For The Tribune.

TO THE AUTHOR OF THE "NILE NOTES OF A HOWADJI."

THANKS for thy pictures! Other ministers
To Man's insatiate mind, give name, and date,
And strange statistics, but no life-blood stirs
The quicker, while they recapitulate
The deadened echoes of historic fate,
Or mark disputed bounds of land and sea:
While on thy words obedient splendors wait,
Transfusing into sun-steeped mystery
Egyptian silence; and sweet-watered Nile
The dusky loiterers on its wave that float;
And patient Sphinx, with her far-thoughted smile,
Till we, too, rocking idly in thy boat,
Indolent eaters of the lotus-flower,
Traverse the dream hued East, and bless thee for the power.

A. W. H.

March 18, 1851.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

ENGLAND IN 1850. By LAMARTINE. Translated by W. CHARLES OUSELEY, Esq. 8vo. pp. 41. Wm. C. Bryant & Co.

Lamartine visited England, for the first *time, in* 1822. The Holy Alliance was then actively engaged in the struggle against liberal ideas, by which it hoped to sustain the decaying institutions of the past. The English Government, in the hands of statesmen who had succeeded to the political inheritance of Mr. Pitt, had taken sides with the absolute sovereigns against the people, and presented a blind and dogged resistance to revolution both at home and abroad. The country was ill at ease under such an administration; she felt that she had been placed in a false position; the streets resounded with cries of indignation against the aristocracy; desperate paupers prowled about the abodes of splendid opulence; and to the astounded eyes of Lamartine, everything seemed to predict the speedy downfall of the great and mysterious nation.

In 1830, he made another visit to England, soon after the French Revolution of July. The political affairs of the country were then managed with wisdom, moderation, and a healthful infusion of liberal ideas. But the misery of the common people had reached a high point of aggravation, and exhibited a gloomy and alarming spectacle. The glut of manufactures had let loose a swarm of starving workmen, who hovered about the cities of the country, threatening to deluge society with fire and blood. Lamartine was so impressed with the sight, that he could see nothing for England in the future but inevitable ruin.

On returning to England in 1850, he received an entirely different order of impressions. He could scarcely recognize London in its new aspect of social thrift and prosperity. The city had extended in every direction, showing the active vitality and healthy enterprise of a great people.

The appearance of the people in the streets is not now like that which alarmed me twenty years ago. Instead of beggars in rags, of destitute women and children who then swarmed in the narrow and dark streets of the manufacturing part of the town, workmen decently dressed are now to be seen, strong, looking and healthy, going to or returning from their workshops in groups of two and three, carrying their implements on their shoulders, well-clad young girls, quitting without noise or disorder the establishments where they are employed under the direction of elderly women, protected by the father or brother who accompanies them home; you occasionally meet long rows of little children from five to eight years old, poorly but respectably clothed, and conducted by a school mistress, who restores them to their mother's care, after having had charge of them during the day; they all have the appearance of comparative ease, the most careful cleanliness and of health. There are few or no groups of idlers in the thoroughfares; seldom any drunken men about, as formerly; the streets seem purified and free from vice and misery, or at least, now only exhibit that amount of each which must ever exist among the dregs and scum of an immense population.

It would seem as if during the repose of the last twenty years, some supernatural power had extracted the venom which fermented in the social body of Great Britain. The causes of this great change are traced by Lamartine to the remedial measures adopted by the intelligence and justice of English society—measures which were at first carried into effect by the collective action of individuals, but which ultimately secured the cooperation of Government, which devised plans of melioration embracing religion, the administration of justice, a better division of wealth, and a larger supply for the intellectual, moral, and physical wants of the degraded population. This movement won the sympathy of all parties. Scarce an individual stood aloof from it, with the exception of a few superannuated and heartless aristocrats, and now and then a case-hardened political economist, who could see no connection between the policy of Government and the wants of the people.

The effect of the measures employed within the last twenty years, for the union of interests among different classes, according to Lamartine, has been the establishment of a conservative Socialism between the wealthy classes and the destitute and suffering proletaires. He describes the leading measures of a philanthropic character to which his attention has been directed, expatiating on their benign social influence in a vein of glowing enthusiasm, which finds expression in frequent bursts of impassioned eloquence. The most important conclusion to be drawn from this brilliant essay, is the efficacy of Christian Socialism for the remedy of political and public evils. Lamartine clearly perceives the necessity of a union of interest and endeavor, between the different elements of society. In the prevailing want of this, which characterizes the whole of modern civilization, no less than the institutions of England, Lamartine finds a temporary relief in the grand arrangements of charity which have sprung up as a counterpart to a false and diseased social organization. Regarded in this light, his statements are possessed of much interest, and are not without a certain value among the statistics of social science. But the very facts on which he dwells with peculiar complacency show the need of a more profound course of action than he seems to anticipate. The vast array of public charities, which have produced such a sense of pleasing satisfaction on the mind of the good Lamartine, are themselves a proof of the intrinsic evils of the present social organization. Their necessity arises from the influence of landed and commercial monopoly, depriving large masses of the people of the means of subsistence. They are thus defrauded of their birthright, reduced to a state of social debasement, made the wretched Helots of the more favored classes, and forced to become the recipients of a calculating charity, instead of being guaranteed the exercise of their natural resources. Under the reign of justice, there could be no need of charity. Admirable as are the institutions, which Lamartine views in such a rose-colored light, when considered merely as a temporary anodyne for the paroxysms of social distress, how much more beautiful and divine would be the spectacle of an organic social state, in which every member exhibited the radiant flush of health, tasted the delights of congenial activity and unenvied abundance, and imparted from the plenitude of his own satisfactions a generous and ennobling impulse to the common joy. Indeed Lamartine more than hints at one radical element, which is indispensable to the national prosperity of Great Britain, and in fact, of any organized society. Speaking in the person of an intelligent Englishman, who acted as his guide in the survey of what he calls British and Christian Socialism, he remarks, "Our laws of landed property, which owe their origin to the feudal system, were intended to perpetuate a territorial aristocracy, and still retain traces of the conquest; they do not breathe a Christian spirit, but that of man's power over his fellow-man, with the spirit of serfdom, and with that of withholding the right of the soil from the great majority." A pregnant concession this, Lamartine, and fraught with destruction to the most monstrous of our present social abuses. But it needs a more potent force than the flimsy, sentimental moralizing of your smooth essay, to move the mighty masses which now obstruct the course of Humanity. Science alone furnishes the power, and organization the mechanism, by which the world is to be raised to its true place in the social universe.

☞ "THE AMERICAN COTTON SPINNER," is a compilation from the papers of the late ROBERT H. BAIRD, a well-known cotton manufacturer of great experience and skill. Such additions have been made to his manuscript, which was written some few years since, as were found necessary to bring up the subject to the present time. The main object of the volume is to furnish the managers of cotton factories with plain directions for calculating the draught and twist of the various machines, and to aid them in the operation of the machinery. We find the following remarks with regard to the proposed manufacture of flax, which is now exciting so much interest among practical men.

Though our cotton and our cotton planters are so far safe against foreign competition yet, it is perhaps possible that flax may be brought into successful competition with our staple. Very recently, the announcement was made in Manchester, England, that flax had been prepared in such a manner, as to enable it to be spun on cotton machinery. A similar announcement was made some fifteen or twenty years since, at which time it was considered ridiculous, to cut the long fibre of flax short, merely to suit it to the capacity of the throstle and mule. At present, the same thing has a different appearance; what was ridiculous twenty years ago, will now be grasped at with eagerness, if what it promises can be realized. Flax, in its natural state, with its long fiber, is hardly fit to be spun on machinery; at least, the process is too expensive; and, so far, nothing is to be feared from its competition with cotton. But, if the flax fiber can be shortened, without any injury to its texture and strength, there is a reasonable prospect of its becoming a successful rival to cotton. The announcement of the accomplishment of this operation may [illegible] shortening of the fiber of flax depends, is a chemical one; and, as the means of chemistry are inexhaustible, we are justified in believing in the possibility of the announced invention.

(12mo. pp. 252. Sold by Dewitt & Davenport.)

☞ "THE CONTROVERSY TOUCHING THE OLD STONE MILL IN THE TOWN OF NEWPORT, R. I.," is the title of a pamphlet which will naturally excite the interest and will repay the perusal of the Summer visitors at Newport, part of whose pleasure there, is the wondering contemplation of the singular ruin, which has assumed historical importance from its mention in the *Antiquitates Americanæ* of the Royal Society of Denmark. It has been fondly deemed a relic of the Northmen, who in the vague Antiquity of American history, came into the continent by the back door, settled all the Atlantic coast, even to Virginia, called the temperance land "that should be," *Vinland* or *Vineland*, and then abruptly withdrew, and have ever since eluded historical precision. In this little work, the anonymous author collects and collates in the most sprightly and pleasant manner all the authorities and traditions upon the subject, and spite of Vineland and the Royal Society of Copenhagen and the *Antiquitates Americanæ*, Vol. III, comes to the cold-blooded conclusion that it was an old mill, treating the Danish Professors as Mr. Pickwick was served by the fellow who deciphered his cherished hieroglyphics into "× *Bill Sikes, his mark.*" The author makes of the Newport Ruin, *Gov. Benedict Arnold, his mill.* (Newport: Charles E. Hammett, Jr.)

☞ "COLTON'S NEW TOWNSHIP MAP OF WISCONSIN," published by J. H. COLTON, No. 86 Cedar-st. This is one of Colton's series of State Maps, which we have before noticed and commended. It is of large size, 32 by 30, and contains, beside the location of towns, villages, &c. the Railroads, Plank and Post-Roads; also, the Census of 1840 and 1850. In addition to the State of Wisconsin, this map shows the mineral lands of Lake Superior and surrounding region, which greatly increases its value either for the traveler or land speculator, and no emigrant intending to settle within this State should be without it. This series of maps will fill a vacancy which has long been felt, and will, if carried out in the same liberal manner in which it has been begun, decidedly be THE ATLAS OF AMERICA. Missouri, Iowa and New-York States will soon be represented in a similar manner.

☞ "TRENTON FALLS, PICTURESQUE AND DESCRIPTIVE," edited by N. PARKER WILLIS, is a delightful volume for the Summer tourist, embracing the original essay of John Sherman, the first proprietor and resident, and the admirable descriptive sketches of Trenton scenery by Mr. Willis. The work is published in a very tasteful form, with original designs by Heine, Kummer and Muller, engraved on wood, with great success by the accomplished artist, N. Orr. A more agreeable holiday companion has not issued from the press this season. (24mo. pp. 92. G. P. Putnam.)

☞ "A CONVERSATION BETWEEN A LADY AND HER HORSE," by THOMAS CRAIGE.—In this little work the horse delivers a series of riding lessons, in a downright, sagacious and affectionate style, altogether worthy of that noble animal. Not to look the gift-horse in the mouth, we would submit that his use of English is not always after the best human models. Still, he never fails to speak to the point—he is an animal of a fine humor, and often indulges in a horse-laugh. (18mo. pp. 71. Philadelphia: Thos. Craige.)

☞ "FAMILIAR SCIENCE," or "The Scientific Explanation of Common Things," is the title of an American work founded on Dr. Brewer's "Science of Familiar Things," and edited by Robert E. Peterson. Many additions have been made to the English publication, and such changes introduced in those parts which were purely applicable to Great Britain, as adapt the work to the use of American readers. (12mo. pp. 358. Philadelphia: R. E. Peterson.)

☞ "THE MOLDERS' AND FOUNDERS' GUIDE," by FRED. OVERMANN is a convenient practical manual, forming a volume of A. Hart's mechanical series, and illustrated with forty-two engravings. It is got up with the same thoroughness which characterises the preceding volumes, and cannot fail to prove a work of extensive utility. (12mo. pp. 252. Sold by Dewitt & Davenport.)

☞ "TREATISE ON THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION," by ATHANSE COQUEREL, edited by Rev. J. T. COOLIDGE, is a systematic course of instruction, adapted to the use of Bible classes, and to the older pupils in Common Schools. It avoids dogmatic terms, and lays the principal stress on the practical elements of Christianity. (24mo. pp. 146. Boston: Crosby & Nichols.

☞ "RAILWAY AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION," by SAMUEL SALT, is the title of an English publication containing a large collection of statistics in regard to the principal Railroads in Great Britain and America. The copious information which it presents is valuable and interesting. (12mo. pp. 240. Sold by John Wiley.)

☞ "HISTORY OF PROVIDENCE AS UPHELD IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER," by ALEXANDER CARSON, "THE GOD OF PROVIDENCE," and "THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL," by the same author, and published in a neat duodecimo volume, by Edward H. Fletcher. (12mo. pp. 271.)

☞ An Appendix to "DR. BREWER'S GUIDE TO SCIENCE," is published by C. S. Francis & Co., containing the answers to a collection of various questions propounded by different correspondents, pupils and private friends of the author.

☞ "THE GIRLHOOD OF SHAKSPERE'S HEROINES," by MARY COWDEN CLARKE. No. V, contains "Meg and Alice, the Merry Maid of Windsor." (12mo. pp. 489. Geo. P. Putnam.)

☞ "DOMESTIC COOKERY," by ELIZABETH E. LEA, is issued in a third edition, with numerous improvements, by Cushings & Bailey, Baltimore. (12mo. pp. 310.)

SAN FRANCISCO.

The Burnt District—The Fire—The Firemen—Storeships—The Market Overstocked—Imprudence in Shipping Goods to San Francisco—Re-building—Fallacies of the Market—Blank Books and Brooms—California Honesty—Cheating on the other side—Frauds in Shippers—Prosperity of the Miners, &c.

SAN FRANCISCO, Wednesday, May 14, 1851.

Editors of The New-York Tribune:

Truly may it be said, California is pre-doomed. You will receive by the journals forwarded by the steamers of to-morrow, full accounts of the great calamity which has befallen this city.—Quite all the business portion of San Francisco has been swept away, as it were with the besom of destruction. And no sooner were the flames here fairly extinguished, than the news came that Stockton had shared a like fate. The pride of these thriving cities has suddenly departed.—They are unlike Eastern towns, proud even in their ruins. In casting the eye over the district, which has been thus fearfully visited, instead of presenting the appearance where, a few days ago, a busy population were actively engaged in the pursuits of trade and commerce, it has the resemblance of a newly cleared forest, over which the first fires had but just passed. There are seen the charred piles, standing far out in the bay, on which stood extensive ware-houses and stores, with their planked streets; here and there are lying the blackened timbers and rubbish that remain of many a goodly structure.

The business portion of San Francisco could not have been marked out, mathematically, with more accuracy, that it has been designated by the [illegible] *tion. The fire broke out just above the center of the business section, and spreading itself in* opposite directions, until it well embraced that whole district, it marched forward with the impetuosity of a destroying army, leaving desolate every object over which it passed. Nothing within its scope was saved. It was truly a tempest of flame and smoke. The roaring of the fiery blast, the crash of the falling timbers and walls, the loud shouts of the firemen, combined with the flood of fire which was rolling over the fair portion of the city, presented an exhibition truly terrific.

The efforts of the firemen to suppress the fire, were utterly futile. They were unable even to prescribe its boundaries. In one instance, however, they did by great exertion succeed in diverting its course; while on the north part, near Clark's Point, the voluntary exertions of a few individuals, by the use of a fire-engine and apparatus, belonging to S. Watkins & Co. of your city, which was here on sale, saved the new wharf in the course of construction, a large quantity of lumber, the U. S. Bonded Ware-house and its contents, and a number of adjacent stores.—But the mass of the people, who had no property to lose, looked on regardless of the destruction; and when solicited to aid either in attempts to quell the fire or save property, they refused with utter disdain, requiring a stipulated and exorbitant price for the most trifling service, and it was generally exacted as soon as it was performed.—Hundreds were busy in plundering, which they did with equal impunity as the fires in their work of destruction.

It is difficult to estimate the amount of property destroyed by this fearful disaster. But little within the scope of the fire was saved. Goods were removed from one store to another, only the sooner, in many cases, to be consumed. Before the fire, great confidence existed in regard to several fire-proof buildings, as they were esteemed. To these, vast quantities of merchandise of the most valuable character were conveyed; but with the exception of two they did not withstand the destruction. Many ventured even to intrust their lives with their property in these buildings, and were consumed with it.

There are some facts connected with this calamity in which the business community in the Atlantic cities are deeply interested, in regard to which I venture to say a few words. The question will naturally arise as to the effects of this wholesale destruction on the market here. With them, I have no doubt, the impression will be that our recently overstocked market is now drained. Under this impression, many will venture blindly to rush forward merchandise here, as in numerous instances they have heretofore done. But a few hours spent here, this illusion would vanish from their minds. The store-ships in the bay are heavily laden with all kinds of merchandise, which have long been waiting a vacancy in the market to find sale; beside, there are many vessels remaining yet unladen. It is true, the price of many articles has materially advanced, especially building materials; but this, it is believed, is merely temporary. In fact, the rates fixed for the most staple goods, which immediately after the fire took a sudden and great rise, have been as suddenly checked and reduced, so ample is the supply. Never was a market so thoroughly overstocked as this, before this conflagration. And another fact must be taken into the account, which will have a great influence on prices and supply, which is, that vast quantities of the goods destroyed consisted of remnants of old stocks which have been accumulating, together with numerous undesirable articles never in demand here, and probably never will be.—With a desire to dispose of these, they were ever at hand in store, awaiting the first call, and consequently were consumed. So that the effort to advance prices falters, and offers but a trifle above the former rates, before the fire, find ready acceptance. The vast quantities of goods awaiting in the harbor the completion of the stores, to be exposed in the market, keep advanced prices at a stand and fluctuating. In fact, the market is quite unsettled. This stock now ready to fill the vacuum produced by this disaster, it is anticipated will very soon be abundantly replenished by large arrivals daily expected. Several large clipper-ships have been due for some days past, whose cargoes must sensibly affect the market. It is not now as formerly, when the demand was great in supplying the first wants; every new arrival affects prices. In view, therefore, of these facts, and others which might be enumerated, it must be considered that the market is yet thoroughly stocked.

In shipping to California, Eastern merchants seem to have been actuated by an infatuation bordering on frenzy. The attention of the whole commercial world has been directed to California; and it does not require a large share of its fleets, to supply a population of two hundred thousand—the estimated population of California and Oregon. But the fascination of hundred per cent. profits has rendered shippers blind, in regard to what others were doing, to the dangers of the sea in sending here, and the still greater perils by land after arriving. Could they but once see the exposure to which their property is subject, in store here, it would certainly deter them from rushing into that excess, at least, of which they have been guilty. The news, then, of such destructive fires, which have consumed their property, would cease to surprise them. They would be expecting such events, and that often. They must and will occur under the existing state of things.

While you give your readers the intelligence that San Francisco is burnt, you may as well, at the same time, announce that *San Francisco is rebuilt*; for surely such will be the case! It is in part already, and will truly be then, and that too with buildings rendering as secure the merchandise committed to them, as a collection of mammoth band-boxes! They are constructed very much like a milliner's band-box—covered with calico and paper to disguise their frailness.

A busier population was never seen. *Fail* is an unmeaning term with them. Considering the discouragements they have met with, and in prospect, (for another conflagration is inevitable, and that too before many months,) San Franciscans present an example, worthy the imitation of the world. Some who were wealthy before this disaster, are now on a level with the poorest; but with unabated energy they are astir, entertaining bright hopes and prospects of another fortune. "If, in our inexperience, we acquired wealth, shame," say they, "if we can not, with our experience, do the same!"

This disaster will fall most heavily on merchants in the Atlantic cities, whose good on consignment here have been totally consumed. Yet it is confidently expected here, that they will engage in the shipment of goods as ardently as ever. The flaming Prices-Current, it is understood, will excite a new zeal for the enterprise. And, by-the-way, the deceiving Prices-Current have produced incalculable mischief—a fact to which I can not forbear to allude. As an example, for the past eight months they have announced that, "*Sets of Blank Books are much in demand—100 per cent. advance!*" Accordingly, to meet this crying demand, quite every merchant, engaged in shipping to California, has forwarded a large invoice of massive blank books; when, at the very hour they were giving out their order, the market here was fully supplied; so that, before the fire, they were offered for very much less than the home cost, without finding a purchaser.

In the article of brooms, one year ago they continued to be quoted at exorbitant rates. Hence, what is true with reference to stationery is equally so in regard to brooms, there being enough in the market to sweep down the Sierra Nevadas. But I will not extend the list. The market is a peculiar one—the most capricious, doubtless, in the world. No man buys anything here for use, because it is *cheap*—he buys because he needs. If an article, therefore, is not in demand, it cannot be disposed of at any price—to have it for cartage, even, is no inducement to purchase. No man, therefore, should engage in sending merchandise to such a market, until he has first visited it, and become acquainted with its wants, caprices, capacity and situation as to facilities for supply. Thousands of things have been sent here which was like sending coals to Newcastle, or ice to Greenland.

Permit me here to say one word on another topic, which likewise concerns shippers to this market. Merchants here, as a body, have been held in doubtful repute as to honesty and promptitude by those in Eastern cities. I have often heard the remark made there, that "*no man in California is to be trusted.*" But all the rogues are not here, though there is a due share of them, doubtless. May differ in California as [illegible] *goods.*

The truth is, merchants here have often been obliged to bear the sins of other men whom consignors could find nearer home. Of this fact I am well convinced. Those who have sold to shippers to this market seem to have acted on the principle that their customers, in view of such tremendous profits as they were to realize, could well afford *to be cheated*—and they deemed it safe to do so, since the goods sold were going to so distant a market, and the truth in regard to their conduct could so easily be denied.

For an example: I have seen cases opened, which contained jars nicely corked and packed in salt, said to contain butter, but on opening them the inside was hardly greased—some half full—others quite empty! In other instances, articles purchased as first quality, and shipped with that impression, have proved to be not even second quality, though uninjured by the voyage. Again, invoices, which called for such and such articles of marketable character, have been answered on arrival by those very different and inferior! Ground coffee put up in tins, and marked "pure," has often been found to contain, as near as could be ascertained, large quantities of *mahogany saw-dust*. Hence, ground coffee sells in the market for less than home cost, while raw coffee can readily be disposed of at a profit.

These are but specimens of frauds which have been practiced on shippers to this market. Goods have been selected from samples and ordered. The seller has put them up and received his directions how to ship. He has then presented his bill with invoice as per the order, handing over the receipt of the officer of the vessel as evidence. The goods have never been seen by the purchaser. They arrive here, prove deficient and defective. The consignee informs the shipper as to the state of his goods. The seller is seen; the facts denied, and the consignee imprecated. The one avers, the other denies, and they are six thousand miles apart. Thus the matter ends, and the purchaser suffers less where he dreamed of large profits.

In the present state of things here, there is at least one bright side—there is no doubt but the miners are doing better than they have ever done before. This is owing, to a great extent, to a disposition of being satisfied *with doing well*—Hitherto they have spent a great share of their time in wind-goose-chase *prospecting*. Beside, they have acquired additional skill in separating the *dust*; so much so, that many are engaged in washing over again the dirt a second time to advantage.

Under these circumstances, there is no class of people that are doing so well as the laborers. Their profits are sure, and yet not small. The matter of wages is in their own hands. If demed their *five dollars per day*, they are at once off to the mines, where they are pretty sure of that stipend, and often more too; and they receive their pay at the end of every day's toil.—Beside, such has been the state of the market, that the cost of living has been cheap and good as in the Eastern States. It is here, therefore, the laborer is able to command his own wages, and receives ample reward for his toil. No one need fail of success with health and industrious habits.

The wealth of California has but just begun to be developed. The facts in regard to the richness of her treasures so far exceed the notions ever before entertained that they are esteemed ephemeral and fallacious; but time will establish their truth. The gold to be extracted from her rocks will exceed the most visionary calculations; and be they ridiculed as they may, these rocks will yet prove their virtues by the fruits they 'll yield.

J. C. S.

BUFFALO.

Western Travel—Lake Steamers Carrying Cattle—Business of Buffalo—Circuit Court—Murder Trial—Important Civil Suit.

Correspondence of The Tribune.

BUFFALO, Monday, June 23.

Those who have had ample opportunity to form a correct opinion in regard to the matter, say that the amount of travel through Buffalo thus far the present season, exceeds that of any previous one by at least one-third. A stranger, like myself, can easily see that it is immense. The steamboats which run in connection with the Michigan Central and Michigan Southern Railroads, go and come crowded quite beyond their capacity to accommodate all comfortably; and, indeed, all the steamers are doing an excellent business. There is (and travelers whose purses are not long may well regret it) little of the sharp competition of former years for the Lake travel. The uniform prices on the steamers is $11 to Chicago, $5 to Detroit, and $3 to Cleveland. To compensate for this, however, the traveler finds most excellent accommodations, and is partially exempt from the annoyances of impudent "runners" and sundry gouge games in the shape of "extras," etc. On the whole, I like it. One custom obtains on the steamers which all community will protest against. The first class boats on coming down the Lake, take on board large numbers of cattle, sheep, and even hogs, which are confined in an inclosure on the main deck. The effect is, during the hot season especially, to render the whole boat anything but agreeable to passengers. Though the tables are supplied with every possible luxury, and the saloons are furnished in superb style it requires an effort to realize that one is not confined in a pig-stye. There is an abundance of boats well fitted for this kind of freight, and it is an imposition on the public to crowd it where it does not properly belong.

Business in Buffalo appears brisk, and along the docks especially great activity prevails. The operations in the Flour market is not heavy at present. I know of several cargoes of Flour from Indiana and Michigan, which arrived several days ago, which have been stored by the holders, they being unwilling to sell at present prices, and believing that prices cannot well go lower. Both holders and buyers are looking anxiously for the promise of the incoming crop.

The Circuit Court, Judge Parker of Albany presiding, has been in session here for the past week, and will continue during the present. There is a large amount of business before it yet undisposed of, but the causes, with one or two exceptions, are of no general interest. There is one indictment for murder to be tried, which I understand is likely to result in a conviction for manslaughter. The accused is a German, and the crime was committed in a drunken affray in this city. Among the civil cases is one—the owners of the steamer G. P. Griffiths against the Astor Mutual Insurance Company, which excites considerable interest. The Griffiths, you remember, was destroyed by fire on Lake Erie in June, 1850, and the distressing details of the loss of life consequent thereupon are still fresh in the minds of the public. The boat was insured partially in the Company named, and the Company refuse to pay the insurance on the ground that the fire resulted from carelessness and neglect of the officers of the boat. It will be attempted to be shown that, previous to her destruction, she was on fire on two or three different occasions in the same place where the last fire broke out; that the Insurance Company were apprized of the fact, and no adequate measures were taken to render her more secure. And further, that the owners of the boat were repeatedly warned of her unsafe condition by the crew, but still neglected the necessary repairs. The owners of the boat of course expect to upset all this. The amount involved in the suit is some $12,000.

X.

ITALY.

The late Affair at Florence.

Correspondence of The Tribune.

FLORENCE, June 3, 1851.

It is not often that I trouble you with any communication, because I know that you have other channels for obtaining intelligence, but as I happened to be actually *present* at the Church of Santa Croce on the morning of the 29th ult., I desire that you should be made acquainted with the exact facts, for the Daily Press here consists only of Government organs, and is only occupied in giving false versions of all that occurs.

As it was customary every 29th May to make some demonstration in honor of those who fell at Montanara, (1848,) and as the Government opposed any such proceeding, it was considered that the *celebration of a mass* was the only way in which public sympathy could be shown. Consequently a solemn funeral service was decided upon, to be performed at the Church of the Holy Cross on the morning of that day.

I must inform you that the Battle of Montenara was one reflecting great honor upon the Tuscans. During the short campaign in Lombardy in the Spring of 1848, about 6,000 Tuscans (chiefly volunteers) were stationed at Cortatone and Montenara on the right bank of the Mincio near Mantua. Radetzky, at the head of upward of 40,000 men, sallied out of Mantua at day-break on the morning of May 29, with the intention of sweeping before him the handful of Tuscans, and of then seizing possession of the pass of the Mincio at Goito, thus surrounding the Tuscans on the other side of the Mincio. In the afternoon the remnant (about 1,500 men) made their retreat upon Goito, and Radetzky having lost a day, found the King ready to receive him, which would not have been the case, but for the self-devotion of the Tuscans, who were nearly all cut to pieces.

To honor the memory of the heroes who fell on that occasion was natural and proper. The crowd which flocked to the church was about 5,000—the church was full—many were without. When the mass was terminated, a young man placed a bouquet of flowers on the altar. A policeman, in plain clothes, (many were scattered among the crowd,) struck him to the ground senseless, with a blow on the head, upon which a citizen standing by struck down the hired ruffian.

The signal was instantly given by the police agents in disguise, and a body of carbineers, who had till now been concealed in the sacristy came out, their muskets having been previously loaded with ball, and discharged a volley into the dense crowd—composed in great part of *women and children*. (I have not been able to get a list of the killed.) They reloaded and fired a second volley—and probably would have fired a third, but the unarmed people nearest to these assassins rushed upon them and struggled with them for their weapons. One carbineer was killed—two are not expected to recover.

In the meantime the Croats who had been concealed without, near the spot, rushed in at the chief entrance, and the church was cleared at the point of the bayonet. In this, many victims were sacrificed; one lady was killed by a bayonet; many were trampled down.

The public indignation can be better imagined than described, and it was with the greatest difficulty that the people could be restrained from breaking out into open revolt. The popular leaders, however, appeased the people with the assurance that "*very, very soon, all measures would be ready for revenging their murdered comrades—till then, one more effort of patience!*"

The indignation against the priests is excessive. They alone could have known the murderous intentions of the Government. Yet they gave the people no warning, but as if there were no blow hanging over the multitude, performed the mass which was about to be stained with innocent blood.

Some very strong papers have been circulated from the secret press since this deplorable affair. One in particular—a small pamphlet—is the strongest I have read. It calls upon the people to be calm but ready, for the day of vengeance is at hand—that the goodness and forgiveness of the people toward their oppressors in 1849, has been misunderstood—that the tyrants know not how to appreciate mercy and kindness—that this time, in their own protection, they must let neither the Grand Duke nor a single priest escape.

I think that in America you have very little knowledge of the real state of Italy, or of the great importance of this Peninsula in the affairs of Europe. In the other countries of Europe all that transpires here is detailed in a false light through the reactionary press.

FRANCE.—Gen. Cavaignac is opposed to the Revision of the Constitution under any circumstances. The following views of his co-Republican, Lamartine, who differs from him on the question, but without the slightest diminution of Republican zeal will be found interesting:

M. Lamartine alluded to the events that, according to him, rendered necessary the establishment of the Republic. He admitted that it took the people by surprise, and that it was foreign to its habits; but when the monarchy was allowed to fall without a blow being struck for it by any, the Republic was the only thing that could then save the country. The Republican system required strong support from the Government; this has been rendered necessary by the long duration of the monarchical form. There was nothing surprising in the fact of imperfections existing in the Constitution—the work, as it were of an hour. The same was the case in America, which people were so fond of citing. At the end of the first three years revision was there also demanded, and even a desire manifested by some, as in France, to return to the ancient order of things. The revision of the 12 principal articles of the American Constitution was accorded, and the American Republic had become imperishable. He denied that if it were put to the vote monarchy of any kind would be welcomed in France. The masses appreciated the character of free citizenship imparted to them by the Republic.—The people were of opinion that it was necessary to conciliate without abdicating their own dignity. They were of opinion that it was necessary to amend the Constitution, in order to reconcile it to the habits of former times, and this reconciliation meant nothing more than revision. That revision is a necessity, and M. Lamartine was of opinion that the people ought to be satisfied in its demand. Its refusal would be the means of organizing insurrection, sure to be followed by dislike of actual institutions, and which is the greatest danger. Such elements would be formidable in the hands of the factions, or the dreamers of usurpation. He was decided on voting for the revision, but on condition that the same power that created the Constitution also modified it—namely, universal suffrage. A mutilation which, if it was not decidedly unconstitutional, was, at all events, irregular, deprived 4,000,000 of their suffrages. He should be a traitor to the Republic and the country if he voted for the revision without reestablishing that tribunal. He hoped that moment would arrive, but until then he did not think he had a right to vote for it. He could not play thus with the destinies of the country as if on the cast of a die, from which must issue a destructive demagogy or a calamitous monarchy.

Visiting the Great Exhibition.

We have already recorded many instances of the arrangements made by employers and others to facilitate a visit of their subordinates to the Great Exhibition. We add a long list of the same kind as indicative of the universality of the public interest in the movement.

—The Corporation of the City of London intend to give all the Clerks at the Mansion-House and the Guildhall, and also all the officers in their service, an opportunity of visiting the Crystal Palace. For this purpose they have resolved to give them all a holiday in turn, and to present each of their clerks with a guinea in lieu of a ticket of admission. Some of the private establishments of the metropolis, where numbers of clerks and assistants are engaged, are generously emulating the munificence of the Civic Corporation in this matter.

—Messrs. Truman, Hanbury, Buxton & Co., the eminent brewers, have made arrangements for all the men in their employ, 300 in number, to visit the Great Exhibition *twice*, not only granting them the two holidays, but giving them half-a-crown each day toward their expenses, in addition to paying their wages as usual.

—Lord Elcho has sent, or is about to send, up all his young men on his estates, and not only pay their fares, but entertain them while in London.

—The directors of the Iron and Citizen Steamboat Company have arranged to give all their servants (between 400 and 500) a holiday to visit the Great Exhibition, and have given £40 to enable them to do so free of expense to themselves.

—Messrs. Smith & Son, furriers, of Watling-st., have granted the whole of their workpeople, about fifty in number, two days' holiday, and have presented them with the sum of five shillings each to enable them to visit the Exhibition.

—Mr. George Hitchcock, of St. Paul's Churchyard, has made arrangements for giving to each of his 130 assistants a three days' leave, and one guinea toward the expense of the visit.

—The South-Eastern and Eastern Counties Companies have granted leave of absence to their officers for the purpose of visiting the Exhibition. We learn that the Great Northern Company intend to give the same privilege to their officers.

—Mr. Richard Burnet, in the Piazza, Covent Garden, has presented the Charity School of St. Paul's, Covent Garden, with 1s. 6d. for each child, and 2s. 6d. for each teacher, to enable them to visit the Crystal Palace.

—Messrs. Bantry & Sons, upholsterers and cabinet-makers of 27 St. James's-st., have kindly given every one in their employ—men and women—a day's holiday and pay, with a free admission to the Exhibition, and a sum for refreshment.

—The benchers of the Inner and Middle Temple, with a liberality of spirit which does them the highest credit, have directed their beautiful church and halls to be kept open during the week for the inspection of the public, and they have strictly prohibited the attendants from receiving any fees from the visitors.

Items by the Europa.

—Lady Franklin is said to be gradually sinking under her long and melancholy trial.

—A seaman engaged for the Prince Albert, (ship to search for Sir John Franklin) has recently testified that a cairn of stones was discovered, as before stated, in Jones Sound in 1848, by the Prince of Wales, whaler. Under this cairn is supposed to be buried the journal of Sir John's progress up to that period. The discoverers of the cairn were unable to investigate it as they were summoned to join their ship, which was driven shoreward by the current.

—The excursion trains begin to pour into London. The Eastern Counties Railway brought 8,000 and the North-western 10,000 in one day. The latter ran 10 excursion trains with 138 carriages.

—Up to Thursday, June 12th, the receipts at the Great Exhibition were £221,689. The liabilities £185,000, and therefore the surplus up to that time, £36,689.

—In the Brazilian consignment to the Exhibition is the collection of pictures and vases of flowers, delineated with perfect truth of coloring in feathers, plucked from the beautiful birds of the South American forests. This rare art, which was formerly practiced in Mexico, was supposed to have been lost with the destruction of the Aztecs, but it seems to have only migrated across the Isthmus, and is now extensively practiced at Rio.

—Mr. Richard Montesquieu Bellew is named as the probable successor of Mr. Sleech at Phillipps, Hanover Square. He is a gentleman of much talent, and has not been in the Diplomatic career.

—The Limerick Harbor Board, have decided that the entrance gates of their new docks shall be 70 feet wide, instead of 50 feet, in anticipation of visits from American steamers.

—The Irish people have drank, in the ten years from 1841 to 1850 inclusive, 66,822,720 gallons of spirits. The following are the quantities annually consumed: 1841, 9,485,413 gals.; 1842, 5,290,650; 1843, 5,546,483; 1844, 6,151,137; 1845, 7,605,196; 1846, 7,952,076; 1847, 6,037,583; 1848, 7,072,933; 1849, 6,973,333; 1850, 7,408,086.

—There is hope of restoring the Iron Manufacture in Ireland.

—The Masters of the Bench of Gray's-inn have recently passed an order that members of the London and Durham Universities shall have the same privileges with respect to call to the bar at Gray's-inn as are enjoyed by members of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Dublin.

—It is said that Capt. Somerset wrote to his Colonel from prison, inquiring what he should do under the circumstances. The reply of the Colonel was short and pithy: "Write to Mr. Hardwick thanking him for his reproof, and atone with your purse to the Policeman whom you have beaten."

—At Charente, in France, on Sunday week, no fewer than thirty-two adult Roman Catholics of both sexes, in the presence of a numerous congregation in the French Protestant Church at Rochefort, publicly abjured Popery, and embraced the Protestant faith.

—The Lords of the Treasury have issued a general minute sanctioning the future admission into this country, duty free, of plate publicly presented to parties abroad.

—At a recent meeting of the General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland, no fewer than eight ministers were deposed from their office for gross immorality.

—The magnificent dessert service, manufactured by Messrs. Minton & Co., of Stoke-upon-Trent, and now in the Great Exhibition, has been purchased by the Queen as a present to the Emperor of Austria.

—The fees which the Pope's Nuncio at Madrid is entitled to exact from the faithful, for sundry dispensations and licenses, are most oppressively high. In the long catalogue there is one of five dollars, (say £1 sterling) for every clergyman wearing a wig.

—The Duchess of Leuchtenberg has left her diamonds, worth several hundred thousand pounds, to her son, who married the daughter of the Emperor of Russia, with a proviso that they are to be kept as heir-looms in the family, and consequently worn by future Russian Princesses.

—A model for a statue of Mad'lle Rachel has been made by M. Afinger, at Berlin. It will be executed in marble, by order of the King. The actress is represented in Grecian costume, the diadem-covered head bent forward in contemplation, and the whole bespeaking that nobleness and ideality which characterize the original.