The Essex Standard.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1868.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The reception which Her Majesty's Ministers enjoyed at Bristol on Wednesday evening last was little less than an ovation. A grand banquet was prepared, and 1,400 Conservatives, presided over by the Duke of Beaufort, greeted the representatives of the Cabinet, Lord Stanley, Sir J. Pakington, and Mr. Gathorne Hardy. Lord Stanley's speech was the speech of the evening, and deserves separate notice, which must be reserved for a future occasion. He took a calm and statesmanlike view of the present condition of the political affairs of the country, and indicated to a certain extent the course the Government intended to take during the remainder of the Session. Sir John Pakington announced that the naval and military policy of the Government, especially the latter, which comes under his more immediate control, is one of re-organisation with a view to greater economy and to increased vigour and efficiency. As the steps taken by the present Government hitherto indicate that these statements are not mere empty professions, we may fully expect that they will meet Parliament with such a programme of measures as will justify the expectations which they have held out.

The news received from Abyssinia to-day, dated the 27th inst., reports that the advanced posts were carried forward to Goom-Gooma, 12 miles beyond Senafé. Stores were rapidly arriving, so that the army was well supplied. It is satisfactory to learn that news had reached head-quarters that the British and other captives were still in good health. A former despatch expressed a doubt whether Gobazyse, the rebel chief, who, with his followers, was confronting the King's army, would make an attack.

The Bishop of Capetown, as Metropolitan of South Africa, has been exerting himself with commendable zeal, if not with wisdom, to obtain the consecration of a Bishop to supplant the unorthodox Dr. Colenso in the diocese of Natal. He has succeeded in obtaining the consent of a clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Macrorie, Rector of Accrington, to be nominated for the office. As, however, Dr. Colenso, for whose hasty appointment the Bishop of Capetown himself (with the assistance of the Bishop of Oxford) is chiefly responsible, has not yet been legally deposed, the consecration of a second Bishop would be an illegal act. Hence, though arrangements were made for the performance of the service at Accrington Church last Sunday, a vigorous protest from the Bishop of London, followed by another from the Archbishop of York, has stayed the proceedings of the over-zealous colonial prelates by whom it was to be performed. The Archbishop of Canterbury appears to have given some sort of consent to the consecration, and has consequently very narrowly escaped being liable to the penalties of *præmunire*. It is now thought that an attempt will be made to consecrate Mr. Macrorie in Scotland, and if the act were performed by Scotch Bishops it would be harmless; but then he would be a Colonial Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Scotland, and not an English Colonial Bishop. This would scarcely effect the object which the Bishop of Capetown has in view, and it would not touch the position held by Dr. Colenso. Sad as it is to see a Bishop of the English Church holding and teaching such views as those put forth by Dr. Colenso, he must be left to be dealt with by that law to which every member of the Established Church is alike amenable, and to the protection of which he has an equal right.

The Bishop of Rochester has re-commenced the plan of holding conferences of Laity and Clergy adopted by his predecessor. The first conference took place in the Chapter-room of the Cathedral, at Rochester, last week. There were two subjects for discussion—Education and Diocesan Synods—but the first of these occupied so much time that the last was scarcely entered upon, with the exception of the paper on the subject by the Rev. J. G. Carey. With regard to the first question, although no resolution was formally adopted, the views generally expressed by the several speakers were in favour of some improved system of education, having especial reference to the compulsory attendance of children, especially those at work under a certain age, and that employers of children should be compelled to see that such rules were carried out. In the course of the discussion which ensued it was admitted by all the speakers that the compulsory school attendance of children not at work was impracticable, at least for the present, even if desirable, public opinion not being yet ripe for any such legislative movement, while sufficient time had not been given for a full and fair trial of the present system of education. The speakers, with scarcely an exception, advocated the necessity of stamping any system of national education with a religious character—a purely secular education, it was contended, being the greatest possible evil. Among the speakers were Archdeacon Grant, the Mayor of Rochester, and Colonel Simmons, C.B., Royal Engineers.

A number of new Cardinals are to be created at Rome in the Consistory to be held on the 16th of March. Amongst these, it is generally believed, Dr. Manning, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, is to have a place. The Pope, at least, is said to be in favour of the exaltation of the distinguished pervert, who will thus receive as the reward of his apostacy the highest dignity the Papal Church has to bestow, next to the tiara. The old Roman Catholic party in this country, which bore with scarcely disguised impatience the appointment of Dr. Manning to the Archbishopric of Westminster, will naturally feel this fresh honour heaped on the head of that ambitious priest to be an additional proof of the neglect with which their own long-tried fidelity to the Papal chair is treated at Rome.

A very interesting meeting of retired Australian Colonists was held at Willis's Rooms, on Friday evening, to celebrate by a banquet the first settlement of colonists in that distant dependency only eighty years ago. The rapidity with which the settlements in Australia have risen to wealth and commercial influence has exceeded anything ever before witnessed in any part of the globe. Mr. Corry, the First Lord of the Admiralty, was present, and, in returning thanks for the Navy, spoke of the willingness of the colonists to contribute towards the defences of their adopted country rather than throw the expense on England. The colony of Victoria has formed a naval reserve, and the Admiralty has presented it with the "Nelson" as a guard-ship. £50,000 will appear in the estimates of the current year for an iron-clad for the same colony. The Australian colonists, Mr. Corry said, had contributed the noble sum of £150,000 towards the patriotic fund—a larger amount than the Committee had received from any other part of the empire; in fact, nearly half the amount received from all the colonial dependencies of Great Britain collectively. The Duke of Marlborough, Secretary of State for the Colonies, was also amongst the guests at this Australian banquet.

Amongst the recent notices of patents applied for is one for a machine, which, if we could suppose it ever to get further towards working than its place in the brain of its inventor, would effect a great revolution in our system of locomotion. A Mr. John Kinnersley Smythies has given notice of a means of conveying passengers through the air "by a steam bird, or flying steam-engine, fitted with wings, flapped by the action of steam." New inventions are generally met with scepticism on the part of the public. The steam bird will, no doubt, have to wait long before it will be able to convince travellers of its powers of safe conveyance.

The Italian Finance Minister, Signor Cambray Digny, made his annual statement at the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies on the 19th inst. The state of affairs, as brought to light by his speech, is by no means re-assuring. The deficiency for 1869 he estimates at no less than two hundred and forty millions lire. He boldly faces the difficulty, however, and proposes to meet this large deficit by a new tax, by reduction of expenditure, and by the development of the existing taxation. A grist tax, to be applied to all articles that are to be ground, whether for food or not, will produce seventy-six millions. An extension of the tax on concessions to all the provinces, and the reduction of the tax on bills of exchange, will, it is estimated, produce an increase of nineteen millions. An alteration of the mode of conducting the tobacco manufactories will save seven millions, and still produce a revenue of two. The income-tax will also be modified, and made more productive to the extent of forty-two millions. Various changes are to be made in the mode of collecting the revenue, which will effect a saving of fourteen millions; so that from all these sources the Minister calculates a benefit to the revenue of a hundred and sixty-two millions lire. This still leaves seventy-eight millions to be obtained, but he hopes that the expansion of reviving commerce will cover this sum. Signor Digny is, to say the least, hopeful as to the future, but the task imposed on him as Finance Minister must, under the present circumstances of the Italian kingdom, be anything but an agreeable one.

From a statement which appears in a Neapolitan paper, the *Italia*, we learn that Francis II., the deposed King of the Two Sicilies, has resumed his reactionary designs against his former kingdom. He has established in Rome, and apparently with the approbation of the Pope, a sort of Cabinet, to the members of which he has parcelled out the various departments of government. There are said to be sub-committees in Sicily, with whom a vigorous correspondence is carried on in letters concealed in orange baskets. It is also believed that a movement to the same effect is going on in Naples. The Papal connivance in these measures has not escaped the notice of France. The *Patrie* of Saturday, writing on this subject, says:—"The Italian Government entertains no doubts as to the "feelings of France in this matter. We have reason to "believe that the French Cabinet has confidentially com-"municated to the Court of Rome the susceptibilities "which Italy entertains on this subject, and expressed a "hope that the Papal Government will endeavour to avoid "compromising the present situation, and not even lay "itself open to suspicion." If this be so, the "Holy Father" will scarcely dare to oppose the fiat of his unruly "eldest son."

M. Magne's official report on the financial condition of France, which appeared in the *Moniteur* of Monday, must be far from satisfactory to the tax-payers of that country. The floating debt of the country on the 1st of December last was nine hundred and thirty-six million francs. The receipts of 1867 came short of the estimated amount by no less than twenty-six millions. This, with the extraordinary credit voted by the Corps Législatif on the 31st of May last, and the expense of the Roman intervention, makes a grand total of nearly a hundred and ninety millions necessary to cover the year's outlay. The report promises further increase of expense in the next two years amounting to over eighty millions, besides the reform of war materials and of the fleet, which will require a hundred and eighty-seven millions. After these statements M. Magne arrives at the conclusion that a loan of four hundred and forty million francs must be raised: this, translated into English, means a debt of about seventeen millions. The policy of the present Emperor of France may pamper the national pride and love of military glory, but it is a costly one for France. A loan by public subscription may for a time ease the pressure of the burden, but it must sooner or later fall upon the shoulders of the tax-payers.

The French Government has, contrary to the opinion which was at one time generally entertained, persisted in the proceedings taken against some of the leading journals for commenting on the speeches made in the Corps Législatif. The editors have been sentenced by the Judge of the Correctional Court to pay a fine of 1,000 francs, and undergo six months' imprisonment. Against this sentence they have given notice of their intention to appeal, as it virtually abolishes all liberty of free discussion, and gags the French press on all political questions for the future; and that in a land where, as Mr. Bright more than once reminded his delighted audiences, universal suffrage and vote by ballot exist.

POOR-LAWS—OUT-RELIEF.

However much a man may feel for his neighbours, he is never alive to the sharpness of a pinch until it squeezes his own toe. This is strikingly exemplified by the tone of some of our metropolitan contemporaries just now. Circumstances, which it is needless to detail here, have occasioned exceptional distress among the artizans in the East of London and the ship-builders on the banks of the Thames. Similar visitations have before now fallen upon other localities, and there was no lack of sympathy on the part of the metropolitan press. When, however, the blow has fallen in their own neighbourhood, the tone of our contemporaries is altogether changed. They look upon it as no longer an exceptional and local calamity to be met by an extraordinary effort. In the view of our contemporaries, the whole social system is convulsed. The Poor-Laws are on their trial, and it is more than probable that that trial will result in a verdict of condemnation.

Against this extravagant language we must utter our most solemn protest. We are by no means disposed to maintain the Poor-Laws, like the famous code of the Medes and Persians, incapable of alteration and amendment, still we cannot allow that institutions established to relieve the ordinary normal pauperism of the country fail, because they are unable to satisfy the excessive demand made upon them by an abnormal and excessive destitution. But, after all, even at the worst, it is not the Poor-Laws, but the system of out-door relief which can in any sense be said to be on trial. Out-door relief is, indeed, but an after-thought and relaxation of the Poor-Law system, the principle of which is—the workhouse as a receptacle into which poverty and distress may be gathered, so as to rid the streets of their dangerous and unwelcome presence. Such, as we have in a former article endeavoured to show, was the purpose of the original Poor-Law. It was an Act, not so much for the relief of the poor as for the comfort and well-being of the rich, but it was impossible that its principle could be carried out without exception or alteration. There were cases of distress, in which common humanity raised its voice against the breaking up of a family and their incarceration in a workhouse, and Boards of Guardians quickly found that in most instances it was very much cheaper to give out-door than in-door relief; that many a poor family would be glad to struggle on with a pittance far from sufficient for their maintenance, rather than have their homes broken up and their members distributed through the wards of a workhouse. This, the after-growth, bids fair to supplant the parent stem, and we are now told that workhouses are becoming almost exclusively "Hospitals, Almshouses, and Infirmaries." That the change is not without its advantages we are quite ready to admit; but we need hardly say that the system of out-door relief is liable to grievous abuse.

We may premise that in the discussion of this question the principle is constantly to be kept in mind that the Poor-Law does not aim to make men charitable by Act of Parliament, but to deal with poverty as a source of danger and weakness to the State. The proper recipients of out-door relief may be divided into three classes. The sick, the able-bodied, and the destitute and aged poor. We propose to confine our remarks at present to the second of these classes. We have already said that Guardians are often tempted to give out-door relief simply from motives of economy—this is a tendency which should be carefully watched and restrained, because if allowed to go too far it will assuredly produce the result of all false economy—increased expense. Cases of chronic poverty ought not, except under very rare and exceptional circumstances, to receive out-door relief. The discipline and restrictions of the workhouse are especially needed in such cases. There are few moral diseases more infectious than chronic pauperism—a man who sees a neighbour, not worse off than himself, receiving constant parochial relief, is almost sure to ask himself why he should not also share it. At the risk of drawing upon ourselves the indignation of our fairer readers, we must go further, and say that a man who is unable to maintain a family has no right to place himself in such a position as to become a burden to his more industrious neighbours. He who wilfully brings about him a family in a state of pauperism, is guilty of crime, not only against society, but against his own children. A family brought up in chronic pauperism means infants predisposed to disease from their very birth; children underfed and uncared for, left without proper education, and trained in habits of mendicancy.

There are, however, cases, as we have already said, of temporary distress even among the able-bodied poor in which it would be both cruel and impolitic to break up the home, and carry the whole family into the workhouse—for example, where labourers are thrown out of work by the failure of a master, by depression of trade, by the temperary suspension of some particular branch of industry, or in certain districts by a severe and hard winter. In such cases the sufferers cannot be said to have brought their distress upon themselves. It may be, indeed, that they ought to have provided for a rainy day: but the fact is that not many of our mechanics, and still fewer of our day labourers, are in a position to make such provision. The wages they receive, taking one year with another, are not more than enough to keep their families in tolerable comfort, and to surround themselves with the few articles of simple furniture needed to give them a feeling of respectability in their station. It would be most unwise that a few weeks of unforeseen distress should deprive them of these, and undo the work of years of honest toil, which must be if they are (as is too often the case) allowed to support themselves by the sale of their goods, or, worse still, compelled to break up their homes, and betake themselves and their families to the workhouse. We are not pleading their cause now on the ground of humanity—we are arguing on the principle of political economy, or even perhaps of enlightened selfishness. It is clearly essential to the prosperity of a nation that the supply of labour should be maintained, both in quality and quantity; but this cannot be the case if the labourers are compelled in a season of temporary and unavoidable distress to waste their strength by semi-starvation, or lose their self-respect and expose themselves and their children to the humiliating and debasing influences of the workhouse.

Here, then, we think we have established a fair case for out-door relief; but even here it is manifest that its beneficial influence depends very much upon the care and caution with which it is administered. And, first of all, it must be sufficient: better far to take a working man and his family into the workhouse than to leave them to famish and dwindle by degrees upon the miserable pittance so often meted out to them as out door relief. It must be administered to them also in such a way as not unnecessarily to wound their self-respect. It is painful to think of the insolence and harshness with which a respectable working man is sometimes treated by relieving officers, and even by some Boards of Guardians, when forced by unforeseen necessity to apply for parish aid for his starving little ones. And further, though this may seem inconsistent with what we have just said, it must not be made so easy as to impair the habits of self-dependance, and to induce the working man to become accustomed to lean upon external aid. This can only be accomplished by a wise and judicious use of the labour test. The proper use of this test is a subject of such delicacy that it deserves to be discussed separately. It is, however, at least in principle, utterly unobjectionable; it is only a practical application of the precept, "If any man will not work neither shall he eat." If the State supplies the wants of a man and his family, it certainly has a right to require his labour in return; and, on the other hand, no one has any just cause of complaint that he is allowed to earn the support of himself and his family by the labour of his hands and the sweat of his brow.

CHELMSFORD.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

Return of Traffic for the Week ending Jan. 19, 1868.

	Miles open.	Coaching.	Goods, Coal, and Cattle.	Total.	Aggregate for 3 Weeks.
1868	728	£14,731	£18,207	£32,938	£93,159
1867	728	£12,896	£17,047	£29,943	£85,050
Increase		£1,835	£1,160	£2,995	£8,109
Decrease					

N.B.—The mileage and receipts of the Ware, Hadham, and Buntingford Line included in both years.

THE CHASE.

Times and Places of Meet (*Weather permitting*).

			h. m
Mr. Scratton's	Thur. Jan. 30..Danbury Cricketers		11 0
	Sat. Feb. 1..Warley Barracks, at 10.30, to breakfast.		
The Essex	Wed. Jan. 29..Waples Mill		11 0
	Fri. „ 31..Dagnam		—
The East-Essex	Sat. Feb. 1..Moor Gardens		11 0
Essex and Suffolk	Fri. Jan. 31..Raydon Wood		11 0
	Mon. Feb. 3..St. Osyth Flag		—
The Puckeridge	Wed. Jan. 29..Peverils		10 30
	Sat. Feb. 1..Yardley Wood End		—
The Suffolk	Thur. Jan. 30..Ashley Village		10 45
	Sat. Feb. 1..Risby Tollgate		—
Dengie H.Harriers	Sat. Feb. 1..Bradwell		11 0

Spring Assizes.—The dates for holding the spring assizes on the Home and Norfolk circuits have been fixed as follows:—Home circuit. Lord Chief Justice Sir A. J. C. Cockburn and Mr. Justice Byles. Hertford, Feb. 27; Chelmsford, March 1; Maidstone, 9th; Lewes, 16th; Kingston, 23rd.—Norfolk. Mr. Baron Martin and Mr. Baron Bramwell. Leicester, March 2; Northampton, 5th; Aylesbury, 9th; Bedford, 12th; Huntingdon, 17th; Cambridge, 19th; Bury, 23rd; Norwich, 26th.

Commission Signed by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex.—West Essex Yeomanry Cavalry.—G. N. Vickers, Gent., to be Cornet.

Duchy of Lancaster's Church Patronage.—The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has nominated the Rev. Robert Rolleston, M.A., of University College, Oxford, Vicar of Godmanchester, to the Rectory of Stanford Rivers, near Romford, vacant by the death of the Venerable Archdeacon Tattam. It is worth, according to Crockford's "Clerical Directory," about £1,020 a year. The new rector is a son-in-law of the Chancellor of the Duchy.

The Belhus Amateurs at Brighton.—The pecuniary result of the recent performances of this talented party at Brighton has been highly satisfactory, £70 having been handed over to the funds of the Sussex Hospital.

Essex Church Schoolmasters' Association.—On Saturday last a meeting of this association was held at the Victoria National Schools, Chelmsford, and was largely attended both by the clergy and teachers.—The Ven. Archdeacon Mildmay presided, and a lecture, "On the necessity of intellectual culture in our public schools, and the scriptural lesson as one of the best means of obtaining this," was delivered by the Rev. T. P. Fergusson, and was listened to with much interest, many valuable practical hints and suggestions being thrown out by the reverend gentleman.—A discussion followed on "The best means of retaining influence over scholars who have left school."—The discussion was opened by Mr. Wilkins, and was of a very interesting and animated character.—At the close of the business the company sat down at the school to an excellent dinner, after which the first meeting of the Essex Schoolmasters and Schoolmistresses' Benevolent Association was held, when the Ven. Archeacon Mildmay again consented to take the chair; the proceedings, however, were only of a preliminary business character.

Great Eastern Railway.—We are glad to hear that the new board is proceeding well, and that it has already been reconstructed upon a principle that will throw individual responsibility upon each of the members, and bring his powers into active play.—*Herapath's Journal.*

County Rates.—The accounts of the county treasurers of England and Wales show that in the year ending at Michaelmas, 1866, £1,358,763 was received by county and police rates; by Treasury allowance, £199,695 for prosecution of prisoners, &c., and £129,392 towards expenses of police; £105,226 was received on account of lunatics, and £368,000 by Cattle Diseases Prevention Act Rate; other receipts amounting to £265,605, and £243,483 balances from the previous year brought the total income to £2,670,164. The expenditure of the year comprised £684,835, on rural police, &c.; £16,248 on conveyance of prisoners; £430,703 on gaols; £122,512 on prosecution of prisoners; £2,748 on conveyance of transports; £34,220 on shire halls, &c.; £167,523 on lunatic asylums; £350,262 under the Cattle Diseases Prevention Act; and £601,954 on miscellaneous charges, namely—£10,814 for maintenance of pauper lunatics, £14,516 on militia storehouses, £50,314 on county bridges, £50,259 for Clerks of the Peace, £9,423 for treasurers, £60,571 for coroners, £9,102 for inspectors of weights, &c., £112,122 incidental expenses, £254,831 interest and principal of debt; £4,833 for balances due to some of the treasurers brought the charges up to £2,415,837. The total amount of debt is returned at £2,484,769. The total assessment for the county rate was £77,506,840, an increase of above £2,000,000 over the previous year, which had shown a still larger increase over its predecessor. The counties assessed at an increased amount in the year 1865-66 are Berkshire, Cheshire, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Kent, Monmouth, Norfolk, Flint, and Glamorgan.

Church Conference at Rochester.—The first conference of the Bishop of Rochester with the clergy and laity of his diocese was held on Thursday in the chapter-room at Rochester Cathedral, on which occasion an unusually large number of the clergy and laity were present. The subjects previously arranged for discussion were—1. Compulsory Education; and 2. Diocesan Synods. The Bishop of Rochester, in opening the conference, expressed the gratification he experienced in meeting so large a number of the clergy and laity of his diocese for the discussion of the important subjects on which they were assembled to confer. The first subject, that of "Compulsory Education," was opened by the Rev. J. Leach,

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