The Daily Telegraph
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THE DAI

WIN'S "DESCENT OF MAN."

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...t is divided into two parts, as indicated ... the portion which relates to "selec... ...tion to sex," although of secondary ..., occupying about one-half of the first ... the whole of the second beyond a ... of general summary at the close. In a ...tinction, Mr. Darwin explains that ...many years I had collected notes on the ...origin of man, without any intention ...ing on the subject, but rather with the ...not to publish, as I thought that I ... only add to the prejudices against my ... these were generally indicated in the ... Species." But now, says Mr. Dar... ...ese wears a wholly different aspect. ... younger and rising naturalists accept ... of natural selection, more or less ...ent to which it was advanced in that ... thus Mr. Darwin has been encouraged ...ther his notes, so as to see how far the ...clusions arrived at in his former books ...on he had never deliberately applied to ...takes singly—were applicable to man. ...t is threefold: "to consider, firstly, ...man, like every other species, is de... ...n some pre-existing form; secondly, ... of his development; and thirdly, the ... the differences between the so-called ...ces." It is about the first two points ... strictly scientific reader will mainly ...self; for the question how far and in ...natural selection has contributed to diff... the various races of man is, as we have ... of subsidiary importance to the great ... of the book, how man became man.

...g with the evidences of the descent of ... the lower form, Mr Darwin reminds us ... bodily structure man is notoriously ... on the same general type or model ... mammals. Bones, muscles, nerves, ...ch, and internal viscera can be com... ...n corresponding parts in a monkey, bat, ...ogs the brain is not exempt from the ... man can receive certain diseases from ...animals, and communicate other diseases ... medicines and liquors produce analo... ...s on both; parasites infest both; the ...ses of reproduction is strikingly the ...ch. Nor is it otherwise with the em... ...opment, or with those parts in a rudi... ...ate which belong to all the higher ... and which owe their existence in that ...r to disuse, or to natural selection, or ...ges in the conditions of life. Under this ... Darwin enters into some very curious ... and analogy; and he concludes his ...ew by maintaining that "the simi... ...pattern between the hand of a man ... the foot of a horse, the flipper of a ...ing of a bat, &c., is utterly inexplicable" ...er view than that of their "descent ...mmon progenitor, together with their ... adaptation to diversified conditions." ... our natural prejudice, and that arro... ...t made our forefathers declare that ... descended from demi-gods, which lead ...er to this conclusion. But the time ... long come when it will be thought ... that naturalists who were well so... ...with the comparative structure and ...nt of man and other mammals should ...ed that such was the work of a separate ...ing."

Passing in his second chapter from the physical to the mental comparison between man and the lower animals, Mr. Darwin rebuts the objection that the immense superiority in mental power possessed by man weighs against the theory of his descent from a lower form. Admitting all the enormous difference even between the mind of one of the lowest savages and that of the most highly organised ape, he contends that the difference is of no fundamental character—is of degree and not of kind; and that there is a much wider interval in mental power between one of the lowest fishes, such as a lamprey or lancelet, and one of the higher apes, than between an ape and a man. On both sides of the scale—between the lamprey and the ape, between the savage and the Newton or Howard—there are numberless gradations, whether of mental power or of moral disposition; and on both sides, as the author shows, there are capabilities of progressive development, through natural selection and otherwise. A crowd of anecdotes of very interesting sort are adduced to prove that many of the human instincts and emotions and mental faculties are common, in different degree, to the lower animals; love, jealousy or the desire of love, emulation, magnanimity, dislike to ridicule; hatred of cause, craving for excitement, wonder, curiosity; imitation, attention, memory, even imagination and reason—under all these heads Mr. Darwin brings authenticated facts to convict man of kinship with the inferior animals. And he goes further; for he contends that those animals are, like man, capable of progressive improvement, of in some measure using tools and weapons, and taking steps towards some of the simpler arts; while, in the power of articulate language, in the sense of beauty, and even in certain dim and vague approaches to belief in superior powers, the difference, as elsewhere, is not fundamental, but of degree. It is impossible not to be struck by the breadth of research, the felicity of choice, and the persuasiveness of application with which Mr. Darwin, here as throughout, labours to make us think so poorly of our origin as it is his object to do.

In his third chapter Mr. Darwin continues the examination of the comparative mental powers of man and other animals in far the most important region of difference—that of the moral sense. Here, we confess, it does not appear that he supports his main argument with the same skill, happiness, and lucid force as when he is dealing with physiological or merely mental similarities; and the author himself frankly recognises the difficulty of the problem. We can now do little more than state the proposition which to him "seems in a high degree probable—namely, that any animal whatever, endowed with well-marked social instincts, would inevitably acquire a moral sense or conscience as soon as its intellectual powers had become as well developed, or nearly as well developed, as in man." In the social instincts, argues Mr. Darwin, man agrees with the lower animals; and, in support of the common possession of such instincts, many interesting and curious instances are collected. But here the gap to be bridged over by such instances, and the inductions drawn from them, are much more stupendous; and the gist of the argument seems to be, in effect, rather that the germs of the moral sense in man as he advances upward—as man—in enlightenment and civilisation are of kin to certain habits and capacities in the animals, than that they are, so to speak, in sequence therein. Here, in fact, is presumption at a vast distance, rather than identity traceable, as in the physical and in lower parts of the mental argument, by close and clinching stages; and Mr. Darwin, who is dogmatic nowhere, but often elsewhere positive, can here but speak with a certain vagueness and difficulty, all the more striking by contrast with his general force and courage, of a probability. Not that we would say he thereby weakens his case; but even those who follow him most ardently will be fain to admit that at this point their leader is least armed in proof.

Treating next "on the manner of development of man from the lower form," Mr. Darwin appeals to the analogy of the manifold variations in man—in examples of which he is wealthy—to show that the early form, the arboreal ape-like creature which was transformed into man, as well as the many successive links, had all varied in mind and body. These variations, with the law of inheritance which perpetuates and confirms them, are, he contends, found as well in relation to lower animals as to man; and the causes of variation are examined under the heads of the action of changed conditions of being, the effects of increased use and disuse of parts, arrests of development, reversion, correlation of variation, rate of increase, and the consequent struggle for existence, or operation of the law of natural selection, which gradually threw to the summit of the latter of being the highest and fittest forms: until man raised himself on his feet—until his feet became no longer grapers but supports—until his hands, losing their monkey-form, assumed a missile-throwing and tool-grasping shape—until his brain grew, by exercise of language and device, larger and heavier—until the spinal column that had to support it waxed stronger and stronger with the added strain—until the skull assumed its present form under the pressure of the developing brain—and until, whether through the influence of an original tropical habitat, or from purely ornamental considerations, the primary human animal "became divested of hair. All the stages in this presumed development are followed with a minute logicalness and a fascinating vividness of description which it does not need the reader's assent to appreciate; and at the close the counter-argument derived from the comparative helplessness and defenselessness of man in relation to the brutes, before whose ranks he was promoted, is met with a heavy feeling that must make it hard for even an objector not to be amused. "In regard to bodily size and strength, we do not know whether man is descended from some comparatively small species, like the chimpanzee, or from one as powerful as the gorilla; and therefore we cannot say whether man has become larger and stronger, or smaller and weaker, in comparison with his progenitors." But a great, fierce, strong animal would not have been social, and thus would not have developed mentally and morally as man was destined to do. "Hence it might have been an immense advantage to man to have sprung from some comparatively weak creature." We trust the opponents of evolution are flattered and satisfied!

Mr. Darwin has now brought us up to man's estate, and his next chapter—at which we but glance—is devoted to following man in his gradual progress towards civilisation, with a purpose, direct and reflex, sadly to be gleaned from the concluding sentences: "To believe that man was aboriginally civilised, and then suffered degradation in so many regions, is to take a pitiably low view of human nature. It is apparently a truer and more cheerful view that progress has been much more general than retrogression; that man has risen—though by slow and interrupted steps—from a lowly condition to the highest standard as yet attained by him in knowledge, morals, and religion." And—by implication, though not here expressed—if this has been so since his manhood, why not also in his apehood? In Chapter VI. the affinities and genealogy of man, considered as a subject for natural history, are examined; and the conclusion is, that man sprang from "some ancient member of the anthropomorphous subgroup" of apes, inhabiting the African Continent, or certainly the Old World. But here we come to the "bouquet" in which, as it were, the author gathers up the essence of all that he has been contending for; and we must quote the passage:

"The most ancient progenitors in the kingdom of the Vertebrata were apparently fishes, which, at a remote period, apparently consisted of a group of marine animals, resembling the larvæ of existing Ascidians. These animals probably gave rise to a group of fishes, at first very low in the scale, and from these the Ganoids and other fishes like the Lepidosiren, must have been developed. From such fish a very small advance would carry us on to the amphibians. We have seen that birds and reptiles were once intimately associated together; and the Monotremata bear, in a slight degree, connect mammals with reptiles. But no one can suppose that from what line of descent the three higher and related classes, namely, mammals, birds, and reptiles, were derived from either of the two lower vertebrate classes, namely, amphibians and fishes. In the class of mammals the steps are not difficult to conceive which led from the ancient Marsupials to the ancient Monotremata; and from these to the early progenitors of the placental mammals. We may thus ascend to the Lemuridæ; and the interval is not wide from these to the Simiadæ. The Simiadæ then branched off into two great stems, the New World and Old World monkeys; and from the latter, at a remote period, man, the wonder and glory of the universe, proceeded.

Thus we have given to man a pedigree of prodigious length, but not, it may be said, of noble descent. The world, it has often been remarked, appears as if it had long been preparing for the advent of man; and this, in one sense, is strictly true, for he owes his birth to a long line of progenitors. If any single link in this chain had been wanting, man would not have been exactly what he now is. Unless we wilfully close our eyes, we may, with our present knowledge, approximately recognise our pedigree; nor need we feel ashamed of it. The mind and organisation is something much higher than the inorganic dust under our feet; and no one with an unbiased mind can study any living creature, however humble, without being struck with enthusiasm at its marvellous structure and properties.

Coming to examine the value of the differences between the races of man, Mr. Darwin, after long and learned examination, declares himself of opinion that these differences cannot be explained satisfactorily by the direct action of the conditions of life, nor by the effects of continued use of parts, nor through the principle of correlation—nor can they be accounted for even by the doctrine of natural selection, since that law can preserve only beneficial variations, while none of the external differences between races are of any direct or special service to man. The author is thus driven to the important agency of sexual selection, acting as powerfully in regard to man as to many other animals, and though not completely, yet in very large measure, supplying the desired explanation. But here Mr. Darwin has "found it necessary," in fully working out his theory, "to pass the whole animal kingdom in review;" a task in which we certainly pretent attempt to follow him. Full of singular, interesting, sometimes we might almost say romantic incident and detail of animated existence, are these 600 pages; but it is at once seen that their main theme and object are apart from the portions of the book which are most likely to seize on public attention; and to these we have preferred to devote this hasty and necessarily imperfect outline. Mr. Darwin, when he has combatted and dealt with those who have differed or will differ from him, uses a moderation, and almost a depreciatoriness, of language, of which not even the most fastidious or sensitive could with fairness complain. In partial evidence, we reproduce the concluding words of the book, not more for their force and their literary merit, than because they will—with many other words like them—be accepted by even dissentient readers of Mr. Darwin as a grateful and beneficiary, yet dignified, "Apologia pro Doctrina sua:"

The main conclusion arrived at in this work, namely, that man is descended from some lowly organised form, will, I regret to think, be highly offensive to many. But nothing can ever be proved or disproved, nor can any hypothesis be rejected, or accepted, on account of its consequences. I felt no fear stating a party of Parliament on a wild and broken shore will never be forgotten by me, for the reflection at once rushed into my mind—such_were_the__ _ _ _

MR. DARWIN'S "DESCENT OF MAN."

The appearance of Mr. Darwin's new book* is undoubtedly to be ranked among the literary and scientific events of the season. The previous labours of the same bold and accomplished pen, and the adoption and amplification of Mr. Darwin's evolutionist theories by savants of distinction and in more distinguished publications with the intelligent public, have to some extent lessened the surprise and shock which the great argument of these volumes will produce in many minds. Still their perusal cannot fail to make a widely spread impression, and to stir up a controversy sure to be in some quarters sufficiently clamorous. In our present notice of the work, we have no purpose of entering upon the ground of dispassionate criticism, but would merely desire to sketch, as best may be possible within narrow limits, an outline of Mr. Darwin's views on "the descent of man"—which, in other senses, might fairly have been called "the ascent of man," since we are audaciously told that we must find our primal form in "an aquatic animal" which "seems to have been more like the larvæ of our existing Ascidians than any known form;" and that in process of immeasurable ages we developed through the phase of apehood into our present erect, star-contemplating shape.

The work is divided into two parts, as indicated by the title; the portion which relates to "selection in relation to sex," although of secondary importance, occupying about one-third of the volume, and the whole of the second beyond a few pages of general summary at the close. In a brief introduction, Mr. Darwin explains that "during many years I had collected materials for a work on descent of man, without any intention of publishing on the subject, but rather with the intention not to publish, as I thought that I should thus only add to the prejudices against my views" . . . these were generally indicated in the "Origin of Species." But now, says Mr. Darwin, the case wears a wholly different aspect. Many of the opinions I had collected tending to the support of natural selection, more or less to the extent to which it was advanced in that work; and thus Mr. Darwin has been encouraged to put together his notes, so as to see how far the general conclusion arrived at in his former books—conclusions he had never deliberately applied to a species taken singly—were applicable to man. His object is threefold: "to consider, firstly, whether man, like every other species, is descended from some pre-existing form; secondly, the manner of his development; and thirdly, the value of the differences between the different races of man." It is about the first two points that the less strictly scientific reader will mainly concern himself; for the question how far and in what way sexual selection has contributed to differentiate the various races of man is, as we have said above, of subsidiary importance to the great question of the book, how man became man.

Beginning with the evidences of the descent of man from the lower form, Mr. Darwin reminds us that in his bodily structure man is notoriously constructed on the same general type or model with other mammals. He "suffers from the same bloodvessels, and internal viscera can be compared with corresponding parts in a monkey, bat, or seal; even the brain is not exempt from the rule. Hence many physiological processes throughout the lower animals, and communicate other diseases to them; medicines and liquors produce analogous effects on both; parasites infest the whole process of reproduction is strikingly the same in each. Nor is it otherwise with the embryonic development, or with those parts in a rudimentary state which we also find in the higher animals, and which owe their existence in that form either to disuse, or to natural selection, or to alteration in the conditions of life. Under this head Mr. Darwin enters into some very curious detail and analogy; and he concludes his first chapter by maintaining that "the similarity of pattern between the hand of a man or lower monkey, the leg of a horse, the flipper of a seal, the wing of a bat, &c., is utterly inexplicable on any other view than that of their "descent from a common progenitor, together with their subsequent adaptation to diversified conditions." "It is only our natural prejudice, and that arrogance which made our forefathers declare that they were descended from demi-gods, which leads us to deny this conclusion. But the time will before long come when it will be thought wonderful that naturalists who were well acquainted with the comparative structure and development of man and other mammals should have believed that each was the work of a separate act of creation."

Passing in his second chapter from the physical to the mental comparison between man and the lower animals, Mr. Darwin rebuts the objection that the immense superiority in mental power possessed by man constitutes the main point of his descent from a lower form. Admitting all the enormous difference even between the mind of one of the lowest savages and that of the most highly organized type, he contends that this difference is of no fundamental character—is of degree and not of kind; and that there is a much wider interval in mental power between one of the lowest fishes, say, or a lamprey or ascidian, and one of the higher apes, than between an ape and a man. On both sides of the scale—between the lamprey and the ape, between the ape and the Newton or Howard—there are numberless gradations, whether of mental power or of moral disposition; and on both sides, as the author shows, there are capacities of progress and development through natural selection and otherwise. A crowd of anecdotes of very interesting sort are adduced to prove that many of the human instincts and emotions and mental faculties are common, in different degree, to the lower animals: love, jealousy or the desire of love, emulation, magnanimity, dislike to ridicule; hatred of *caussi*, craving for excitement, wonder, curiosity; imitation, attention, memory, even imagination and reason—under all these heads Mr. Darwin brings authenticated facts to convict man of kinship with the inferior animal. And he goes further; for he contends that those animals are, like man, capable of progressive improvement, of in some measure using tools and weapons, and taking steps towards some of the simpler arts; while, in the power of articulate language, in the sense of beauty, and even in certain dim and vague approaches to belief in superior powers, the difference, as elsewhere, is not fundamental, but of degree. It is impossible not to be struck by the breadth of reason, the felicity of choice, and the persuasiveness of application with which Mr. Darwin, here as throughout, labours to make us think so poorly of our origin as it is his object to do.

In his third chapter Mr. Darwin continues the examination of comparative mental powers of man and other animals in far the most important region of difference—that of the moral sense. Here, we confess, it does not appear that he adports his main argument with the same skill, happiness, and lucid force as when he is dealing with physiological or merely mental similarities; and he further himself frankly acknowledges the difficulty of the problem. We can now do little more than state the proposition which to him seems in a high degree probable—namely, that any animal endowed with well-marked social instincts, would inevitably acquire a moral sense or conscience as soon as its intellectual powers became as well developed, or nearly as well developed, as those of man." The social instincts, argues Mr. Darwin, man shares with the lower animals; and, in support of the common possession of such instincts, many interesting and curious instances are collected. But here the gap to be bridged over by such instances, and the inductions drawn from them, are so immense, and the force of the argument seems to be, in effect, rather that the germs of the moral sense in man as he advances upward—as man—in enlightenment and civilization, and kin to certain habits and capacities in the animals, than that they are, so to speak, in sequence thereto. Here, in fact, is resemblance in a vast distance, rather than identity of nature, in the physical and in lower parts of the mental argument, by close and clinching stages; and Mr. Darwin, who is dogmatic nowhere, but often clearly positive, yet leaves but speaks with a certain vagueness and difficulty, all the more striking by contrast with his general force and assurance, of a probability. Not that we would say he seems his case; but we feel that those who follow him most ardently will be fain to admit that at this point their leader is least armed in proof.

Treating next "on the manner of development of man from the lower form," Mr. Darwin appeals to the analogy of the manifold variations in man—in examples of which he is wealthy—to show that the early form, the arboreal ape-like creature which was transformed into man, as well as the many successive links, had all varied in mind and body. These variations, with the law of inheritance which perpetuates and confirms them, are, he contends, found as well in relation to lower animals as to man; and the causes of variation are examined under the heads of the action of changed conditions of being, the effects of increased use and disuse of parts, arrests of development, reversion, correlation of variation, rate of increase, and the complex struggle for existence, or operation of the law of natural selection, which gradually threw to the summit of the ladder of being the highest and fittest forms: until man raised his feet—and in that he first became a finger grasper but supports—until his hands, losing their monkey-form, assumed a missile-throwing and tool-grasping shape—until his brain grew, by exercise of language and device, larger and heavier—until the spinal column that had to support it waxed stronger and stronger with the added strain—until the skull assumed its present form under the pressure of the developing brain—and finally, further through the influence of an original tropical habitat, or from purely ornamental considerations, the primary human animal became divested of hair. All the stages in this marvellous development are followed with a minute logicalness and a fascinating vividness of description which it does not need the reader's assent to appreciate; and the counter-argument derived from the comparative helplessness and defencelessness of man in relation to the brutes, from whose ranks he was promoted, is met with a happy daring that must make it hard for even an objector not to be amused. "In regard to bodily size and strength, we do not know whether man is descended from some comparatively small species, like the chimpanzee, or from one so powerful as the gorilla; and therefore we cannot say whether man has become larger and stronger, or smaller and weaker, in comparison with his progenitors. But a great, fierce, strong animal would not have been social, and thus would not have developed mentally and morally as man was destined to do. "Hence it might have been an immense advantage to man to have sprung from some comparatively weak creature." We trust the opponents of evolution are flattered and satisfied!

Mr. Darwin has now brought us up to man's estate, and his next chapter—at which we but glance—is devoted to following man in his gradual progress towards civilisation, with a purpose, direct and reflex, easily to be gleaned from the concluding sentences: "To believe that man was aboriginally civilised, and then suffered degradation in so many regions, is to take a pitiably low view of human nature. It is apparently a truer and more cheerful view that progress has been much more general than retrogression; that man has risen—though by slow and interrupted steps—from a lowly condition to the highest standard as yet attained by him in knowledge, morals, and religion." And—by implication, though not here expressed—if this has been so since his manhood, why not also in his spahood? In Chapter VI. the affinities and genealogy of man, considered as a subject for natural history, are examined; and the conclusion is, that man sprang from "some ancient member of the anthropomorphous group" of apes, inhabiting the African Continent, or certainly the Old World. But here we come to the "bouquet" in which, as it were, the author gathers up the essence of all that he has been contending for; and we must quote the passage:

"The most ancient progenitors in the kingdom of the vertebrata, of which we are able to form a tolerable idea, apparently consisted of a group of marine animals, resembling the larvæ of existing Ascidians. These animals probably gave rise to a group of fishes, to which amounts the lungfish; and from these the Ganoids, and other fishes like the Lepidosiren in Walting, were evolved. From fish sah is a very small advance would carry us on to the amphibians. We have seen that birds and reptiles were once intimately connected together, and the Monotremata now, in a slight degree, connect mammals with reptiles. But no one can at present say by what line of descent the lungfish may have entered the class, namely, mammals, birds, and reptiles, were derived from either of the two lower vertebrate classes, namely, amphibians and fishes. In the class of mammals the steps are not difficult to conceive which led from the ancient Monotremata to the ancient Marsupials; and from these to early progenitors of the placental mammals. We may thus descend to the Lemurians; and the interval is not far from these to the Simiadæ. The Simiadæ then branched off into two great stems, the New World and Old World monkeys; and from the latter, at a long antecedent period, man, the wonder and glory of the universe, proceeded.

"Thus we have given to man a pedigree of considerable length, but not, it may be said, of noble quality. The world, it has often been remarked, appears as if it had been prepared for the use of man; and if this be in one sense, is strictly true, for he owes his birth to a long line of progenitors. If any single link in this chain had never existed, man would not have been exactly what he now is. Unless we wilfully close our eyes, we may, with our present knowledge, approximatively ascertain our pentage; nor need we feel ashamed of it. The most humble organism is something much higher than inorganic dust under our feet; and no one with an unbiased mind can study any living creature, however apparently insignificant, without feeling enthusiasm at its marvellous structure and properties.

Coming to examine the value of the differences between the races of man, Mr. Darwin, with his accustomed examination, declares himself of opinion that those differences cannot be explained satisfactorily by the direct action of the conditions of life, or by the effect of continued use or disuse of parts, through the principle of correlation—nor can they be accounted for even by the doctrine of natural selection, since that law can preserve only beneficial variations, while none of the external differences between races are of any direct or special service to man. The author is thus driven to the important agency of sexual selection, acting as powerfully in regard to man as to many other animals, though not completely, yet in very large measure, supplying the desired explanation. But here Mr. Darwin has "found it necessary," in fully working out his theory, "to pass the whole animal kingdom in review;" a task in which we certainly cannot attempt to follow him. Full of singular, interesting, sometimes we might almost say romantic incident and detail of animated existence, are these 600 pages; but it is at once seen that their main theme and object are apart from the portion of the book which are most likely to seize on public attention; and to these we have preferred to devote this hasty and necessarily imperfect outline. Mr. Darwin, when he has occasion to deal with those who have differed or will differ from him, uses a moderation, and almost a deprecatoriness, of language, of which not even the most fastidious or sensitive could with fairness complain. In partial evidence, we reproduce the concluding words of the book, not more for their force and their literary merit, than because they will—with many other works like them—be accepted by even dissentient readers of Mr. Darwin as a graceful and conciliatory, yet dignified "Apologia pro Doctrina sua:"

"The main conclusion arrived at in this work, namely, that man is descended from some lowly-organised form, will, I regret to think, be highly distasteful to many persons. But there can be little doubt that man is descended from barbarians. The astonishment which I felt on first seeing a party of Fuegians on a wild and rocky coast will never be forgotten by me, for the reflection at once rushed into my mind—such were our ancestors. These men were absolutely naked and bedaubed with paint; their long hair was tangled, their mouths frothed with excitement, and their expression was wild, startled, and distrustful. They possessed hardly any arts, and like wild animals lived upon what they could catch; they had no government, and were merciless to every one not of their own small tribe. He who has seen a savage in his native land will not feel ashamed if forced to acknowledge that the blood of some more humble creature flows in his veins. For my own part I would as soon be descended from that heroic little monkey who braved his dreaded enemy in order to save the life of his keeper, or from that old baboon who, descending from the mountains, carried away in triumph his young comrade from a crowd of astonished dogs—as from a savage who delights to torture his enemies, offers up bloody sacrifices, practices infanticide without remorse, treats his wives like slaves, knows no decency, and is tormented by the grossest superstitions.

"Man may be excused for feeling some pride at having risen, though not through his own exertions, to the very summit of the organic scale; and the fact of his having thus risen, instead of having been originally placed there, may give him hopes for a still higher destiny in the distant future. But we are not here concerned with hopes or fears, only with the truth as far as our reason allows us to discover it. I have given the evidence to the best of my ability; and we must acknowledge, as it seems to me, that man with all his noble qualities, with sympathy which feels for the most debased, with benevolence which extends not only to other men but to the humblest living creature, with his god-like intellect which has penetrated into the movements and constitution of the solar system—with all these exalted powers—Man still bears in his bodily frame the indelible stamp of his lowly origin.

FRENCH RELIEF FUND.—An entertainment will be given by the members of the Thespians Amateur Dramatic Club at St. George's Hall, to-morrow (Friday) evening, in aid of this fund. The performances will consist of Mr. T. J. Williams's farce, "An Ugly Customer," and the five-act comedy by Mr. H. J. Byron, entitled "Cyril's Success."

AT A BLIND TEA PARTY.

[BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.]

Half-past five has been duly advised as teatime, and at least an hour before, the various thoroughfares that led to the place of meeting must, to the uninitiated, have presented a curious and perplexing spectacle. Only for the absolute absence of consternation and panic, it might have been that a blight, that carried on its wings the terrible scourge of blindness, had fallen on at least one-half of the pedestrian population. Blind men, blind women, blind boys, blind girls—the pavement was fairly dotted with them. Grey-headed, bent-backed, poor old fellows, whose sapphire of vision had have failed them through sheer decay of nature; tall and sturdy fellows, whose affliction, as it seemed, was so recent that they had not as yet recovered from the first fright of it, and still carried dismay in their upturned faces, and stared timidly before them, as though it were not quite impossible that, in an instant, life might dart back to their hollow sapphires of dead sight, and enable them to see and understand the strange din that surrounded them. Scarcely less painful was it to contemplate the faces of the blind children, as little happy and cheerful first fright of it, and still lacking light, or, at best, shining with a borrowed brightness, gathered from the merry talk of children about them who could see.

But where were the dogs? Our four-footed friends are so intimately associated with blind men that one looked for them quite naturally; and, failing to discover them, experienced an additional sense of the sad infirmity of the sightless ones. Somehow, they did not appear nearly so secure in the keeping of their two-legged guides. It was as though a company of cripples had abandoned their crutches, and, leaning on the old familiar supports, on which they swing along so easily, the willing, though awkward, hands and arms of their friends. But, as I afterwards found out, dogs were not eligible for admittance at the place of the meeting; and, though at first this may appear a somewhat arbitrary arrangement, there really was a good reason for the exclusion of the canine race. Blind men's dogs are, as a rule, exceedingly sensitive animals, and jealous for their masters' safety, and it is not difficult to imagine how easily a "row" might originate, and what a bad preference with harmonious tea-drinking might be created by a hundred determined dogs of various breeds, and with their collars and chains hideously entangled, each bent on their self satisfaction. Again, the dogs of blind men are known to be peculiarly alive to the charms of music, and, since the entertainment in question was to include singing and tunes on an harmonium, the committee probably exercised a wise discretion in avoiding the possibility of a discordant augmentation of the choruses. Some few of the invited guests, however, were without "guides" of any kind. Old experienced London hands these, who had served a long apprenticeship, and were perfect masters of the mystery of finding their way in the pitchy darkness of London fogs from any given quarter of the metropolis to another, with only a stick to steer by. I had some talk with an elderly gentleman, so accomplished, who had found his way from Hoxton to Gosswell-street, with scarcely a speck of mud on his well-blacked boots, and who, in confidence, informed me that nothing best him but fog. It "blows me somehow," said the old gentleman, "and gets into my ears and kind o' spins my head full of wool. I've been that deceived sometimes as to find myself right under a cab-horse's head, when I could have sworn I was on good six yards off." The same afflicted person was terribly wroth against metropolitan improvements generally; but waxed the hottest in obloquy against the Board of Works would have found it difficult to resist, when he spoke of the cruel wrong he had endured through the machinations of the individual known and feared by every road-paving. "It isn't English at all; it's a sly, sneaking French way," the irate blind Briton declared; "there is nothing like the good old cobble-stones that made the wheels rattle so loud and sweet that a man can hear." The precious ears of blind men guide their speech in a way that sounds odd at times. "Well, Matthew, how do you find yourself this fine bright happy time?" one of the blind visitors asked of the blind ticket-taker at the door, "Better, better; but not well, I am sorry to say." "Ah, I might ha' known by the sympathetic old voice," he replied, with a doleful wag of her blank face; "you don't sound very bright."

Being a busy worker among them, the blind ticket-taker knew them all, and with no other assistance than an intelligent little boy, his son, could render him, received his motley guests, and, according to their age and infirmities, of deafness, besides blindness, under which many of them were suffering, directed where they should be seated. This distinction was necessary, as it was but a little place, and would not accommodate their whole number without packing some of them in the gallery upstairs. They came from all parts of the town—from Stepney, from Mile-end, from Bow, from Hackney, from Islington, from Pimlico, I know them all by mere touch, as it seemed. "How d'ye do, Peters? The stain will be no trouble to you; you'll go up. Same place, Jones, as last year, I mind, I mind, I know." "Not in the least, sir; but the old woman was good enough to guide me in a delicate way to the door, and she—" "Right; downstairs, old 'oman, and she—" "Hayes! who is with you, old John?" "My daughter Peggy, sir." "Umph! well, you two had better keep down here; I know how uncertain she is." And so the work went on, and, by the time the hour not unfrequently leading the blind, until the stipulated number of 200 have obtained admission, and the party is complete.

Of the tea I need say nothing, except that it was a plentiful meal, and that the cake and bread and butter were in excess of the demand, which, however, was not unfortunate, as it was equal to the demolishing of several capacious wicker clothes-baskets piled full of tempting slices and "rounds." I can't say that it was a particular pretty sight—those blind men and women there was little or no gossiping. Everyone's neighbour was a stranger at present. Under more favourable circumstances I know how cautious guests differ to be each other unbroken and engage in conversation, and it is not difficult to understand how this feeling of reserve is increased in the case of people whose their sociable advances have literally to *feel* their way. Then, again, that very many of them were bewildered with the strangeness of their position was plainly apparent. Be his home never so poor a one, each has his special corner by the fire, his special chair to sit in, and the cup that he drinks out of is his only, and the plate that it is familiar to his sensitive fingers. That the majority of them were embarrassed in these small matters was perceptible at a glance. They had not a variety of the same things laid before them to the never-failing stick, standing it between their knees, and embracing the sturdy knob of it with their interlaced fingers, as they do at home. Of this and that they should be lost indeed. The clumsy teacups were foreign to their touch, and it was evidently with a depressing consciousness of the fact that they had to drink out of them. Even the passage of a smoking saucerful from the table to his lips. But sufficient time being allowed them, and confidence growing with experience, I believe that one and all contrived to do tolerably well.

But the best of the entertainment had yet to commence. Plentiful teas were, to be sure, not everyday occurrences with these poor creatures shut out from the world. Still they did happen at times; whereas, what was in store for them had occurred but once before in all their sightless lives, and that was on that very evening a year ago. There was to be a concert—not a solemn affair built up entirely of hymns, but a musical entertainment that was to be in part funny. Many, indeed, were to be blinking the fact with tears grow so clear, there was to be downright comic singing!

They pricked up their ears in the space before the platform as soon as the sober harmonium, under the fingers of a blind player, gave notice that, contrary to its custom, it was about to be hilarious. Some, in consequence, nervously bit a treat, the sightless orbs that faced about in the front row of the gallery quivered and twitched, which was the best they could do towards twinkling. But they were to come down and sit all together, as they did last year; and this they did, laughing and chatting as they made room for each other, and thawing out of their mistrust and timidity in a wonderful way. Now that their faces were turned upwards, and the gaslight shone down on them, you could see how awfully blind some of them were; and I verily believe that what was once their eyes would have looked less appalling had not their faces been puckered in smiles, as it was so grimly suggestive of death in the midst of life. And there they were, many rows deep, and all with their eyes towards the harmonium, for all the world as though they could see. And I may here remark that several of the blind men who were more spectacular, not of course that they derived the smallest personal benefit from their use, but purely out of tender regard for the sensitive feelings of beholders.

A blind man played the harmonium, or, rather, a blind man who was now growing towards middle-age, and who had lost his eyes when he was two months old, in a voice mellow and jovial started the concert with "Tis forty years, my old friend John," in the chorus to which all joined with heartiness, and as though it were an uncommon treat to hear their own voices mingling harmoniously with other voices. After that a blind female singer favoured the audience with "Beloved star," singing the song with much sweetness. Then followed other songs, including one about the "Merry sunshine;" and it is remarkable fact that the majority of the ditties sung bore reference to pleasant *sights* rather than sounds. There were some funny songs, too, all about courtship and sweethearting (all sung by blind singers), and a "laughing song," the chorus to which was nothing but "Ha! ha! ha!" and was really comforting to find, now that they were stirred to it, that they could laugh as heartily without eyes as with—a fact that previously I certainly should have been disposed to dispute. It was all right and proper, sociability, and I have no doubt that the laughing song did it. When it becomes a trial of good humour, even between blind men, who shall laugh the longest and the loudest, there seems nothing for the vanquished to do but clap hands with the victor and hail him as a pleasant neighbour. They were getting on well along with the other under the influence of comic and sentimental song, that I was profane enough to wish that I might order in just enough of steaming punch to serve out to all who liked it—only one, comfortable tumbler, with new long clay pipes and Bristol birdseye (not by way of mending matters—they required no mending, every one of the two hundred was ready to attest), when, shortly after nine o'clock, they took their departure, each one receiving a new shilling as he or she passed out.

And this was the end of the entertainment, to be repeated, if all goes well, in a year's time. Not before. It is a long time to sit in the dark and wait for a repetition of a treat so wholesome and beneficial; but so it is. Should any one desire to know why it is, I have no doubt that the secretary of the City and East London Reading Classes for the Blind will be happy to provide the information desired.

The Court.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE, FEB. 22.

The Queen went out in the grounds this morning, accompanied by Princess Beatrice.

The Princess Christian and Princess Louise, attended by Lady Churchill and Colonel W. H. F. Cavendish, visited the Exhibition of the Works of the Old Masters, at the Academy of Arts, Burlington-House.

Prince Leopold drove out, attended by Dr. Poore, Mr. R. H. Collins, and Mr. Sahl.

The mess of Mr. Hutchinson, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince Albert Victor, and Prince George of Wales visited her Majesty to-day, and remained to luncheon.

The Duke of Edinburgh and Duchess of Edinburgh also visited the Queen.

Her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, drove out in the afternoon, attended by Viscountess Clifden, Colonel the Hon. D. F. de Ros and Colonel the Hon. A. Ellis. The Queen visited Mr. Wallace, at Hertford-house.

The Royal Dinner Party included her Royal Highness Princess Louise, the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland, and the Marquis of Lorne.

The Prince of Wales presided at a meeting of the Governors of Wellington College yesterday morning.

The Prince of Wales and Princess Mary, attended by the Countess of Macclesfield.

The name of Mr. Nicholas Fish, son of the Secretary of State of the United States, was accidentally omitted from the list of gentlemen presented to the Queen at her Majesty's Drawing-room on Tuesday, by the Chargé d'Affaire; and the name of Mrs. Fish, which appeared in the list of ladies presented on the same occasion by the Countess Granville, was erroneously spelled *Fisk*.

NAVY ESTIMATES.

For the year 1871-72 the vote asked for the naval service is estimated at £9,756,356, being an increase on the last year of £385,626. The following figures show the totals of each item of the vote and the distribution of the increase:

Wages to seamen and marines, £2,693,336; increase, £605. Victuals and clothing for ditto, £1,038,209; increase, £69,345. Admiralty Office, £165,499; increase, £1,131. Coastguard, coast volunteers, and naval reserve, £107,830; decrease, £9,128. Scientific branch, £97,105; decrease, £1,691. Dockyards and naval yards, £367,618; decrease, £28,062. Victualling yards and victualling establishments, £68,334; decrease, £933. Medical establishments, £97,926; increase, £176. Marine divisions, £98,081; decrease, £1,691. Naval stores, £837,000; increase, £28,675. Steam machinery and ships built by contract, £751,716; increase, £295,543. New works, buildings, and machinery, £763,304; increase, £19,162. Medicines and medical stores, £67,660; decrease, £3,559. Martial law and law charges, £16,005; decrease, £973. Miscellaneous services, £109,617; decrease, £9,176. Half-pay, reserved half-pay, and retired pay to admirals, £929,238; decrease, £73,822. Military pensions and allowances, £633,795; decrease, £1,561. Civil pensions and allowances, £99,185. Average strength of the Navy, 50,000 (exclusive of troops), £173,150; decrease, £64,190.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

ITALY.

FLORENCE, FEB. 21 (EVENING).

Hussein Bey, the Tunis Envoy, not having sufficient powers to negotiate, has asked his Government for further instructions, and is awaiting its answer.

AMERICA.

[BY FRENCH ATLANTIC CABLE.]

WASHINGTON, FEB. 21.

Congress have authorised President Grant to appoint joint commissioners to rectify the north-western boundary.

NEW YORK, FEB. 21.

Gold closed at 111¾; the highest quotation during the day was 111¾, the lowest 111⅝. Sterling exchange on London, 109¾. United States 5-20 Bonds, 1882, 112; ditto, 1868, 111¼; ditto, 1867, 110¾; ditto, 1865 (old issue), 110¾; ditto, 1865 (new issue), 110¾; ditto, 1867, 110¾; ditto, 1868, 110¾. Illinois Shares, 133¾; Erie ditto, 22¾. Cotton, middling upland, 15¾. Petroleum, standard white, 26¾. Flour, extra State, $6 80a $7; corn, old mixed, 90c.

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

[BY FRENCH ATLANTIC CABLE.]

TORONTO, FEB. 21.

The Canadian press ridicule and denounce the preposterous statements of certain American journals that proposals for the cession of the British American Colonies to the United States will be submitted to the deliberations of the High Joint Commission.

NAVIGATION OF THE CATTEGAT.

A despatch from Friedrichshaven announces that the recent gale has cleared away the ice. The ice has also partly disappeared from the Great Belt. The steamer Tyne, built specially for protection against floating ice, has carried over mails and passengers.

HOLBORN THEATRE.—Mr. Henry Neville's benefit at this theatre will, in accordance with a growing custom, occupy two evenings, namely, those of Wednesday and Thursday, the 1st and 2nd of March. The entertainment will consist of the drama entitled "Ici on parle Français," which has helped to make perennially popular, "The Ticket-of-Leave Man," and the play of "The Serf; or, Love and Life."

CRYSTAL PALACE.—ONE SHILLING DAY, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22.—Admission by ticket, 1,000; season tickets, 2,219; ordinary payment, 1,137; total visitors, 3,347.

The Pure Tea imported by W. H. and F. J. Horniman is now recommended as combining lasting qualities, delicious flavour, and real cheapness. Prices 2s. 6d., 2s. 8d., 3s. 4d., and 4s. per lb. The immense demand for Horniman's Tea has led to imitations. Purchasers should observe that genuine packets are labeled "W. H. and F. J. Horniman and Co., London," Grocers, Importers of pure tea." 3,338 agents are appointed.—(ADVERTISEMENT.)

FRY'S CARACAS COCOA.—In an article referring to the Cocoa manufactured by J. S. Fry and Sons in Marlborough, we find the following: "One of the most remarkable and important of the firm's productions is what has been called the Caracas or Chocolate Cocoa. No nicer delicious, refreshing, and nourishing beverage has ever been submitted to the public. The remarkable change from the everlasting tea and coffee, and the extraordinary activity, it is said, it imparts to the nervous system."—(ADVERTISEMENT.)

FRANCE IN THE ARMISTICE.

PROGRESS OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AT VERSAILLES.

FURTHER SUSPENSION OF HOSTILITIES.

The following telegram has been received at the Foreign Office from Major-General Walker, dated Versailles, February 22, 2.35 p.m.:

"The armistice has been prolonged to Sunday at night."

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

[BY SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH.]

VERSAILLES, FEB. 22 (EVENING).

Thiers, accompanied by Bartholemy de St. Hilaire and a French General Officer, arrived here at eleven o'clock yesterday, and drove to Count Bismarck's, with whom he held a long conference. He returned to Paris at half-past four this morning. He came back again with fifteen Deputies of the National Assembly. He also visited the Reichskanzler.

It is believed that the terms of peace will be definitively settled to-day. Nancy will not be included in the portion of Lorraine made over to Germany. It will be a French frontier town.

Great pressure has been put upon Count Bismarck from Germany with respect to a demand for Cochin China, but it may be reasonably hoped that Prince Bismarck will not yield to popular feeling, so as to materially alter any part of his programme.

The German troops will probably enter Paris on Friday or Saturday from several points of *enceinte*, to familiarise the populace with their presence. They will receive billets from the mayors of the arrondissements. The triumphal entry will probably be delayed for some days, perhaps till the middle or end of next week, as the German troops from various points will all march to Paris, and the occupation may last two or three weeks. The German commanders believe there will be no disturbance.

Last night the King gave a grand banquet to the Crown Prince, on his return from Orleans. All the German Princes and Commanders were invited to meet him; 120 covers were laid.

Capsian Bey, under date of this morning, yesterday to the Crown Prince. He was charged with messages from her Majesty, the Prince of Wales, and the Duke of Cambridge, of felicitations upon the successes won by his army. These messages have given the greatest satisfaction to the highest personages, and the superior officers at the Imperial Quarters, and have brought about a salutary change in the feelings entertained by the German military authorities towards the English.

Last night two Mobile officers, who were captured in the affair of January 19th, were released on parole. The French authorities here consider this a strong symptom of approaching peace.

A requisition was levied upon Versailles yesterday. It was at first fixed at a million francs, but upon a representation of the poverty of the place, and of the fact that it was reduced the demand to 300,000 francs. They ordered 100,000 francs to be paid before 5 p.m. With great difficulty this was done, and the other 200,000 francs must be paid by Saturday. A requisition of ten millions of francs has been made on the department.

New uniforms are arriving for the troops, who will all have them before the entry to Paris.

When the King leaves for Berlin, the Crown Prince will accompany him. It is possible that instead of the King visiting each of the South German Princes, he may take up his residence for a short time at Carlsruhe with his son, and there receive the visits of the Kings of Bavaria and Saxony, having previously seen the King of Würtemburg at Versailles.

The secretary and treasurer of the Versailles Relief Committee, having returned from their tour in the department, made a report at a meeting held here yesterday afternoon, when 71,000 francs were voted for the relief of ninety villages and hamlets.

The report of the condition of the circle of investment, with a tabular statement, will be forwarded to London in a day or two.

AMIENS, FEB. 22 (5 P.M.)

The Emperor has remitted several millions of francs imposed upon the Department of the Somme.

The French Director of Public Works in the Department of the Somme has received instructions from the Provisional Government of Bordeaux to put the public thoroughfares in order, and to repair all bridges that have been destroyed.

The commandant of the garrison of General Bentheim and the officers of the 1st Corps, take place at Rouen to-day.

Peace is considered certain.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

VERSAILLES, FEB. 22.

In consequence of the negotiations which took place yesterday between Count Bismarck and M. Thiers, during which Count Bismarck several times consulted the Emperor, the armistice has been further extended for two days, until Sunday evening, the 26th inst.

PARIS, FEB. 21.

MM. Thiers, Jules Favre, and Ernest Picard arrived here yesterday. M. Jules Favre wrote at once to Count Bismarck that M. Thiers would proceed the next day to Versailles to have an interview with him.

The *Zeppelin* says it is hoped that an understanding will be arrived at in the first interview on all principal points, so that the treaty may be communicated on Saturday next to the National Assembly at Bordeaux.

BERLIN, FEB. 22.

The semi-official *Provinzial Correspondenz* of to-day says: "The demands of the Government of the German Empire, in the preliminaries of peace, make in the interest of the rightful indemnification of Germany, as well as of her future safety, have at the same time been distinctly confined to what is indispensable, that, as to the main points, the only question for the French negotiators will be that of a quick and certain execution of the terms. The main demands of Germany be already acceded to at the conclusion of the armistice, will a further prolongation for some days for the final settlement be not granted. The Government, in view of ensuring the success of the peace negotiations, had summoned the representatives of South Germany. Next week will, if the previous signs do not deceive us, see the re-establishment of peace."

PARIS, FEB. 21.

Señor Olozaga has been appointed Spanish Ambassador to France.

The *Gazette de France* says M. Pouyer-Quertier has been united with MM. Thiers and Favre to proceed to Versailles to treat of peace.

The *Siècle*, contradicting previous statements in reference to various diplomatic appointments, says that M. de Rémusat will be appointed as Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, and will also represent France at the Conference. No alteration will be made in the French representation at Florence and Vienna.

The *Siècle* says the frigate Magellan and the corvette Caton have been sent to Corsica to put down any disturbance.

The same paper urges the people to agree among themselves, and to resume their regular occupations as soon as possible.

The report of the *Liberté* denies the rumour that M. Thiers will reside at the Palais Royal.

A report appears in the *Figaro* that a proposal for the neutralisation of Savoy is being discussed, and also the question of the continuance of the Treaty of Commerce with England and other countries is under consideration.

The *Vérité* says that the appointment of M. Lambrecht is significant of a protectionist line of policy.

PARIS, FEB. 22.

All the Paris newspapers approve M. Thiers' speech in the sitting of the Assembly at Bordeaux on the 19th.

The *Liberté* says it is in a position to corroborate the fact that M. Thiers intends to seek directly, and without arrêt, peace, the establishment and foundation of a Republic.

The members of the Commission of fifteen appointed for consultation in the peace negotiations went to-day to Versailles with M. Thiers. A speedy result is anticipated.

The *Journal de Paris* says the indemnity will, it is believed, be 500,000,000 thalers.

PARIS, FEB. 23 (EVENING).

The news which has been published in reference to General Ducrot is incorrect. According to advices received, an inquiry has been held in Germany which entirely exonerated him from the charges of which he was accused, and completely established the truth of his statements. The General has gone to Bordeaux to take his seat in the National Assembly.

BERLIN, FEB. 22.

Dr. Jolly, the Baden Prime Minister, and Herr von Mittnacht, the Minister of Justice in Würtemberg, both of whom had arrived here for the opening of the Federal Council, left this morning for Versailles, at the invitation of Count Bismarck, to be present at the peace negotiations.

STUTTGART, FEB. 22.

Herr Wächter proceeds to-morrow to Versailles, to take part in the peace negotiations.

BORDEAUX, FEB. 22.

The Committee of the Moderate Left have decided to reply to the proclamation of the Emperor Napoleon, by a motion formally confirming the deposition of the Imperial dynasty.

BORDEAUX, FEB. 22.

M. Ledru Rollin, having previously refused to stand as a candidate for the National Assembly, has tendered his resignation for the three Departments for which he had been elected.

BORDEAUX, FEB. 22 (4.50 P.M.)

The Emperor of Russia has conveyed his strength tion of the French Government to be notified to M. de Chaudordy, who remains entrusted with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in the absence of M. Jules Favre.

BERNE, FEB. 22.

Taking into consideration the exceptional position in which Switzerland has been placed by the entry of the French troops, France has consented to allow the export of a million hundredweight of corn, salt, and forage into Swiss territory.

Dr. Kern has received fresh letters of credit, appointing him Minister of the Swiss Republic in France.

PARIS, FEB. 20.

The *Journal Officiel* publishes the following:

"Requests have obtained as to which French prisoners are constantly being received by the Minister of War. Some of these requests are based upon a desire for the speedy return of our compatriots, in the terms of Article 14 of the Convention of the 28th of January, 1871, the exchange of prisoners of war was to take place as soon as possible, and without distinction of the ranks. There, however, is another article arranging that the exchange should be effected in the order of seniority of capture, and, if necessary, by lot, should the circumstances of the case render such mode of procedure inapplicable. Orders have in consequence been given, and the families of prisoners of war can only be advised to wait the result of the operations which are now in progress."

MUNICH, FEB. 22.

It is officially announced that the statements made by the Vienna *Tagesfragen* on the alleged ill-treatment of French prisoners at Ingolstadt are entirely unfounded. All the names of those prisoners who are said to have signed a complaint to that effect are imaginary. The prisoners of war receive the same food as the Bavarian soldiers.

DIEPPE, FEB. 21 (11 P.M.)

A decree dated 15th February prohibits the exportation of butter and eggs. The trade from this port, which was formerly so important, will in all probability soon recommence. A consignment of flour has been received from a Belgian house, and the aid of the poor of Dieppe and the neighbourhood.

Mr. Lee Jortin, the Vice-Consul, who has taken an active part in relieving the late distress, has consented to distribute it.

LILLE, FEB. 22.

Business is being resumed.

The wheat crop having been frozen throughout