

THEFT BY A RESPECTABLE FEMALE.

(From a Manchester Paper.)

A few weeks ago some of our contemporaries mentioned a circumstance which we forbore to notice, partly out of delicacy to the connexions of the person accused, and partly from a wish to keep clear of the possibility of occasioning prejudgment. The case was tried at the Quarter Sessions, on Thursday last, so that delicacy has no longer any claim on forbearance, and it is no longer in the power of a newspaper to give a bias to opinion.—The case, a female of very respectable connexions, detected in the fact of stealing lace, is, unhappily, not a solitary one. A few weeks ago, Mrs Sidley, the daughter of a respectable independent gentleman, and the wife of a respectable druggist in Charlton-row, to whom she had been married but a short time, went into the shop of Mr Watts, linen-draper, in Deansgate, under pretence of buying lace. Whilst attending to her, Mr Watts missed a piece, and felt confident that she had secreted it. He endeavoured to look into a small basket she had in her hand, but could not effect his wish. However his suspicions were so well confirmed by her manner, that he took the desperate resolution of detaining a woman of lady-like appearance. Her basket was searched, and the lace (value about L.5) was found in it. Thus publicly detected, Mr Watts had no alternative but that of prosecution.—She was carried before the Magistrates, who, in consideration of her family, admitted her to bail. Last Thursday she surrendered herself, and was put to the bar, when she pleaded Guilty. Mr Armstrong then, on the part of the prosecution, having detailed the facts of the case, and the necessity which Mr Watts had to bring it forward, from depredations of a similar kind being often committed in his shop, said, that having learned the respectable connexions of the prisoner, and witnessed her contrition, he wished to recommend her to the mercy of the Court. Mr Williams, who had been detained on the part of the prisoner, said that the Learned Counsel for the prosecution had anticipated him in what he had to say; he should only add to his statement of the prisoner's connexions, that they were all plunged into the deepest distress by her unhappy error. They were people of acknowledged character, while she was as yet too young to have established one (she is not twenty years of age (and he hoped, for the sake of her distressed, respectable, and deeply affected husband, who stood by his side, and under the circumstances detailed, that the Court would pass a lenient sentence.

After a short consultation on the part of the Bench, the Chairman said, that the Court had considered the case, which was similar to four or five which had come before him since he had been Chairman, and he did not see that he could justly pass a different or more lenient sentence in this, than in the cases he had alluded to; since he saw nothing like extenuation in the conduct of the prisoner. A desire to appear above her real situation in life, by dressing finely, had evidently induced her to steal the lace. To steal so light an article as valuable lace was a crime easily accomplished; and he knew that many drapers in this town yearly suffered to a considerable amount by depredations of this kind. The Court certainly took into consideration the youth of the prisoner, but still were obliged to keep in view the duty owing to the public; its sentence therefore was, that she "be imprisoned, and kept to hard labour in the House of Correction for the space of six months."

The prisoner, who appeared to be far advanced in a state of pregnancy, and wept incessantly whilst she was at the bar, then retired.

A deputation of gentlemen interested in Columbian bonds, on Wednesday accompanied a committee to Mr Canning, with whom they had a long and satisfactory interview on the subject of the Columbian load. The result of this conference is stated to have been, an assurance by Mr Canning, that in the event of any ulterior negotiation, or arrangement between Great Britain and the Columbian Government, the adjustment of M. Zea's engagement in this country should be a preliminary consideration.

The speech from the throne in France differs materially from that delivered to the British Parliament. With us, the Royal speech, as is well known, being fully prepared, is read to the adherents of the Ministers on the preceding day. But in France, the speech actually to be spoken is not definitively arranged until almost the very hour previous to its delivery. Each of the Cabinet Ministers prepares a speech conformably with his own views, and the speeches so prepared are delivered to the King, who either selects one from the number, or, adopting such sentiments as he may think proper from several, the speech finally to be delivered from the throne is thus definitively arranged.—*Morning paper.*

No less than six different persons are said to be engaged in dramatising the novel of Peveril of the Peak.

ASTRONOMY.—Baron Lindeneau has recently published some observations respecting the diminution of the solar mass. It will be found, he says, that the sun may have been imperceptibly subject to successive diminution since the science of astronomy has been cultivated. The Baron supposes the sun's diameter to be 80,000 miles—4,204,000,000 feet, or nearly 2000 seconds. We have not, he observes, hitherto possessed any instrument for measuring the diameter of heavenly bodies to a second. The sun may therefore diminish 12,000 miles of its diameter, or 2,162,000 feet without the possibility of its being perceived. Supposing the sun to diminish daily two feet, it would require 3000 years to render the diminution of a second of its diameter visible.

PHENICIAN NAVIGATORS.—A discovery was lately made in the environs of the Cape of Good Hope, which must be interesting to the historian. While digging a foundation, the workmen found the hull of a vessel, constructed of cedar, said to be the remains of a Phœnician galley. If this appropriation is just, there is no longer reason to doubt that the bold adventurers of ancient Tyre had reached the south point of Africa.

SPORTING INTELLIGENCE.

BETTING AT TATTERSALL'S, JAN. 31.

RIDDLESWORTH.
No alteration since our last account.

OATLANDS.
3 to 1 the field against Figaro.

CLARET.
3 to 1 agst Moses
4 to 1 agst Swap
4 to 1 agst Posthuma (taken)

DERBY.
7½ to 1 agst Emily colt
7½ to 1 agst Fanatic
11 to 1 agst Web colt
14 to 1 agst Pantina

OAKS.
7½ to 1 agst Zaida (taken)
8½ to 1 agst Sister to Sultan
9 to 1 agst sister to Sultan
10 to 1 agst Olivera (taken)

DONCASTER ST LEGER.
10 to 1 agst Sherwood
13 to 1 agst Miss Fanny
20 to 1 agst Miss Royal
20 to 1 agst Barefoot
20 to 1 agst Fanatic
20 to 1 agst Tinker

6½ to 1 agst Wanton
6½ to 1 agst Aquilina
7 to 1 agst Ajax

14 to 1 agst Talisman
20 to 1 agst Sir W. Milner's
20 to 1 agst Charcoal
20 to 1 agst Pacha

12 to 1 agst Landscape (ta.)
13 to 1 agst Sorcerer filly
15 to 1 agst any other

30 to 1 agst Honest John (ta.)
30 to 1 agst Brother to Violet
30 to 1 agst Sir W. Milner's c.
35 to 1 agst Mr Poulett's colt
35 to 1 agst Mr Hunter's c.
35 to 1 agst Werner

SMITHFIELD MARKET—Jan. 31.

There is a fair supply of cattle at our market this day; but the alteration in price is not very material. Beef may be quoted somewhat cheaper than on Monday, but the quality is inferior to that of that day. Mutton is also somewhat heavy, and the sales of veal and pork are very limited. Up on the whole, the market is heavy.

Beef..... 2s 8d to 3s 6d
Veal..... 4s 0d to 5s 0d

Pork..... 3s 0d to 3s 4d
 3s 0d to 3s 0d

HAY MARKET.
Hay..... L.2 15s 0d to L.4 0s 0d
Clover..... L.3 0s 0d to L.4 5s 0d
Straw..... L.1 16s 0d to L.2 0s 0d

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON—Jan. 31.

The supplies of grain of all kinds at market this morning are large, and there is a numerous attendance of both buyers and sellers, but the former are cautious, and purchase no more than necessary for present consumption, to avoid occasioning a rise in the price of grain. Wheat may, however, be quoted a trifle better than on Wednesday, but all other sorts are disposed of at that day's prices. The cargoes of the recent ships detained by the ice are now discharged, and is a good deal of business doing.

Caledonian Mercury.

EDINBURGH.

THURSDAY—FEBRUARY 6.

Only one mail from London has arrived since last, namely that which should have been received Sunday night. It arrived last night at half-past 10 o'clock.

Paris papers have been received by express to date of Wednesday the 29th. They are filled with accounts of military preparations, and vaunt much the loyalty of the troops, manifested in repeated exclamations of *Vive le Roi*. A body guard has been selected for the Duc d'Anguelme, who is to be generalissimo of the army; and, as a master stroke of policy, none of the French Marshals are to be employed in the command of the troops.

The Marquis de Lauriston was preparing to set off for the army.

The Duke de Lorenzo was not expected to leave Paris until Friday.

The Portuguese Ambassador was expected to be recalled from France.

Letters from Bayonne, of the 23d ult. state, that the Russian, Austrian, and Prussian Ambassadors had arrived in that town, and that they had been assailed in various parts of Spain by the populace.

Bayonne papers have been received to the 2d of January. Madrid was in a state of perfect tranquillity. In all the departments, especially in that of the war Minister, the greatest activity was displayed.

The Austrian Observer, of the 18th ultimo, contains a long article from Constantinople, dated 24th December, which states, that since the death of Haleb Effendi, the Janissaries have been very quiet. The Turks are busy in equipping new ships of war, finding that their large vessels can do nothing against the Greeks. The Captain Pacha is therefore resolved, it is said, to employ in future only corvettes, frigates, and other small and lighter vessels, under the command of chosen seamen.

The Greeks are said to be preparing, at Ipsara, a great expedition, destined to attempt a landing on one of the islands of the Archipelago; it is generally thought Scio, though some name Metelin or Tenedos as the most likely to be visited. The Greeks have for some time past, had a considerable number of small vessels in the harbour of Smyrna, and threaten that city. Regiments of Janissaries are to march to the Persian frontier. The cholera morbus is making great ravages in Asia, and penetrated to Syria, that the inhabitants of the ruins of Aleppo have been forced to quit their last asylum.

New York papers have been received to the 2d of December.

FROM THE NATIONAL ADVOCATE OF DEC. 23.

We regret to hear that Morales has gained a victory over Montilla, the Republican General. The following is the official account:

"The action commenced at eleven o'clock on the 13th of November, and at twelve the battle was won. Morales took 300 prisoners, including 36 officers, 1000 muskets, baggage, and ammunition. Montilla escaped with 60 men, and, it is said, is likely to be taken."

OFFICIAL BULLETIN.—ABSTRACT.

"DEFEAT OF THE COLUMBIAN ARMY ON THE BATTLE OF GARABUYRA.

"At eleven o'clock yesterday, at a distance of about a quarter of a league from the Point, the enemy offered battle—in number 1200 infantry, and 100 cavalry, all veteran troops, and four companies of Carthaginians. He commenced his fire by skirmishing. Although the shots were bloody, and the resistance great, the rebels were surrounded and completely dispersed, leaving in our hands about 1000 muskets, 300 prisoners, with 36 officers, 1 dead, and 160 wounded, two colours, and warlike stores. Our cavalry, consisting of 90 horses, gave proofs to the enemy that, although inferior in numbers, it is by far superior in valour; for the first charge was sufficient to produce a panic and terror among the rebels, and we are still in pursuit of them in the situation of Rio Hache.

(Signed) "MORALES."

"Head-quarters, Guercia, Nov 14."

Various rumours are as usual in circulation as to the measures which will be proposed in the ensuing session of Parliament for the relief of the country. The necessity of conceding something to the distress of the landholders seems to be generally felt; but the specific mode of relief is not yet known, and is perhaps not determined on. A commutation of the assessed taxes into a property tax has been spoken of, others propose entirely to repeal those taxes, and take the whole produce of the sinking fund, amounting to from three to five millions, to supply the deficiency, what may be still wanting to be made up by economy and retrenchment.

As to any change merely of one tax for another, we do not see how this could be anywise beneficial to the country. The present system of taxation is in no respect faulty; the taxes are all judiciously enough imposed, and if some of them are oppressive, and contrary to the true maxims of taxation, this is matter of necessity, not of choice, seeing that these were not resorted to till all the more eligible modes of taxation were first exhausted. In the imposition of the taxes, in 1793, the greatest skill has been displayed, and we do not see that there is here any room for improvement. The evil complained of is not that the load which we have to bear is unskilfully disposed, but that it is too heavy—that the country, more especially since the decline of her agriculture, is tasked beyond its strength; and that its burdens ought therefore to be lightened, if at all practicable, seeing that in no other way can any relief be obtained.

The only fund which we possess for the remission of taxes is the surplus of our income above our expenses. It was intended when the last taxes were imposed that