Business Notices.

CLOSING SALE, PREVIOUS TO REMOVAL.—E. V. HAUGHWOUT & Co's NEW STORE, CORNER OF BROADWAY AND BROOME-ST., will be ready for occupation on the 15TH DAY OF MARCH, and having a SPECIAL STOCK OF Goods now in port to open with, he is desirous of CLOSING OUT the balance of his present stock, previous to removal. A perusal of the following list will convince every one that the prices at which we are now selling WILL DEFY COMPETITION:

WHITE DINNER SERVICES	142 pieces	$17 00
WHITE TOILET SETS	10 pieces	1 00
FANCY DECORATED TOILET SETS	11 pieces	4 75
FANCY DECORATED TEA SETS	44 pieces	6 50
CUT-GLASS GOBLETS	Per dozen	1 75
CUT-GLASS CHAMPAGNES	Per dozen	1 25
CUT-GLASS WINES	Per dozen	88
PIPE-STEM SHERRY WINES	Per dozen	1 38
PIPE-STEM ENGRAVED DO	Per dozen	2 50
ENGRAVED BOHEMIAN CLARET GLASSES, per doz.		2 50

And PLATED WARE, CUTLERY, GAS FIXTURES, &c., in proportion.

FOR GENTLEMEN ONLY.
THE BOOK ON
POLITENESS AND FASHION,
CALLED THE
AMERICAN GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE,
IS SELLING BY THOUSANDS.
See advertisement on the first page.

LEARY & CO.'S NEW QUARTERLY PATTERN for GENTLEMEN'S DRESS HATS is this day issued, together with a large invoice of PARIS HATS of late styles, including the celebrated CAMBRIDGE SOFT HAT (a new water-proof article) in various colors, and for sale at our counters only. LEARY & Co., Leaders of Fashions for Gents' Hats, 3, 4 and 5 Astor-House.

HALLOTYPES.
LETTERS PATENT GRANTED Jan. 20, 1857.
A large collection of this new and beautiful style of Portraiture is now on Exhibition at J. GURNEY'S well known Photographic Palace of Art, No 349 Broadway, N. Y.
The public are respectfully invited to call and judge for themselves of the superiority of these Pictures over other styles; and although executed by the Camera, they combine the truthfulness of the finest Photographs, with the beauty and finish of the most delicate Miniature in ivory. To quote the expression of one of our celebrated Miniature Painters, "The Stereoscopic effect is wonderful; our occupation is gone; these pictures surpass in every respect our best endeavors."
J. GURNEY holds himself in readiness to execute said pictures for the public on and after the 26th inst.
Gallery open from 8 a. m. till 6 p. m.
J. GURNEY, Photographic Artist,
No 349 Broadway, cor. Leonard-st., N. Y.
N. B.—No connection with any other establishment.

SEWING MACHINES.—I. M. SINGER & Co.'S GAZETTE, a beautiful Pictorial Paper, contains full and reliable information about SEWING MACHINES, and answers all questions that can be asked on the subject; all who read this paper will learn how to purchase a SEWING MACHINE with which $1,000 a year clear profit can be made, and will be protected from being imposed upon by any of the humbug machines now before the public. I. M. SINGER & Co.'s GAZETTE will be sent gratis to all who apply by letter or otherwise.
I. M. SINGER & Co., No. 323 Broadway, New-York.

PIANOS AND MELODEONS.—The HORACE WATERS Modern Improved PIANOS and MELODEONS are to be found only at No. 333 Broadway. PIANOS and MELODEONS to rent and rent allowed on purchase; for sale on monthly payments. Second-hand PIANOS from $30 to $150; MELODEONS, $40 to $135.
"HORACE WATERS'S PIANO-FORTES are of full, rich and even tone, and powerful." [Musical Review.

CARPETINGS, OIL-CLOTHS
And
CURTAINS and CURTAIN MATERIALS,
For sale at reduced prices by
PETERSON & HUMPHREY, No. 534 Broadway.

LOOK OUT
for our
ADVERTISEMENT
In another part of this paper,
In the Dry Goods column.
W. J. F. DAILEY & Co.,
Nos. 631 and 633 Broadway.

TO TEA DEALERS AND GROCERS.—We invite attention to our stock of OOLONGS, ENGLISH BREAKFAST, YOUNG HYSON and other TEAS, including some choice chops from recent arrivals, which we are yet selling at moderate prices for cash or on usual time for approved paper.
JAMES CASSIDY & Co., No. 135 Front-st.

CERTAIN CURE FOR CHAPPED HANDS, FACE, &c.—HEGEMAN, CLARK & Co.'S COMPOUND CAMPHOR ICE, with Glycerine, will prove a convenient, agreeable and certain remedy. TO PREVENT CHAPPED HANDS.—H. C. & Co.'s BALSAMIC GLYCERINE LOTION will be found very efficacious, and a most delicious toilet article. Prepared only by
HEGEMAN, CLARK & Co., Chemists and Druggists,
Nos. 165, 274, 511 and 756 Broadway.

CLOVER SEED—TIMOTHY SEED.
1,000 bushels.
For sale by
S. D. CROSBY, No. 92 and 94 Broad-st.

DEFIANCE SALAMANDER SAFES.—ROBERT M. PATRICK is the sole manufacturer in the United States of the above celebrated SAFES, and Patent Powder-proof Defiance Locks and Cross-bars. Depot No. 192 Pearl-st., one door below Maiden-lane.

RUPTURE.—Only Prize Medal awarded to MARSH & Co., by the Industrial Exhibition of all Nations at the Crystal Palace for their new PATENT RADICAL CURE TRUSS. References as to its superiority, Professors VALENTINE MOTT, WILLARD PARKER and JOHN M. CARNOCHAN. Open from 7 a. m. to 9 p. m. MARSH & Co., No. 2½ Maiden-lane, New-York.

MEDICINE WITHOUT PAY.
I will present one box of my MAGNETIC SALVE to any respectable patient who will call and receive it. For Burns, Chilblains, Scrofula and Salt Rheum, unsurpassed. S. S. SMITH, Electro-Magnetist, No. 77 Canal-st., between Broadway and Church-sts.

WIGS—HAIR-DYE—WIGS.—BATCHELOR'S Wigs and TOUPEES have improvements peculiar to their house. They are celebrated all over the world for their graceful beauty, ease and durability—fitting to a charm. The largest and best stock in the world. Twelve private rooms for applying his famous DYE. Sold at BATCHELOR'S, No. 233 Broadway.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS—FEEBLE CONSTITUTIONS.—Thousands of persons with weak constitutions die early from sheer debility. Nature should, in such cases, be assisted with HOLLOWAY'S PILLS. They give tone and stamina to the system and vigor to the circulation.

THE POTENT REMEDY.—It is a well-known truth that as a purgative medicine there is none equal to the BRANDRETH PILLS. They purify the blood, and thus remove out of the course of the circulation all those humors which cause pain and suffering; and they are safe in all ages and conditions of life. Beware of counterfeits. All Pills with No. 241 Broadway on the side label are counterfeits. Purchase at principal office, No. 43 Brandreth Building, Nos. 315 and 417 Broadway. Sold also at No. 52 Division-st. 25 cents a box.

CARD.
HYATT'S PATENT LIGHTS.
The manufacture of the above article, heretofore conducted at No. 120 West Broadway, has been transferred to
No. 5 Worth-st.,
Near Hudson.
The property on West Broadway will be sold at auction on the 24th inst., the subscriber having made arrangements to settle and invest his capital in Kansas.
THE BUSINESS
will be conducted by his brother,
Theodore Hyatt,
in connection with others, under the name of
HYATT, CORNELL & Co.
No other parties in New-York are authorized to manufacture these lights.
The "prismatics," and other inferior imitations, are in violation of my patents, and the suits which have been commenced against infringers will be prosecuted with energy.
THADDEUS HYATT.

New-York Daily Tribune

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1857.

Little Dorrit—Part XV.

The February part of Dickens's "Little Dorrit," received by the steamer which arrived at Boston on Sunday last, will appear entire in THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE of this morning. Price 6¼ cents.

In the SENATE yesterday, Mr. SEWARD reported a bill providing for the exploration of the river Niger. The bill to prevent the counterfeiting of United States coin was passed; also a bill suplementary to the act of March, 1851, to ascertain and settle private land claims in California. The bills dividing Missouri and Texas each into two Judicial Districts were passed. Notice was given of a series of Pacific Railroad bills.

In the HOUSE, Mr. CAMPBELL of Ohio reported back from the Committee of Ways and Means the Senate Submarine Telegraph bill, with the following amendments, namely: That citizens of the United States shall have the right to use the line for all time instead of fifty years; recognizing the equality of their rights to its use, and of all lines which at any time may connect with its terminus at Newfoundland; and providing that it shall be in the power of Congress after ten years to terminate the contract on a year's notice. An ineffectual effort was made to table the bill, which was passed as amended as above, by a vote of 112 against 81.

Mr. CAMPBELL reported his Tariff bill, as a substitute for Mr. MILLSON'S, and the substitute was adopted in Committee. The House concurred in the Senate's amendment to the Coinage bill (authorizing the payment of the new cent for old Spanish silver at the old rates for two years), and that bill is now fully through both Houses.

The investigation into the riot on Saturday last among the laborers on the tunnel of the New-York and Erie Railroad, at Hudson, N. J., was concluded yesterday. Four of the prisoners were held for trial, if indicted, on the charge of riot and arson, and eighteen others on the charge of riot. There has, thus far, no one died of his injuries.

The decline in the price of beef cattle at Bull's Head yesterday, was only equivalent to about half a cent per pound below the rates of the previous week. The supply was larger, but entirely inadequate to the demand, particularly of the best quality; and although the principal part of the good beeves sold at rates based upon 11@12¼ cents a pound for the beef, some premium steers sold at 12½@15 cents. About 320 head on the Hudson River road failed to arrive in time.

We have further news from Nicaragua by telegraph from New-Orleans, where the steamer Texas arrived on the 17th, having left Greytown on the 10th. The Tennessee had arrived with recruits and ammunition for the fillibusters at Punta Arenas, as had Col. Titus and his Kansas fillibusters from New-Orleans. The number thus added to the fillibuster force is not stated. Lockridge, the fillibuster commander at Punta Arenas, had proceeded up the San Juan in his steamer as far as the mouth of the Sarapiqui. It is alleged that he there met three hundred Costa Ricans, whom he defeated with heavy loss to them and but trifling loss to himself. However, after this battle, he came back to Punta Arenas to repair damages to his machinery, but at the departure of the Texas had again started up the river. This attempt on the part of Lockridge is more likely, we think, to result in the destruction by the Costa Ricans of the Transit lake and river steamers, to save them from recapture, than in the relief of Walker.

Accounts from Walker's camp to the 3d of February had been received at Panama by the Orizaba. The old story is told about Walker's numbers and supplies, to which is added a statement that on the 28th of January Henningsen successfully attacked fifteen hundred Costa Ricans at St. George. According to this statement, Walker's camp is now at Rivas.

A late report from Wheatland thus distributes the places in Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet:

Department of State...HOWELL COBB, Ga.
Treasury.....DANIEL S. DICKINSON, N. Y.
Interior.....JESSE D. BRIGHT, Ind.
Navy.....NATHAN CLIFFORD, Me.
War.....JOHN FLOYD, Va.
Post-Office.....AARON V. BROWN, Tenn.
Attorney-General.....JUDAH P. BENJAMIN, La.

We merely give this rumor for what it may be worth, without saying that we believe in its correctness. The appointment of Mr. Dickinson to the Treasury strikes us as a rather comical idea.

—A much more probable statement is that which reached us from Washington last evening, allotting the honors of the new Ministry as follows.

Department of State... LEWIS CASS, Mich.
Treasury.....HOWELL COBB, Ga.
Interior.....JACOB THOMPSON, Miss.
Navy.....AARON V. BROWN, Tenn.
War.....JOHN FLOYD, Va.
Post-Office.....J. GLANCY JONES, Pa.
Attorney-General.....ISAAC TOUCEY, Ct.

This we think vastly more likely to be the true list than that from Wheatland. At any rate, the people may be assured that Mr. Buchanan's is to be a slave-breeding and slave-driving Administration. Look at the names here given, and let us know what chance the squatter sovereigns of Kansas have with such a crew of negro-driving gentlemen.

We promised the other day, at the end of a disquisition as to the proper mode of dealing with the convicted class of our fellow-citizens, that we would follow up the subject at an early day. The activity lately displayed in the garrote market, the improvement we have had occasion to notice in our quotations of that fancy stock, and the consequent increase of operations in this line, giving us reason to expect (perhaps we should rather say, to *hope*) a large addition to that important department of society, not to mention the recent opportunities for the cultivation of the taste for the Fine Art of Murder, we feel ourselves compelled to resume the subject and finish what we had to say upon it. We said in that article, what we are certain the statistics of crime will make good, that offenses against the person of an aggravated nature are not more numerous, considering the increase of population, either in England or in this country, than they were a century or half a century ago. The crimes which come of that reading and writing which our Southern philosophers and statesmen hate as much as Jack Cade did, have increased and multiplied no doubt. Where the youth of a realm are traitorously corrupted by the erection of grammar schools and generally are so well brought up, like the Clerk of Chatham, as to write their own names, one cannot be surprised at their occasionally writing the names of other people; and if they are taught to cast account, they will unquestionably sometimes cast it wrong. We attributed the diminution of crimes of violence in a good measure to the practical wisdom which has been directed, though imperfectly enough as yet, to the treatment of the criminal classes and the attempts to approximate to the true philosophy of punition.

Let us consider a little what this is. Pope tells us that "true self-love and social is the same." So that course of proceeding in regard to the criminal classes which is really the best for them must be the best also for society. If we can find one side of the equation, we shall be sure to find the other standing over against it, as a matter of course. As one element of a better state of Prison Discipline, we affirm again the necessity of putting all places of detention and of punishment under the charge of a different class of men from those that now control them. The delicacy and importance of this function demands men every whit the equals, the superiors if they can be found, of the gentlemen who direct the asylums for unfortunates laboring under specific disabilities, such as Insanity, Blindness, Deaf-muteness, or Idiocy. This is the essential preliminary of any material reformation of our penal establishments, and of any important improvement in their results. It should be the duty of these superintendents, thus carefully chosen, to study the case of every subject submitted to his care—as, in the institutions above mentioned, the director is bound to make himself acquainted with the mental idiosyncrasies and special bodily condition of the patients intrusted to his charge. They should do this with the double object of separating the curable from the incorrigible, and of devising the best methods of restoring the one to society and of protecting society against the other.

In order to enable them to do this, a thorough change must be made in the present modes of apportioning punishment and of terminating it. Nothing can well be more clumsy and more unphilosophical than the present way of doing both these necessary things. The Legislature undertakes to fix the *maximum* and the *minimum* of imprisonment at hard labor, or otherwise, that may be inflicted as the penalty of a particular offense. Then the Judge before whom the offender is convicted is to consider all the circumstances of his case, and to regulate the amount of punishment according to his view of its aggravations and its extenuations. How much this depends on personal character and temperament, how often it is affected by transient states of mind and variations of temper, every one who is in the habit of watching the course of criminal Courts is perfectly well aware. It is part of the art and mystery of the counsel of prisoners to postpone or to hasten trials so as to bring their cases before this Judge in preference to that. And after all this has been done, and the Legislature and the Judge have discharged their duty according to their light and ability, then the Governor stands behind them both with the keys of all the penitentiaries in his hand, with which he is always sorely beset and oftentimes sorely tempted, especially in the solemn article of official dissolution, according to the philosophy of Dick, the butcher of Ashford, "to open the jails and let out the prisoners, as the "only way to do good and thrive." Surely these are very bungling ways of doing very necessary things. The inequalities, partialities and indirectness which are inherent in these old methods, tell in unmistakable language at once of the necessity of some change in them, and of its possibility, too, if we can but lay hold of it.

Now there is no question that the duration and the termination of penal confinement must be in the hands of somebody. As things now stand, we do not say that this matter could be in better hands than it is now. But it is obvious to any reflecting person how imperfect and unequal this mode of administering penal justice must be. It is the character of the prisoner, after all, and not that of the crime, on which these incidents of his punishment should depend. The Legislature can only classify crimes according as it seems to their best wisdom the good of the commonwealth requires—affixing different ranges of imprisonment, in proportion to the civil importance of the evil action. The Judge can only be guided by what comes before him on the trial, or is pressed by the urgency of counsel after it is over, and perhaps as often errs on the side of mercy as of justice. The Governor can know nothing of the merits of the case beyond the record, excepting what is urged upon him by the eager application of relations and friends and the testimony of the officers of the penitentiary where the prisoner in question is serving out his term. Now these two classes of officials, the Judges and the Governors, should be relieved from this painful responsibility in the one case, and this more painful importunity in the other. With the best intentions in the world, which we are charitable enough to believe the general rule of conduct in such niceties, substantial injustice must needs be often done. The apportionment of punishment seems to be almost a mere freak of fortune, and, in the interpositions of mercy, that twice blessed virtue must often appear to those whom she passes by to be as blind a power as fortune herself.

Now, when we shall have prevailed on the constituted authorities to adopt our plan of placing men of the highest scientific skill in all that affects the body and the mind of man, of the wisest sagacity and of the most enlightened humanity, at the head of our penal institutions, all this difficulty will settle itself. The responsibility of determining how long a prisoner shall remain such should rest on this competent man, and not on Judge or Governor. The only consideration which should influence him in his decision should be—Can the offender be discharged with safety to society and benefit to himself? An individual who has shown himself incapable of restraining his brutal passions from acts of violence, or his selfish propensities from larcenous or fraudulent appropriations of other people's property, should be secluded from society and subjected to such a course of treatment as is likely to cure him of these infirmities. All that a Judge should have to do should be to see that the facts are properly proved, and then to sentence the convict to the proper penitentiary, there to remain until he is declared by the competent authority to be fit for his discharge. A man skilled in the science of mankind—in its physical and metaphysical departments—removed from all influences of an extrinsic character, and making a study of every individual case, would soon come to note the shades that distinguish one from another, and the elements of mind and temperament which occasioned the crime. Of course, this would require skill—genius, perhaps; but so does the accuracy of observation necessary in cases of insanity, for the treatment of which there is no lack of suitable men, and of whose treatment of which there is so seldom any just cause of criticism or complaint.

To guard against any apprehensions of too speedy discharges, a rule might be enforced that every convict not acquainted with some trade or handicraft by which he could earn his living, should remain at least long enough to learn one, and that every man having a trade should become a skillful workman before being entitled to a discharge. As a check on the Superintendent, a Board of Trustees or Visitors, to be composed of men above all suspicion of undue influence, might pass upon his decisions as to releases or detentions, but only with the power of suspending his decisions in cases where they thought public safety or justice required it. The Governor or the Chief Justice of the highest Court of Judicature in the State might be the final umpire in case of a serious difference of opinion. The details of the system would soon arrange themselves. The principle is, to place the entire responsibility of the treatment, the detention and the discharge of prisoners on one man qualified by natural ability, acquired skill and special preparation for so difficult and delicate a duty. To say that such men cannot be found is an absurdity. If not to be found, they would soon be made, as the men whose specialties are the treatment or instruction of those suffering under the loss of reason or of any of the senses have been created within fifty years. The world is full of highly educated men who are asking their brothers of the earth "to give them leave to toil," and who fail to find their niche in the world. This change would create a New Profession, which would only need to be made honorable and remunerative, as this should be made, to command services of the highest order of talent.

The plan we suggest, it will be perceived, proposes to secure society from criminals by their seclusion, until they are pronounced by a responsible and skillful officer, such as we have described, fit to be restored to it again. In some instances this could be done in a comparatively short time, in others after a much longer probation; and as to the worst sort of offenders, pronounced incurable, they should be detained for life, with such mitigations as humanity might suggest in such cases, and always with the prospect of release on a well-grounded probability of good behavior. We do not affirm that such a dispensation of penal justice as we propose would be infallible; but we believe that its errors and its hardships would be vastly less than what attend the present system, and that its tendency would be constantly toward improvement. With a disposition on the part of society to give its offending members a fair chance again, after their penance was over, and with such assistance toward the same object as it would be proper for the State to give, we have no doubt that nearly all, fit to be discharged at all, might be made useful citizens and happy men. Of course, within the limits of a newspaper article we can do no more than throw out a few hints, which we hope may take root and germinate in the good soil of strong and earnest minds. What we say will seem Utopian to many; but so did the substitution of our present Prison Discipline for the indiscriminate gallows, the pillory and the whipping post of our fathers. Every improvement in machinery or in government is visionary at its beginning—existing only in contemplation. And we have faith to believe that something like what we have suggested in these two articles will yet become the received and approved policy of Christian governments toward their froward children.

England has long been in the habit, as every body knows, of supplying America with accomplished thieves and burglars. America has begun, it would seem, to reciprocate this left-handed favor, or, at least, to send back some of these English rogues greatly perfected by their American experience. Such an one was Edward Agar, the chief actor in the famous robbery (to some of the legal principles involved in trying whose perpetrators we yesterday had occasion to refer), perpetrated in May, 1855, of some sixty thousand dollars in gold bars and coin, en route from London to Paris by the South-Eastern Railway, three of the parties to which robbery have lately been tried and convicted in the London Central Criminal Court. The idea of this robbery seems first to have struck one Peirce, formerly a ticket printer in the employ of the railroad company, and as such acquainted with the course and nature of its business, and many of its officers. Aware that to carry it out succesfully would require first-rate professional abilities, he applied to Agar, as was remarked by Judge Martin in his charge to the Jury, just as one would apply to a great lawyer or a physician of high professional reputation in a difficult and important case. This Agar, who appeared on the stand as the principal witness for the Government, decribed himself as forty-one years of age, and as having had for the last twenty years no regular business, getting his living by "speculating and various things." During this interval he had several times visited the United States, where he had "speculated a great deal." As to the nature of these speculations, beyond a general confession of having lived by crime, he declined to be specific. They had not, however, been unattended with success, as, at the time of his engaging in the robbery, he was possessed of £3,000 in the funds and £700 in Spanish bonds, if not of other property.

Peirce would seem to have secured the co-operation of one Burgess, who acted as guard to the car in which the treasure was conveyed; but as that treasure was carried in a safe fastened by two of Chubb's patent locks, Agar did not think the enterprise feasible unless wax impressions of the keys of the safe could be obtained, from which he might make false keys. Another confederate in this robbery was one Tester, a clerk in the freight-office of the Company. It happened that one of the keys was lost, in consequence of which the safes were sent to the manufacturers to have new keys fitted, and the lock itself altered, so as to render the lost key useless. Tester conducted this business, and the new keys passing through his hands, he met Agar by an appointment arranged by Peirce, and allowed him to take an impression from them.

To obtain an impression of the key to the other lock, Agar caused a box of bullion to be sent to him, under the name of Archer, at Folkestone, not far from Dover, where the treasure was transhipped for France, and upon occasion of its being delivered to him, he observed that the key was taken for the purpose of opening the safe from a cupboard in the office. Some time after he and Peirce went together to Folkestone, and, watching their opportunity, at a moment when, owing to the hurry and confusion incident to the transfer of the baggage from the cars to the boats, the clerks were all momentarily absent from the office, Peirce walked in, found the key of the cupboard in the lock, took out the safe key and brought it to Agar, who took an impression, when Peirce immediately replaced it, without discovery. From these impressions keys were manufactured by Agar, who, for the purpose of fitting them to the locks, made repeated trips in the baggage-car with Burgess, who, by the management of Tester, was, contrary to usage, continued for more than a month as guard of the train in which the treasure was conveyed. At length the keys having been made to fit, Peirce and Agar provided themselves with shot to the extent of about two hundred pounds weight, that being about the weight of gold they thought they could manage. The shot was put into small bags, and these bags of shot in a number of carpet bags with which they provided themselves, as also with courier bags made of leather, and fitting with a strap to the person high up, so as to be easily concealed by a cloak or cape.

Resolved to wait for a good haul, they deferred operations till notice was given by Tester that a large quantity of gold was going in the train. That notice received, on the 15th of May, 1855, Peirce and Agar, with their courier bags on, drove up to the station in season for the train which left at 8 p. m. They handed their carpet bags to a porter who handed them to Burgess, the guard, who put them into his car. Agar watched his opportunity, and when the station-master's head was turned, jumped into the same car, where Burgess concealed him. Peirce took passage in a first class car. While the train was in motion Agar opened the safe, and being provided with the necessary tools, removed the fastenings of three boxes, transferred the contents to the bags, filled up the boxes with shot, and restored them externally to their original condition. One of the bags, containing a large bar of gold, was handed by Burgess to Tester at one of the stopping-places on the way. The contents of the safe were transferred to the steamer at Folkestone, but Agar and Peirce kept on to the terminus at Dover, a few miles further, whence, by a return train, they came back to London, bringing the gold with them.

The detection of the parties concerned completely baffled the London police, when at length a year afterwards Agar voluntarily furnished the whole history of the robbery. In the August following this successful operation he had been arrested for uttering a forged check, and in October was convicted and sentenced to transportation for life; but was placed for a while in the Portland hulks. When arrested on this charge, he arranged with Peirce that the contents of a trunk deposited with him containing Agar's share of the stolen gold so far as the same had been converted into cash, and also his other property, should be appropriated by Peirce for the benefit of one Fanny Kay, a young girl who had lived with Agar as his mistress and by whom he had a child. But Peirce, instead of fulfilling this trust, appropriated this property to his own use. This coming to the knowledge of Agar, in order to punish Peirce he revealed the whole story of the robbery and became a witness against his confederates.

The usual objection was taken to his testimony on account of the acknowledged infamy of his character. The danger of convicting anybody upon his statements was reënforced by what he had himself stated as to his own conviction on the charge for which he was under sentence. He insisted that he was wholly innocent of that charge, and that he had been found guilty entirely on the false testimony of an accomplice. It was also suggested that the public was not likely to gain much by having so accomplished a thief as Agar turned loose to follow his profession as a consideration for his evidence given in this case. But Agar's story, which was very complicated and minute, and which his cross-examination did not at all shake, was confirmed as to a great many points by independent witnesses; and the Jury, as well as the Judges, were so satisfied of the truth of it as, after an absence of only ten minutes, to bring in a verdict of guilty against Peirce, Burgess and Tester.

Judge Martin, who tried the case, appears to have been strongly impressed by Agar. He spoke of him in his charge to the Jury as a man evidently of very extraordinary abilities, whose talents and perseverance, as developed in the conduct of this robbery, would in any legitimate pursuit have been certain to realize him a high position and a splendid fortune. Into the feeling of Agar toward Peirce, which had led to Agar's becoming a witness, the Judge entered very strongly. The following is a passage from his address to Peirce, when giving his sentence, as reported in the London journals, and which, according to the reporter, was received by the audience with loud bursts of applause:

"You (Peirce) had been long connected with this man Agar; he trusted you, and he gave you £3,000 stock to be invested for the benefit of his child and its mother, together with £600, his share of the produce of this robbery, and the rest of the gold which had not been sold. In all, you must have got out of him about £15,000. This you stole, and appropriated to your own use. *It is a worse offense, I declare, than the act of which you have just been found guilty.* I would rather have been concerned in stealing the gold than in the robbery of that wretched woman—call her harlot, if you will—and her child. A greater villain than you are, I believe, does not exist."

Nor did the interest of the Judge for the woman and her child end in mere words. After the prisoners were convicted, an application was made to the Court that the property found in their possession should be handed over to the South-Eastern Railway Company. But Judge Martin declined to make any such order. It clearly appeared, he said, that certain Turkish bonds found in Peirce's possession had been purchased with money not the fruit of this robberry, intrusted by Agar to Peirce for the benefit of Fanny Kay; and if he had the power, he should certainty order those bonds to be handed over to her; whereupon the solicitor of the Company disclaimed any desire to obtain possession of any property not the produce of the robbery.

In sentencing the prisoners the Judge observed that although the Crown had the power, it did not by any means follow as a matter of course that a man of Agar's character would be released from prison in consequence of the aid he had afforded in convicting his confederates; and in reference to this matter one of the counsel for the prosecution remarked that before the trial Agar was given distinctly to understand that he must not expect any remission of his sentence in return for the evidence which he consented to give. Should he be released, it is certainly to be hoped that he will not favor the United States with any more visits.

It is the question of the possession of Herat, an Affghan principality, but lately occupied by the Persians, that has given occasion to the occupation by the English, acting in the name of the East India Company, of Bussire, the principal Persian port on the Persian Gulf. The existing political importance of Herat is derived from the fact of its being the strategical center of all the country intervening between the Persian Gulf, the Caspian Sea and the Jaxartes on the west and north, and the Indus on the east; so that in the event of a great struggle between England and Russia for supremacy in Asia—a struggle which the English invasion of Persia may tend to precipitate—Herat will form the chief object of contention, and probably the theater of the first great military operations.

That the importance ascribed to Herat is not unfounded, must be apparent to all who understand its geographical position. The interior of Persia is formed by an elevated plain, surrounded on all sides by mountain chains, allowing no egress to the waters flowing down into it. These waters are not of sufficient importance to form one or more central lakes; they either lose themselves in vast morasses, or gradually vanish in the arid sand of the great desert which fills up by far the greater portion of the Persian plateau, and forms an almost impassable barrier between Western and North-eastern Persia. The northern boundary of this desert is formed by the hills of Khorassan, stretching along from the south-eastern corner of the Caspian almost due east, the connecting link between the Elburz and the Hindoo-koosh Mountains; and it is just where these hills send a branch to the south dividing the Persian desert from the better watered regions of Affghanistan that Herat is situated, surrounded and supported by a valley of considerable extent and exuberant fertility. To the north of the Khorassan hills we find a desert similar to that at their southern foot. Here, too, mighty rivers like the Murghab are lost in the sand. But the Oxus and Jaxartes are powerful enough to traverse it, and in their lower course form valleys capable of cultivation and of large extent. Beyond the Jaxartes the desert gradually takes the character of the steppes of Southern Russia, in which it is finally lost altogether. Thus we have three distinct seats of comparative civilization intervening between the Caspian Sea and British India. First, the towns of Western Persia: Shiraz, Shuster, Teheran, Ispahan; secondly, the Affghan towns: Caboul, Ghazna, Candahar; thirdly, the towns of Turan, Khiva, Bokhara, Balkh, Samarcand. Between all these there is a considerable intercourse, and the center of all this intercourse is necessarily Herat. The roads leading from the Caspian to the Indus, from the Persian Gulf to the Oxus, all meet at that city. Between Caboul and Teheran, between Shiraz and Balkh, Herat is the half-way house. The line of oases marking the great caravan route across the Persian desert by Yezd and Shebustan, debouches in a straight line on Herat; and, on the other hand, the only road leading from Western to Eastern and Central Asia, avoiding the desert, is that through the Khorassan hills and Herat.

Thus Herat is a point which, in the hands of a strong power, can be used to command both Iran and Turan—both Persia and Transoxiana. It gives to its possessor, in the very highest degree, all the advantages of a central position, from which radiating attacks in all directions can be made with greater facility and chance of success than from any other town in either Iran or Turan. At the same time, the difficulties of intercommunication between any two of the towns of Astrabad, Khiva, Bokhara, Balkh, Caboul and Candahar are so great that a combined attack upon Herat, even from all of them, would have but little chance of success. The various columns, once marching upon Herat, would have scarcely any chance of communication with each other, and could, by an active general at Herat, be fallen upon and defeated one after the other. Still, in such a case, columns coming from Candahar, Caboul and Balkh, would certainly have a better chance than an attack concentrating from the starting points of Astrabad, Khiva and Bokhara; for the attack from the side of Affghanistan would descend from the mountains into the plain, and completely avoid the desert, while the attack from the side of the Caspian and Araxes would have only one column (that from Astrabad) avoiding the desert, while all the remainder would have to pass it, and thereby altogether lose their communications one with the others.

The three centers of civilization which have their common center in Herat, form three distinct groups of States. On the west is Persia, which the Treaty of Turkmantchai has converted into a vassal of Russia. On the East are the States of Affghanistan and Beloochistan, the most important of which, Caboul and Candahar, we may class for the present with the vassal States of the Anglo-Indian Empire. On the north are the Khanats of Turan, Khiva and Bokhara, States nominally neutral, but almost sure, in the case of a conflict, to go with the conquering party. The actual dependence of Persia on Russia, and of Affghanistan on the English, is proved by the fact that the Russians have already sent troops into Persia, and the English into Caboul.

The Russians hold the whole of the western and northern shores of the Caspian. Baku, 350 miles, and Astrakhan, 750 miles from Astrabad, offer two capital points for the establishment of magazines and the concentration of reserves. With the Russian fleet on the Caspian in command of that lake, the necessary stores and reënforcements can, with great facility, be brought down to Astrabad. The points on the eastern shore of the Caspian, whence start the roads to Lake Aral, are occupied by Russian forts. Further north and east, the line of Russian forts marking the line of the Ural Cossacks had been advanced, as far back as 1847, from the river Ural to the rivers Emba and Ulu Turgai, some 150 or 200 miles into the territory of the tributary Kirghiz hordes, and in the direction of the Lake Aral. Since then, forts have actually been established on the shores of that lake, which, as well as the river Jaxartes, is at this moment plowed by Russian steamers. There have been rumors even of an occupation of Khiva by Russian troops, but they are at least premature.

The line of operations the Russians have to follow, in any serious attack on Central or Southern Asia, is pointed out by nature. A land march from the Caucasus around the south-western corner of the Caspian would find great natural obstacles in the hills of Northern Persia, and would take the invading army over 1,100 miles of ground before the chief object, Herat, was reached. A land march from Orenburg toward Herat would have to pass not only the desert in which Perowski's army, on its expedition to Khiva, was lost, but two more deserts quite as inhospitable. The distance from Orenburg to Herat is 1,500 miles as the crow flies, and Orenburg is the nearest place which the Russians, advancing from that direction, could take as a base of operations. Now, both Russian Armenia and Orenburg are places all but cut off from the center of Russian power—the first by the Caucausus, the second by the steppes. To concentrate in either of them the material and men necessary for the conquest of Central Asia, is entirely out of the question. There is but one line remaining—that by the Caspian, with Astrakhan and Baku for bases, with Astrabad, on the south-eastern border of the Caspian, for the point of observation, and with a march to Herat of but 500 miles. And this line combines all the advantages that Russia can wish for. Astrakhan is to the Volga what New-Orleans is to the Mississippi. Situated at the mouth of the greatest river of Russia, the upper basin of which actually forms Great Russia, the center of the Empire, Astrakhan possesses every facility for the transmission of men and stores to organize a grand expedition. In four days by steam, in eight days by sailing vessels, the opposite extremity of the Caspian at Astrabad can be reached. The Caspian itself is undisputedly a Russian lake; and Astrabad, now placed by the Persian Shah at the disposal of Russia, is situated at the starting point of that only road from the west to Herat which, by passing through the Khorassan hills, totally avoids the desert.

The Russian Government acts accordingly. The main column, destined in the case of farther complications to act against Herat, is concentrating at Astrabad. Then there are two flank columns, the co-operation of which with the main body is at best but problematical, and each of which has, therefore, a definite object of its own. The light column concentrating at Tabreez is destined to cover the western frontier of Persia against any hostile movements of the Turks, and eventually to march toward Hamadan and Shuster, where it covers the capital, Teheran, both against Turkey and the English troops landing in the Persian Gulf at Bushire. The left column, starting from Orenburg and very likely intended to receive reinforcements sent from Astrakhan to the western shore of the Caspian, will have to secure the Aral country, to march on Khiva, Bokhara and Samarcand, to secure either the passivity or the assistance of these States, and if possible, by a march up the Oxus to Balkh, menace the flank and rear of the English at Caboul or near Herat. We know that all these columns are already on the road, and that the central and right columns are already at Astrabad and Tareez. Of the progress of the right column we shall probably not hear anything for some time.

For the English, the country of the upper Indus is the base of operations; and their magazines must be fixed at Peshawur. Thence they have already moved a column on Caboul, which town is distant four hundred miles from Herrat as the crow flies. But in a serious war they must occupy, beside Caboul, Ghagna and Candahar, as well as the mountain forts guarding the Affghan passes. In this they will scarcely find any more difficulty than the Russians have done in occupying Astrabad, for ostensibly they are supporting the Affghans against Persian invasion.

The march from Caboul to Herat will offer no insuperable difficulties. There will be no need of any detached flank columns, for neither of the Russian flank columns will be able to come up; and if, after a couple of campaigns, the Orenburg column should debouch from Bokhara toward Balkh, a strong reserve at Caboul would soon give a good account of it. The English have this advantage, that their line of operations is comparatively short; for, though Herat lies exactly half-way between