressive theory which is well stated by Mr. Darwin when he says:—"I am fully convinced that species are not immutable, but that those belonging to what are called the same genera are lineal descendants of some other and generally extinct species, in the same manner as the acknowledged varieties of any one species are the descendants of that species." But beyond advocating the mutability of species, and consequently using the testimony of natural science in support of such a view, there is no likeness between the two works. The unsupported and audacious hypotheses of the "Vestiges" were that life in the first instance was a chemico-electric operation, and that the mutation of species was consequent on all organic beings obeying a universal impulse to advance from the lowest to the highest grades of organisation—which impulse again was modified by external physical conditions. Far from elaborating any theory as to the origin of *life*, Mr. Darwin confines himself almost entirely to the consideration of the evidences of mutation of *species* to be found in the physical world; and even where he, for a brief space, travels away from the design of his work, and hints at his belief as to the first creation of organic life, he argues that all organic beings have "descended from some one primordial form into which life was at first breathed"—a view which, far from being antagonistic to "the truths of Revelation," is easily reconcilable with them. In developing his arguments Mr. Darwin commences by directing attention to the variation of species—firstly under domestication, and secondly when they are in a state of nature. The evidence which he adduces of variation under domestication will interest numerous popular readers who will be unable to follow the author in the higher regions of investigation. All our various breeds of horses—the thoroughbred racer, the Flemish dray-horse, and the Suffolk Punch—have, in the author's opinion, descended from one wild stock. So, also, the opinion of Mr. Blyth is endorsed, that all the breeds of poultry have proceeded from the common wild Indian fowl (*Gallus Bankiva*), and the different sorts of ducks and rabbits have all come from the wild duck and wild rabbit. Of all the varieties of different species which Mr. Darwin surveys, and refers to a common parentage, the domesticated pigeons are the most fully and deliberately considered. Great as is the difference between the breeds of pigeons, Mr. Darwin fully concurs with the majority of naturalists in regarding them as all descended from the rock-pigeon (*Columba livia*). The several reasons by which the author has been brought to this conclusion are, that the improbability is great of man having formerly got seven or eight supposed species of pigeons to breed freely under domestication; that these supposed species are quite unknown in a wild state and nowhere become feral; that the species have very abnormal characters in certain respects, as compared with all other *Columbidæ*, though they are so like in most other respects to the rock-pigeon, that the blue colour and various marks of the rock-pigeon occasionally appear in all the breeds, whether they be pure or crossed, and that the mongrel offspring are perfectly fertile. This view will probaby be laughed to scorn by many fanciers of domestic animals. It will be long ere a raiser of Hereford cattle will believe that his breed may have descended from long-horns. The mutation of species, however, goes on much more rapidly under domestication than under nature. Breeders know well how speedily they can modify or completely dissipate the characteristics of certain stocks. Lord Somerville says of sheep breeders—"It would seem as if they had chalked out upon a wall a form perfect in itself, and then had given it existence;" and Sir John Sebright used to say with respect to his pigeons, that "he would produce any given feather in three years, but it would take him six years to obtain a head and beak." And in a well attested case, alluded to by Mr. Youatt, two flocks of Leicester sheep, into which no admixture of impure blood has been allowed to come, have, in the course of 50 years only, so altered from the original stock that they have the appearance of being quite different varieties. In the chapter devoted to variation under nature, Mr. Darwin insists, with peculiar force, on the smallness of the gradations by which the process is effected. "No clear line," he says, "of demarcation has as yet been drawn between species and sub-species—that is, the forms which, in the opinion of some naturalists, come very near to, but do not quite arrive at, the rank of species; or, again, between sub-species and well marked varieties and individual differences. These differences blend into each other in an insensible series; and a series impresses the mind with an idea of an actual passage." Having considered the more prominent phenomena of variation, Mr. Darwin comes to the real business of the work—viz., to account for it. In variation under domestication the principal cause is manifestly the selection made by breeders for the perpetuation of a stock of those animals which individually have certain recognised characteristics in a high state of development, and are therefore necessitated to transmit them to their progeny. Thus individual characteristics become more and more marked, until they constitute a new variety. Under nature the same work is achieved, but on a different plan. What this plan is the chapter on "The Struggle for Existence" explains. In this striking and most poetic portion of his work, Mr. Darwin extends the application of those principles which Malthus used in his inquiry into the laws regulating the procreation of the human species until they are brought to bear on every species and variety of organic life. He shows how every species, and all the varieties of each species, and all the individuals of each variety, are warring together for existence, devouring each other, or consuming that which is necessary to another's life. In such a strife, where myriads momentarily perish, those individuals alone survive to continue the contest who have some peculiarity which places them in the warfare at an advantage over their fellows. It follows that in the long run those individuals alone perpetuate a species who in an especial degree are endowed with the serviceable qualities of the species; and thus, by the force of circumstances, "selection" is made under Nature more slowly, but more surely, than under domestication. New varieties, new sub-species, new species are thus in the slow course of countless ages evolved. On the other hand, when a species ceases to be able to hold its own in the struggle, it dies out, the process of "extinction" and "production" of species being alike imperceptibly gradual. We have not space to mention here the influence exercised, in Mr. Darwin's opinion, on species by sexual selection, climate, and food. We are inclined to think that he underrates the effects of the two last-named powers, and displays something of a reactionary feeling from the school of naturalists who have been too prone to account for all the characteristics of race by their diet and the temperature of the regions they inhabit. Such, briefly stated, is the theory of this remarkable book. Having with a display of learning and logical power alike unusual announced it, Mr. Darwin, with a frankness that is prudent, but at the same time is manifestly unassumed, enters on the consideration of the objections that can be made to it. With a courage truly worthy of a philosopher, but rare in a promulgator of new thought, he makes a strong—we believe the strongest possible—case against his own views. He asks why, if species have descended from other species by insensibly fine gradations, we do not find innumerable transitionary forms?—whether it is possible that an animal, having the structure and habits of a bat, could have been formed by the modifications of some animal with wholly different habits?—whether it is possible for instincts to be modified by natural selection?—how we can account for species when crossed being sterile and producing sterile offspring, whereas when varieties are crossed their fertility is unimpaired? Each of the difficulties pointed at by these questions Mr. Darwin discusses at length. Of course the result of his arguments is on his own side; but though we have followed him cautiously step by step we have nowhere been able to find him tripping over a fallacy. Of course even to indicate what are the arguments of a volume which is itself only an index to the arguments of a future work would take us far beyond the limits of an article. Of the chapters on "Instinct" and "Hybridism" it would be impossible to give any fair summary, as they are condensations of learning and thought that it would be difficult to match in the entire range of scientific literature. To the chapter on "The Imperfections of the Geological Record," though it is not less masterly than the others, it would be easy to raise a few superficial objections. But in this part of his work, opposed though he is to Cuvier, Owen, Agassiz, Barrande, Falconer, E. Forbes, Murchison, and Sedgwick, we are of opinion that Mr. Darwin is not to be successfully assailed. It might perhaps be shown that he has over-estimated the time requisite for the denudation of the Sussex Weald; but even if such could be proved to be the case, the main argument which the calculation is made to illustrate, not to sustain, would be left untouched. In the concluding chapter Mr. Darwin says:—"In the distant future I see open fields for far more important researches. Psychology will be based on a new foundation, that of the necessary acquirement of each mental power and capacity by gradation. Light will be thrown on the origin of man and his history." This sentence has already caused some comment on the part of the nervously anxious supporters of religious orthodoxy. In the alarm that it has created we do not sympathise, for we see in it no suggestion that we are on the eve of making discoveries relative to the mental and moral constitution of man that will upset or be antagonistic to the doctrines of revelation. We have learned to agree with Bacon that no man "can search too far or be too well studied in the book of God's word, or in the book of God's works."

* On the Origin of Species; by means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life. By Charles Darwin, M.A., Fellow of Royal Geological, Linnæan, &c. Societies. London: John Murray.

LIFE OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ST. JAMES'S CHRONICLE.

SIR,—Your critique of Friday last (for which many thanks), on the two last volumes of the "Life of the Duke of Wellington," put me very much in the plight of the celebrated Irishmen, who, after shooting his man through the calf of the leg, because he could not be persuaded to believe that anchovies grew on bushes, discovered from the effects of the wound thus inflicted, that what he meant to say was, capers.

Sure enough, at page 224 of vol. iv. I find the names of a warrior and of a battle put down, which were no more in my mind, when I wrote the words, than the veritable anchovies were in the mind of the Irishman when he challenged his bosom friend to mortal combat. Let me beg of you, and of all who possess the work, to substitute Hasdrubal for Hanno, and Wagram for Austerlitz. They will thus rectify the most unaccountable lapsus into which unfortunate author ever fell, himself not having as yet fallen quite into his dotage.

With respect to the acerbity with which you charge me, I hope that you do me (unintentionally) some wrong. If one drop of gall has got into my pages, it is there through mere inadvertence; indeed, the single expression which you quote (and that occurs in the table of contents to one of the chapters) means no more than that the retirement of Earl Grey from the head of the Administration is to be noticed. My sole object has been to do justice to the memory of the great Duke; and I shall grieve if, in seeking that end, I give needless pain to one of his political opponents. For though I still think (and probably more persons will be found of my opinion now than thought with me a quarter of a century ago), that the Reform Bill of 1832 was a political mistake, I should be very sorry, either in figure or in fact, to throw stones at the authors and abettors of that measure.

I have always had many dear friends among what are called Liberal politicians, and the experience of a long life has taught me that acerbity in argument, though it generally irritates, seldom convinces.—I have, &c.,

G. R. GLEIG.

Warwick-square, Jan. 7.

SUSPECTED MURDER.—On Thursday afternoon says the *Manchester Guardian*, the body of a man, at present unknown, was found in the Jugs Beck, or brook, near the railway viaduct, Denby Dale-road, Wakefield. He was lying on his breast, with his head up the stream, about 20 yards from the railway bridge, near the Cattle Market. He had a wound over the left eye, which may have been caused by a blow or fall. He was apparently a mechanic, stoutly made, with a slight moustache. He was dressed in a pilot cloth jacket and vest and cord trousers, and had 3s. 6d. and a "punch" similar to those used by mechanics, in his pocket. The body, which does not appear to have been long in the water, was taken to the Grazier's Hotel, Cattle Fair-ground. The police stated that about half-past two o'clock on Thursday morning a man answering to the description of the deceased was seen to come towards Westgate-common and turn on to the road leading to the village of Thornes; but no other person was seen near him. He appeared to be perfectly sober, which makes the mystery of how he came by his death the greater, especially as the water in which he was found was not deep enough to cover his body. The only trace as to his identity springs from a woman who saw his body late on Thursday evening. She gave it as her opinion that he is a boiler-maker from Dewsbury.

SINGULAR ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday, an inquest was held at Maitland-bridge, Wigan, on the body of a carter named William Smith, who was drowned on the previous Monday evening under the following circumstances:—The deceased was employed by Mr. Ainscough, farmer, of Pemberton, and about half-past eleven on Monday night he was returning from Wigan to his master with a horse and cart. To reach Pemberton from Wigan he had to cross the canal, and as he was proceeding over Maitland Mill-bridge, the cart caught against the wall at the side, and the deceased, who was sitting on the front of the cart, was thrown over the battlements into the water. A person, who saw the accident, gave the alarm, and a man named Liptrot came to his assistance. Liptrot immediately plunged into the water. On diving to the bottom he found the deceased lying face downwards; but his exertions to raise the body were of no avail. Further assistance being procured, the body was recovered, but life was then extinct. Verdict, "Accidental death."

FATAL BOILER EXPLOSION.—A dreadful boiler explosion took place on Wednesday evening, at the iron foundry of Mr. Wm. Hitchen, tenanted by Mr. Samuel Heath, at Middlewich, Manchester. The effect of the explosion was to blow down the foundry, carrying the bricks 50 yards away from the premises. The owner of the foundry and one of his sons were dangerously scalded and injured, and another son, 35 years of age, was killed on the spot. Portions of the boiler which have been picked up are stated, in one account to be as thin as a sixpenny-piece.

FATAL GUN ACCIDENT.—One day last week, a young man, aged 20 years, named Young, of Parsonby, near Aspatria, was handling a loaded gun, with the barrel directed towards his shoulder. In this position the gun accidentally exploded, blowing away a great portion of the young man's shoulder bone, with the flesh adhering. Notwithstanding the best medical attention, the poor fellow died on Monday of lock-jaw.—*Carlisle Patriot*.