PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES.

TRANSPORTATION.

This committee reassembled on Friday—Mr. Childers in the chair.

The principal witness examined was

Mr. Lock Burgess, who gave some interesting particulars of the colony of Western Australia, where he has resided for about 30 years. He said his residence was at Champion Bay, Swan River. He had no objection to convicts after they received a pardon remaining in the colony. He was satisfied with the class of men generally whom the Government sent out. He should like convicts to have one or two years' penal servitude, and then have a ticket of leave. He employed many of those ticket-of-leave men, but the word "convict" was never used towards them in his service. He should say the proportion of convicts employed by the Government in prisons and other public works was not above one-half of the entire number in the colony. As soon as a man got a ticket of leave private employment was open to him immediately. He did not think it was considered any stigma to receive convicts from England; there was no such feeling in the colony in that respect as prevailed in Van Diemen's Land or New South Wales. Many convicts, after going through the whole course of penal servitude, had acquired property in land. He (witness) possessed about 5,000 sheep, 400 head of cattle, and had large agricultural productions, such as wheat, barley, &c., but did not export any. He employed between 50 and 60 men, about one-half of whom were convicts who had obtained tickets of leave. He never made any difference between a free emigrant and a ticket-of-leave man when the latter had got his character. Convicts when they get a ticket of leave can obtain land from the Government at 10s. per acre; and many of them do become farmers on their own account. There was every inducement for men to become honest in West Australia. The adjacent colony of South Australia did export large quantities of wheat, but West Australia did not, because there was a very long land carriage and other drawbacks.

Mr. W. Burgess, brother of the last witness, gave somewhat similar evidence, and handed in a list of persons who had been sent out to the colony as convicts, but had since become farmers on their own account, some of them having farms varying in extent from 100 to 200 acres.

The committee then adjourned.

POOR RELIEF (ENGLAND).

The select committee appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the working of the poor laws in the metropolis, and throughout the country generally, resumed their investigation on Friday—the Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, president of the Poor-law Board, in the chair. The other members present were Lord R. Cecil, Lord Stanley, Sir W. Jolliffe, Mr Lyall, Mr. Kekewich, Lord E. Howard, Mr. Bazley, Sir J. Acton, Mr. Monckton Milnes, Mr. Sotheron-Estcourt, Mr. Lowe, Lord Fermoy, Sir George Bowyer, and Mr. Alderman Sidney.

The Rev. Mr. Carr, chaplain of the Stepney Union, and incumbent of St. John's, Limehouse, was the first witness called. In reply to the chairman he stated that great distress prevailed in Limehouse during the first fortnight or three weeks of the month of January, and unless private benevolence had set in there would have been a great deal of starvation. It was impossible for the distress to be met by the machinery which existed in connection with the board of guardians, and but for private charity many persons would have gone without relief altogether. The causes of the distress were various. In the first instance, there was a general slackness of employment during the summer, and when the winter came the poor found themselves without resources to fall back upon. The consequence was that there was a rush upon the parish authorities for relief, and as many as could get into the workhouse were relieved until a late hour in the evening. It was impossible, however, for the aged and feeble to compete with the able-bodied, and many did not apply at all, while many who did apply were refused. According to the last census returns the population of St. John's, Limehouse, was 8,000. So far as he was aware no extra arrangements were made for distributing relief. Many persons were in attendance from eleven o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock at night, walking about the cold yard with nothing to eat.

The Chairman—What was the sort of relief afforded?

Witness—Bread and meat, to be consumed at the homes of the applicants. Being the chaplain of the workhouse I saw the relief going on, and I made inquiries of the persons who were in attendance. The greater part of the applicants were able-bodied, strong Irishmen, usually employed in loading and unloading the vessels at the waterside. Sometimes the parish authorities offered relief in the workhouse, but it was refused, as the applicants were disinclined to break up their homes for the purpose of going into the workhouse.

The Chairman—Then that would not be the case of a refusal of relief, but the offering of a kind of relief which the applicants did not choose to take?

Witness—It required too great a sacrifice from them, and they would rather starve than accept it on such conditions. In some cases I have reason to believe that it was offered with a perfect knowledge that it would be refused.

The Chairman—Do you know of any case in which relief was actually refused?

Witness—Yes, I know the case of a man named Brown, a coloured man and his wife. They were in deep distress, and applied for relief, and they told me they were refused. They had lived in the neighbourhood for upwards of 20 years, and were very deserving people. I do not know that anybody subsequently interfered in their behalf. I did not remonstrate with the guardians on that occasion, but I have on others. From observations which I have personally made I am inclined to believe that the guardians of the Stepney Union act more as guardians of the ratepayers than of the poor. I was actively employed during the crisis in distributing private charity, and during the whole of the time I was so engaged I never heard of any extra exertions being made by the guardians. I believe the relieving-officers did their utmost under the circumstances, but their staff was altogether inadequate to give relief to all who required it. The clergy were most active in their efforts to alleviate the distress, and they received larger contributions from private sources this year than on any former occasion. The whole of the clergy of the district, with 12 Scripture-readers, were engaged in taking down the names of those who applied for relief, and in investigating the various cases. In January we expended £260, principally in food. In one week we expended £84 in bread and coals.

The Chairman—Then you are of opinion that but for your exertions a large number of persons would have gone unrelieved?

Witness—I believe that if it had not been for what we did many would have starved. Indeed, one poor woman met me the other day and said, "Oh, sir, you saved the lives of my children." Many persons during that inclement season were without fuel. I used to write frequently to the guardians complaining of their not giving relief.

The Chairman—Did they pay any attention to your communications?

Witness—Sometimes they did, but oftener they did not.

The Chairman—Did they relieve the cases to which you drew their attention?

Witness—Not always.

The Chairman—Then do you attribute their refusal to relieve these persons to a desire to keep down the rates?

Witness—It is evident that the view they took of various cases is different from mine, or at any rate they would have afforded partial relief.

By Lord R. Cecil—Many persons were kept waiting for relief for hours, and I know of one case in which a man who applied for relief at eleven o'clock in the morning did not get relieved until eight at night. The doors of the yard were closed at twelve o'clock, and the women were obliged to stand in the crowd in the open air during that bitter weather. Many came away unable to stand the pressure of the crowd and the severe cold. There were two or three policemen in the yard to keep order, and they formed the people into gangs, to be admitted as their turn arrived. If a person goes into the workhouse he is obliged to break up his home, and that is the reason he will suffer any privation in preference. I think it is most undesirable that out-door relief should not be afforded to persons of good character who have unfortunately become distressed in their circumstances. I believe there are beds for destitute persons who apply for relief late at night, and temporary assistance is given to them in the morning.

By Sir W. Jolliffe—My evidence is confined to St. John's district. The last poor rate for the quarter was 1s. 2d. in the pound, but the average for the year is about 4s. in the pound. I believe a higher rate is paid in St. George's-in-the-East. During the distress the relieving-officers and the master of the workhouse devoted themselves most unremittingly to the relief of the poor. There is always difficulty in obtaining relief from the board of guardians, and, when obtained, it is altogether inadequate for the wants of those who require it. As a remedy for the evil I would take away from the board of guardians the exclusive power of granting relief. They say, as an excuse for not giving more relief, that they are bound to protect the interests of the ratepayers. I believe that to a considerable extent the value of a relieving-officer is estimated by the board of guardians according to the smallness of the amount of relief he distributes.

By Mr. Lyall—I have been chaplain of the Stepney Union during the last nine years. I do not altogether admire the working of the poor laws. I think adequate out-door relief ought to be given to aged persons. In my opinion it is an act of gross cruelty to compel them to go into the workhouse, and then to separate persons who have lived together for 40 or 50 years. There is not much drunkenness in my district.

By Lord E. Howard—Many of the labourers in my district get 15s. a week. I think that is hardly sufficient to support a man, his wife, and seven children, leaving the possibility of putting by anything for a rainy day out of the question.

By Mr. Sotheron-Estcourt—I certainly think that the guardians of the Stepney Union have systematically paid more attention to the interests of the ratepayers than to those of the poor. The amount of relief they give is in all cases less than it ought to be.

Mr. S. Estcourt—Are you not aware that in all cases where out-door relief is given, the house is offered?

Witness—No; it is put the other way. Out-door relief is refused, and the house is offered.

By Mr. Monckton Milnes—During the late crisis the deficiencies of the poor laws in relieving the poor were, to a very considerable extent, supplied by private charity. But private charity is not to be depended upon, and may be much greater one year than another. Already there has been a great outcry against the charity distributed last winter. It is said that it did no good, but, on the contrary, did great harm.

Mr. M. Milnes—Does not that remark apply rather to the superabundance of private charity on the occasion you refer to?

Witness—My own opinion is that it was not superabundant. I think it is the duty of the rich to support the poor. No man in England should be allowed to starve; and I take it that the law itself compels him to be fed. I think the poor law ought to supply increased facilities under a crisis. The guardians ought to do something more than merely sit in a small room which there is great difficulty of approaching. It makes one proud of one's country to see the liberality which was displayed on the part of private individuals during the late severe weather. In no other country in the world could such spontaneous acts of benevolence have arisen.

Lord R. Cecil—I understand you to say that the old people are separated in the workhouse of the Stepney Union?

Witness—Certainly. I believe there is no provision whatever for married people in the workhouse.

Mr. Sotheron-Estcourt.—I want the point to be made perfectly clear. Do I understand you to say that at present there are in the Stepney Workhouse married persons above the age of 65 who are not allowed to live as man and wife, but are separated?

Witness—Certainly.

Mr. John Charrington, chairman of the Stepney Board of Guardians, was then called, and in answer to Mr. Lowe said—I have heard the evidence of the last witness, and have certainly learned a great deal since I entered the room. I think, however, that I shall be able to give Mr. Carr a good deal of information upon matters respecting which he appears to be ignorant.

Mr. Lowe—Perhaps you can give us some information in reference to the separation of married couples in your union?

Witness—The Stepney Union is at present in a transition state. We are about to build a new house, and have already purchased the land, and prepared the plans. The union is composed of four parishes, and has three workhouses, two for adults and one for children. The houses for adults, which are small, are allotted one for women solely, and the other chiefly for men. Married couples are not necessarily separated, but I should think it very likely that they are in fact; but I have known the union since 1843, and during that time I cannot remember any application from any old couple to enjoy the privileges which the law allows them. On the other hand, I have heard it stated by guardians of other unions where such privileges have been allowed that a very improper use has been made of them.

Mr. Lowe—Then, in fact, they are separated?

Witness—They are; but in the new house provision will be made for them. I am much surprised to hear, and indeed I cannot believe it possible, that in any case a person has been refused relief because his settlement has not been ascertained. With regard to the late crisis, it was necessary when it arose that meetings of the board should be held more frequently than ordinarily. We met twice a week, and also had various committee meetings. The object of our meeting more frequently was to meet any crisis which might arise in consequence of the distress which prevailed among the working classes. Upon several occasions we sent for the relieving-officers and asked them what was the state of things, and they invariably told us they were meeting the distress in a much more satisfactory manner than they had met crises of a similar character in previous years. A good deal of additional relief was given in kind, but none in money, and no application was made to the board in consequence. I have the pleasure of Mr. Carr's acquaintance, as chaplain of Ratcliff house, and have frequently received letters from him in reference to the state of the parish, but until this week I was not at all aware of Mr. Carr's feeling in the matter. I do not remember receiving a letter from him during the whole of the crisis, and I was not aware until a day or two ago that he was about to give evidence before this committee. I feel quite certain, from the character of our relieving-officers, from the character of the board generally, and from the orders which have been given from time to time, that the poor laws are as satisfactorily administered in the Stepney Union as in any other. Out-door relief is not given to able-bodied men, but it is given to able-bodied women with four or five children. In the case of the coloured man Brown, he had received provisional relief from the board. During the crisis the relieving-officer brought him before the board, finding that he was in a sadly destitute condition, and the opinion of the board was that he would be far better off in the house than in the way in which he was then living. We accordingly offered him the house, which he refused to accept. I do not admit that, as a system, the relief we give is not adequate to the wants of the poor who apply for it. If the persons relieved wholly depended upon it, it would be inadequate; but that is not the case. I do not think our relief should be small because ours is a poor parish. On the contrary, I take it that the spirit of the poor law is this, that the amount of relief should be the same in a poor parish as in a rich one, and should have nothing to do with the amount of the rates.

Lord Robert Cecil—Then you repudiate the motives attributed by the last witness, that you kept the relief down in order to save the rates?

Witness—Most undoubtedly.

The Chairman—Are you aware of the law in reference to married couples? Do you know that married persons above 60 years of age shall be received into the workhouse, and shall not be compelled to live separate and apart?

Witness—Yes; but we have unfortunately been deprived of a third house which we formerly possessed. At one time the young women were accommodated at Wapping, the younger men at Mile-end, and the old couples at Ratcliff, though they did not sleep together. The Mile-end house has now been taken away from us, and we are unable to carry out the provisions required by the law.

The Chairman—You are aware that you are bound to let the old couples live together if they choose?

Witness—I am.

By Mr. Alderman Sidney—During the crisis we did not have a single additional application for relief brought before the board. The relieving-officers were adequate to deal with all the cases, and no complaints were made to us.

The committee then adjourned.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.—The will of the Most Noble Elizabeth Dowager Duchess of Cleveland, of Newton House, near Bedale, Yorkshire, and of Grosvenor-square, London, was proved in the London Court on the 3d inst. by Lord Harry Vane, M.P., and Mr. Mark Milbank, the executors. The personalty was sworn under £300,000. The will of this distinguished lady is exceedingly voluminous, and the property of which she died possessed, consisting of realty and personalty, is of very large amount. The bequests are principally confined to the members of her family; but there are many generous instances of her kindly feelings towards personal friends. Her grace bestows an annuity of £1,000 upon the widow of her deceased nephew, Mr. Robert Russell, and her real estates she devises to the eldest son of that gentleman (now in his minority), subject to certain charges. Her grace, in token of her kindly esteem and regard to many of her friends and others, has left them various ornaments in costly jewellery. These she has described very minutely by affixing the name of the person to each ornament. Her grace has also exercised the most bountiful liberality towards her servants, leaving to them very handsome legacies and annuities, and the continuance of her weekly allowances to her pensioners—this sum amounting to about £87 per annum. The duchess has directed that the residue of her property shall be expended in the purchase of freehold investments, in order to form an estate which is, in like manner with the other estates, to devolve to the eldest son or representative of her deceased nephew. The will and five codicils of the late Lady Harriet Elizabeth Wetherell-Warneford, of 96, Eaton-square, London, and of Warneford-place, Highworth, Wilts, have been proved in her Majesty's Court of Probate by Mr. Joseph Sewell, the sole executor. Her ladyship was the second and surviving daughter of the late Colonel Francis Warneford, and the widow of the late Sir Charles Wetherell, Knight, D.C.L., M.P. Lady Wetherell-Warneford entered into the possession of the family estates in Wilts and in Ireland upon the death of her mother, the Hon. Elizabeth Warneford, in 1847, and shortly afterwards assumed her maiden name of Warneford after that of Wetherell by royal license. Her ladyship died on the 7th ult., childless, when the family estates passed, under the will of her late husband, to the Rev. John Henry Warneford, of Halifax, Yorkshire. Her ladyship commences her will by the bestowal of her jewels upon her goddaughter, Lady Clementine Augusta Churchill, daughter of the late Duke of Marlborough, and to whom she leaves her leasehold house in Eaton-square, together with the furniture, and a legacy of £5,000. The other pecuniary legacies are as follow:—To the Dowager Viscountess Ashbrook, £1,000; to Viscountess Ashbrook, £5,000; to the three daughters of Viscount Ashbrook, £15,000 amongst them; to Mr. Nathan Wetherell £5,000, and upon him devolves a further sum of £5,000 as the representative of the late Rev. R. Wetherell; to her friend Mr. Joseph Sewell, of Cirencester, £10,000, and whom she has appointed residuary legatee; to the daughters of the late Mr. Malton, her London solicitor, £3,000, which sum was left to his widow, since deceased; to Mr. F. Chichester, £500; to the wife of Captain Webbe, £500; to the Rev. E. Rowden, vicar of Highworth, £1,000; and to Mr. William Lawrence, her medical attendant, £300. Lady Warneford has left to her own maid, Esther Bradford, £5,000, and other bequests; to Elizabeth Phillips, her late housekeeper, £300; to her butler, £500; to another servant, £200; and to her head gardener, farm bailiff, and each of her domestic servants, one year's wages. Her ladyship leaves the following munificent bequests for charitable purposes, namely:—The sum of £45,000 to trustees for aiding the necessitous widows and orphans of the poor clergy, incumbents, and licensed curates in the ancient diocese of Gloucester; her ladyship having made a gift of £30,000 for promoting the building and repairing the churches in the same diocese; and bequeaths to the vicar of Sevenhampton, £2,000, the interest to be expended in coals, blankets, and warm clothing for the poor, and distributed amongst them at each returning Christmas. All bequests are to be paid free of legacy duty. The personalty was sworn under £180,000. The will bears date the 16th of April, 1851, and is witnessed by E. Charleton Holmes, 12, Bedford-row, solicitor, and Richard Fisher, of Queen-square, Bloomsbury. The last codicil was made on the 21st of July, 1860.—*Illustrated London News.*

SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL SOCIETY, THE DREADNOUGHT.—On Friday the quarterly court of the governors of this charity was held at the offices 86, King William-street, London-bridge—Mr. John Labouchere in the chair. It appeared from the report read by the secretary (Mr. J. K. Cook) that the financial condition of the institution had been greatly relieved by the receipt of two legacies, less duty—one of £800, from the executors of the late Mr. Drinkald; and one of £500 3 per Cent. Stock, from the executors of the late Mr. Wm. Goodson. There was also a sum of £1,094 11s. subscribed at the annual dinner, presided over by Admiral Bowles. The total income for the quarter amounted to £3,411 4s. 11d., which enabled the committee to reduce the outstanding balance against the charity from £673 6s. 6d. to £69 3s. 11d., and also to invest £930 in Government securities. An application to the Board of Trade for a restoration of some portion of the income formerly derived from the Government fines levied on seamen had proved abortive. The number of patients on board during the quarter ending 31st of March was 745. Of these three were admitted from her Majesty's ships, 603 from British and foreign merchant ships, and there were on board at the commencement of the quarter 139. There were still 167 under treatment, six were convalescent, four fit for duty, and 568 had been discharged. The out-patients for the same period numbered 314. The total number of interior patients on the register was 85,311. This report having been adopted, the proceedings terminated.

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

The ordinary meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works was held on Friday at the office in Spring-gardens. Mr. J. Thwaites presided.

The financial statement was presented, which gave the following cash balances in the hands of the treasurer:—Current accounts, £30,919 7s. 1d.; deposit accounts, £60,000; total, £90,919 17s. 1d. Government securities, New Three per Cent. Annuities, £32,969 5s. 4d. Cheques ordered, but not presented—issued, £478 4s. 2d.; not issued, £15,940 18s. 11d.; total, £16,419 3s. 1d.

PUMPING STATION AT DEPTFORD.

The board proceeded to receive tenders for the erection of the pumping station at Deptford for main drainage purposes. The following were sent in:—Edward Thirst, Chelsea, £155,371; Hill and Co., Whitechapel, £151,049; Geo. Myers, Lambeth, £124,756; W. Webster, Woolwich, £113,900; John Aird, Lambeth, £113,136; and R. Stap, King William-street, £104,285.

The board then resolved itself into a committee with closed doors, and, after nearly two hours' discussion, announced that Mr. Aird's tender was accepted, subject to the usual inquiries as to sureties.

THE BILL FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE METROPOLIS MANAGEMENT ACT.

Mr. CARPMAEL moved "That the solicitor be instructed when the Bill No. 1, now promoted by the board before Parliament, is in committee of the House of Commons, not to oppose clause 19 of that bill being altered, or a new clause introduced giving power to vestries in schedule A, and district boards elected under the Metropolis Management Act, notwithstanding anything contained in the said act (in cases other than those where rates are collected by boards of trustees or governors of any parish or place chosen under any local act now in force), to raise and levy the sums which they may require for defraying the expenses of executing the said act, and the several acts for amending the same, and the Main Drainage Act."

Mr. LEGG seconded the motion, which, after some discussion, was carried by a majority of 13 to 9.

THE CONDITION OF HYDE-PARK.

A letter was received from Mr. Russell, of the Office of Works, &c., calling the attention of the board to the condition of Hyde-park between Rotten-row and the carriage-drive, near the Serpentine, consequent on the erection of sewerage works there.

Mr. BAZALGETTE, the engineer, said he had already given directions to the contractor to remove the matters complained of, and would report next week.

A letter was received from Sir G. C. Lewis, nominating Mr. Andoe to audit the accounts of the board for the year 1860; and after some other matters had been disposed of, The board adjourned.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL.

A special Court of Common Council was held on Friday at Guildhall, the Lord Mayor presiding, for the purpose of considering a report signed by Mr. Wm. Lawley, brought up from the Coal, Corn, and Finance Committee, relative to proceedings in parliament on the London Coal and Wine Dues Continuance Bill.

Mr. LAWLEY, the chairman of the committee, in rising to move "that the court agree with the committee in their report," said the only point on which it would be necessary for the court to give an opinion was in reference to the area over which the taxation should range; and secondly, as to the appropriation of the City's fourpenny tax for the discharge of the obligations of the corporation. (A large map showing the area was here exhibited.) It was perfectly true that in some places the tax would be lessened, but in others it would remain precisely the same distance from London as at present. The area proposed by the government was that used for metropolitan purposes, and the court would probably not be unwilling to agree to that proposition, seeing that unless they could bring the parties paying the tax to some connexion with London, there would always be some agitation going on in the boundaries in opposition to the tax. Although the revenue of the corporation would not be so large from the tax as heretofore, yet they would be benefited by the increased use of coals within the area; but, notwithstanding this, he asked the court to agree with the committee, as there was no probability whatever of inducing government to reduce the area. A large sum of money would have to be expended if they attempted any opposition to the bill, and the advantages which they hoped to receive would not be commensurate with the money spent. As to the second part of the question, the committee asked the court to give its authority to make the necessary alterations for the altered boundary, seeing that the act would come into immediate operation the day after it received her Majesty's assent. The committee, it would be seen, therefore, should possess authority to lay down the boundary posts for the collection of the duties. The committee had carefully gone into the matter, and hoped the court would at once give its consent to the bill. He could not, however, allow that opportunity to pass without offering his sincere thanks, as chairman of the committee, to the Lord Mayor and the members of that court, and also of the Court of Aldermen, who were members of parliament, for the support which they had already given it. It would only be for him to say that on inquiry the amount of money received by the corporation on the coal dues since 1737 was found to be 1,700,000*l.*, while the amount laid out in public improvements was nearly 2,000,000*l.*, showing that the corporation had always been mindful of the wants of the public, and had applied the fourpenny tax for its benefit.

Mr. ABRAHAM raised a question whether, at the expiration of the ten years mentioned in the bill, the corporation would still retain the right of the dues; and said that the deeds of the corporation relating to those rights were destroyed by the Great Fire of London.

Mr. LAWLEY said there was a clause in the bill saving all the rights of the corporation; and Mr. NORRIS said that Mr. Abraham was quite mistaken when he said the deeds were destroyed, for they were still in existence.

The motion on being put to the court was carried unanimously.

There was another report from the General Purposes Committee, referring to a petition from the Society of Coal Merchants, which had been referred to them, praying that some of the forms required to obtain drawbacks of the coal dues might be dispensed with, which stated that the sub-committee were of opinion that the prayer of the petition should be complied with, as in doing the same greater facilities would be offered for carrying on the trade without diminishing the security of the corporation; and the sub-committee were of opinion that a clause should be inserted in the London Coal and Wine Dues Continuance Bill in parliament, to vary, alter, and dispense with any form in claiming drawbacks, in pursuance to Act 14 and 15 Vic., cap. 146, and that the committee agreeing with the sub-committee recommended it to the court for adoption, and that the Remembrancer should be instructed to obtain the insertion of the clause for effecting the object contemplated.

The report was unanimously agreed to, and the court adjourned.

WIND AND WEATHER REPORT.

(By Magnetic and Submarine Telegraph.)

CENTRAL LONDON STATION, 58, THREADNEEDLE-STREET. APRIL 13.

	Wind.	Weather.
Ayr	W.	Fine.
Belfast	Calm.	Fine.
Birmingham	N.E.	Dull.
Bradford	W.	Fine.
Cambridge	N.E.	Dull.
Carlisle	W.	Fine.
Chatham	E.N.E.	Moderate.
Cork	E.N.E.	Fine.
Deal	N.E.	Fresh.
Doncaster	N.E.	Fine.
Dover	N.E.	Dull.
Dublin	S.E.	Fine.
Dumfries	W.	Fine.
Dundee	W.	Fine.
Edinburgh	Calm.	Fine.
Galway	N.	Fog.
Glasgow	N.W.	Fine.
Goole	S.E.	Fine.
Gravesend	N.E.	Fine.
Greenock	W.	Fine.
Hull	N.N.W.	Fine.
Kingstown	S.E.	Fine.
Leeds	N.W.	Fine.
Leith	E.	Foggy.
Limerick	Calm.	Fog.
Liverpool	E.	Fine.
Londonderry	N.W.	Fine.
Manchester	N.E.	Fine.
Middlesborough	N.E.	Fine.
Newcastle-on-Tyne	W.	Fine.
Newmarket	N.E.	Dull.
Norwich	N.	Cloudy.
Perth	E.	Fine.
Port-Glasgow	W.	Fine.
Queenstown	N.N.W.	Fog.
Sheffield	W.	Fine.
Stockton-on-Tees	S.W.	Fine.
Sunderland	N.E.	Fine.
Wakefield	W.	Fine.
Waterford	N.E.	Fine.
Wolverhampton	N.E.	Fine.

CONTINENTAL STATIONS.—APRIL 12.

	Wind.	Weather.
Brest	N.N.E.	Very fine.
Brussels	N.W.	Cloudy.
Cherbourg	N.W.	Cloudy.
Copenhagen	N.N.E.	Clear.
Dunkirk	N.E.	Cloudy.
Havre	E.	Fine.
Leghorn	E.N.E.	Fine.
Leipzig	N.W.	Cloudy.
Lisbon	E.N.E.	Fine.
Lyons	N.	Fine.
Madrid	N.N.E.	Fine.
Marseilles	N.E.	Fine.
Montpellier	N.W.	Fine.
Paris	N.	Little cloudy.
St. Petersburg	Calm.	Cloudy.
Strasbourg	N.N.W.	Little fog.
Toulou	E.N.E.	Fine.
Vienna	N.W.	Cloudy.

NOTE.—The observations at the stations in the United Kingdom are taken at nine a.m., and at the continental stations at about eight a.m. local time.

SUICIDE BY AN ARTILLERYMAN.—On Saturday evening last Quartermaster-sergeant Robert Mumford, Royal Artillery, was discovered in a bed-room at the Soldiers' Rest beer-house, Woolwich, in a state of insensibility. He was immediately removed to the Royal Artillery Hospital, and attended by Dr. Duff, but death soon resulted—it is believed from the effects of poison—and information to that effect has been forwarded to Mr. C. J. Carttar, coroner for West Kent, who will hold an inquest on the body.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF 1862.

The following circular to the Governors of her Majesty's Colonies has just been issued:—

"Offices, 454, West Strand, London, W.C., April, 1861.

"Sir,—With reference to the printed 'decisions' of her Majesty's Commissioners which have already reached your excellency through the Secretary of State for the Colonies I am now instructed to enter into some further explanation for the information of the gentlemen in the colony under your government who may undertake the duty of forming a collection for the International Exhibition in 1862.

"In the first place, it will facilitate the arrangements here if the appointment of the commission or central authority referred to in the 'decisions' were to take place at as early a period as practicable.

"Your excellency will have remarked that no article will be admitted from the colonies without the sanction of such commission or central authority, and it is important that her Majesty's Commissioners should know with whom they can officially correspond. Upon this point I am instructed further to observe that it is highly desirable, in the interests of the colonies, that whoever may be nominated as agent in this country should be a man of business, well acquainted with the resources of the colony he represents.

"The lists of articles admissible are so ample as to include every kind of produce, raw or manufactured, with only the three specified exceptions. With regard to one of these, viz., 'fresh vegetable and animal substances liable to spoil by keeping,' it seems desirable to explain that the term 'fresh' is to be literally interpreted; therefore articles of export, in whatever manner prepared, so as to keep without undergoing change, will be admissible.

"Produce such as wine, or other articles the result of fermentation, now admissible, although excluded from the Exhibition of 1851, will be submitted to the judgment of a special jury, who will decide upon their respective merits.

"In the article of timber, the specimens should in all cases be converted into plank or scantling, of such a size as to show its mercantile value. If possible they should be four inches thick, and cut so as to show the 'sap' on both edges. Moreover, since there is great uncertainty as to the origin of much colonial timber, it will be very desirable that each kind of timber should be accompanied by a few twigs showing its leaves and flowers, when procurable. If the latter are pressed between sheets of paper enclosed in boards they will furnish the evidence required.

"Each colony will have a separate space assigned to it in which to exhibit its products, distinct from that of other colonies. It is, however, the wish of her Majesty's Commissioners also to classify colonial raw produce, bringing all textile materials, all minerals, and so on, into one general comparative view; and they therefore invite exhibitors to furnish, when practicable, duplicate specimens for that purpose.

"Her Majesty's Commissioners, not having as yet information as to the number, size, and kind of articles which it is intended to exhibit, are unable at present to assign any fixed amount of space to each colony; but they will be prepared to act with the greatest possible liberality in this respect.

"In estimating the probable area which the objects of exhibition may be expected to occupy, it is wished that each colony should mention the superficial area in square feet that its contributions will actually cover; and if wall surface should also be required, then the height and width of the articles for which such space is needed must also be specified. The large number of colonies to be provided for renders the earliest possible information upon this subject indispensable.

"Her Majesty's Commissioners desire me to add that they trust your excellency will cause the particular attention of intending exhibitors to be drawn to that paragraph in the 'decisions' in which it is announced that the latest period at which goods can be received is March 31, 1862.

"Her Majesty's Commissioners have appointed Dr. Lindley to assist the various colonial committees, if they require any advice from England.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant, "F. R. SANDFORD, Secretary."

EXTRAORDINARY CHARGE AGAINST A MARRIED LADY.—On Thursday last, at Haverfordwest, the following charge was brought, before a full bench of magistrates, against Barbara Wilson, wife of Captain Le Hunte Wilson: "That she, the said Barbara Le Hunte Wilson, on or about the 12th day of July, 1860, did, together with one — Brown and his wife, amongst themselves unlawfully conspire and agree together to falsely and fraudulently palm off a certain male child of — Brown and wife as the lawful child of William Le Hunte Wilson and the said Barbara his wife, so that the said child might, on the decease of the said William Le Hunte Wilson, possess as tenant in tail the estates to which the said William Le Hunte Wilson is tenant for life, for the purpose of defrauding thereby the next elder brother." Mr. Sleigh, barrister, appeared for the prosecution, and, after alluding to the importance of the case, said the defendant was married some few years ago to Mr. Wilson; she was then in very humble circumstances and very uneducated. Mr. Wilson was a gentleman of large wealth, and of him he was desirous to speak with every respect. He was unfortunately afflicted with a mental malady, which entitled him to every consideration. He saw this person, was smitten by her, it appears, and married her, or rather she married herself to him. To the estates now possessed by Mr. Wilson his younger brother was heir in tail, and, if there were no issue by the marriage of Mr. Wilson, would inherit them. Mrs. Wilson, however, desirous to prevent this, hit upon an expedient, and as there was no earthly prospect of her having a child by Mr. Wilson, it was resolved to pass off a surreptitious child upon Mr. Wilson as his son. This scheme was carried out with considerable skill and ability. It appeared that in the month of April, 1860, a Mr. Brown and his wife resided at the Box, near Mr. Wilson's residence, at Minchinhampton. Brown was Mr. Wilson's coachman, and his wife was Mrs. Wilson's sister. In the early part of April Mrs. Brown was delivered of a child, and at this time Mrs. Wilson was roaming about the country with a companion, a Miss Earle, and a gentleman whom he would not name. They went to London, where they took lodgings. On the 12th of July, while residing in London, a telegram was sent to Mrs. Brown to come up to London, and she and her husband went up, taking their baby with them; they were met at the station by Miss Earle, who brought them to a coffee-house in Eccleston-street, where Brown and the baby remained till nearly midnight, Mrs. Brown going with Miss Earle to the residence of Mrs. Wilson, in Charleywood-street, Pimlico. About midnight of that day Brown brought the child to Charleywood-street, where it was received by Mrs. Brown, and brought up to Mrs. Wilson's room, and in the next morning it was reported in the house that Mrs. Wilson had been confined during the night. The learned counsel then called witnesses in support of the statements which he had made. Mr. Davies said he would reserve his defence.—The magistrates, after consultation, resolved to send the defendant for trial to the Central Criminal Court, London, but to accept bail, her husband in £800, and two sureties in £400 each. Captain Wilson put in the requisite bail. The other two sureties were Mr. John Aboysius Blake, M.P. for Waterford, and Mr. M. Geneste.

THE QUEEN'S STAG-HOUNDS.—On Friday last the meet of the royal pack was at Brocknell, when there was a good field, and the run over that country afforded a fair day's sport. On the Tuesday the meet was at Cannon-hill, Braywick, near Maidenhead. The day was bright, and the beautiful shrubs were gaily decked in their varied spring costume; and the lawn of the worthy proprietor, studded with ladies and gentlemen, exhibited a most exhilarating sight, especially to those connected with the chase. Here there was also an excellent and liberal spread to all present. An untried stag, named by Master Palmer the "Commodore," went away over Shotten Hanger, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead Thicket, and Pinkney's Green, to Mount Farm, and thence to the river Thames, which he crossed into Cliefden, where he was left in consequence of an affliction in the family there in retirement. A second deer was then uncarted, which went away to Holyport, Stroud Farm, Oakley-green, Dedworth-green, Clewer-green, and most of the other greens in the neighbourhood, and nearly paid a visit to the Windsor Steeplechase ground, but, changing its mind, turned to the right up High-standing Hill, and was taken at St. Leonards, after a most excellent run of one hour.

DISEASED CATTLE AND UNWHOLESOME MEAT.—The *Medical Times and Gazette* directs attention to this very important subject, stating that "All over the country cattle are dying from the effects of inclement weather and insufficient food, and wherever the carrion can be sold for human food the temptation is too great for the public conscience to resist. The elaborate report of Dr. Headlam Greenhow throws doubt on the noxious quality of the flesh of animals dying of disease; but it is evident, from the testimony of skilled witnesses, that the diseases of which cattle are now dying produce not merely emaciation, converting sheep into 'lanterns' (so called in the technical language of the markets, because a lighted candle would shine through their transparent intercostal spaces), but a positive sourness and unwholesome quality. Our informant, visiting a very clean slaughter-house, where there was abundance of good meat, noticed a peculiar dissecting-room smell, which proceeded from a tub filled with pork in a disgusting state, and partly black with ecchymosis. This was seized, and some healthy-looking pork, macerated in the same tub of water, was seized likewise, because impregnated with the putrid water, although the butcher remonstrated loudly. In the same district some veal was seized which was but a day or two old, and some mutton from a sheep which had been crushed to death in a railway-van. The femur was smashed and the meat black with extravasated blood. Some Welsh legs, dressed as lamb, with a little wool fastened round above the hoofs, were not seized, but left, in order that the honest ingenuity of the butcher in manufacturing 'lamb' might meet with its reward from a discerning public. The practical questions that arise are these: first, the necessity of stricter supervision at railway termini and steam-packet wharves (we are told that 50 cattle in a state of disease were landed lately at Blackwall, and slaughtered there for the London market); next, a more full and efficient superintendence of the great central markets; and a frequent visitation of local slaughter-houses and low butchers' shops by parochial sanitary inspectors; and, lastly, something like reasonable security that condemned meat shall be so destroyed as not to enter in any way into the composition of human food. At present, it is next to certain that some which is boiled down is made to contribute a grease which is used in the manufacture of butter; a little of it, too, is added to chicory in roasting, in order to give this counterfeit a richness and tone, both to touch and taste, and to contribute that oily sensation which coffee yields and chicory does not."

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—Health Lost and Found.—After safely struggling through the winter, multitudes will fall victims to the throat and chest complaints so common in the spring. If the first symptoms receive attention and judicious treatment, not only will future danger be averted, but old ailments will give way, and better health will be attained than was enjoyed before the illness. No treatment for safety and certainty of success may be so confidently relied upon as that discovered by Professor Holloway, whose pills and ointment always restore the sufferer. While the pills are taken in moderate doses, the ointment should be well rubbed upon the skin near the part affected as actively as salt is forced into meat.

*AGNES TREMORNE.**

Novels and dramas are susceptible of a somewhat similar classification. There is the high tragedy novel, the genteel comedy novel, the melodramatic novel, and, lastly, the extravaganza. It is neither just nor reasonable to expect from one of these the qualities of the others, or to reduce them to an equal standard. When one goes to the Princess's to see M. Fechter's "Hamlet," one regards it from a totally different point to that from which one observes Madame Celeste or Miss Julia St. George. Mr. Charles Kean and Mr. Charles Mathews are both very clever artists, but who would think of criticising them in a similar spirit? So it is with novels; it would be absurd to subject them to the same rules. "Agnes Tremorne" may be numbered among those novels which answer to the extravaganza. There is not in the book any approach to a portraiture of real life. It may be doubted whether the author intended such a portraiture. It is an unadulterated fiction, not alone in plot, but in every sense. There are not, and there could not be, such people as are represented in this book; and the entire concatenation of circumstances detailed is of the most wildly improbable order. It is, for all that, a readable book, when one has resolved that it is to

"AGNES TREMORNE*." Morning Post, 15 Apr. 1861, p. 2. British Library Newspapers, link.gale.com/apps/doc/R3210079708/BNCN?u=warwick&sid=bookmark-BNCN&xid=17eaefb2. Accessed 27 Oct. 2021.