EVENING DRESS.

We are reminded of the near approach of Christmas not only by short drear days, snow-laden skies, and bitter winds, but also by the brilliant display of every kind of finery prepared for the festivities of the season, from the pretty "party" frocks of the little ones, bright with gay ribbons and sashes, and the flower-wreathed ball dresses of elder sisters, to the rich silk and velvet robes of mothers and grandmothers. The ballrooms of this winter should present prettier pictures than for many years past, for the ungraceful ballet skirts, with their stiff outstanding draperies reaching scarcely to the instep, have been finally abandoned, and we now have the gracefully falling trains which, resting a few inches on the ground, give elegance and dignity without impeding in the smallest degree the movements of the dancers. The many gold, silver, and jewelled embroideries used also add greatly to the brilliance of the general effect, and give additional value to the beautiful fabrics of evening gowns. For young girls' dancing dresses white, as usual, takes the first place, while [illegible] pinks, pale blues, and yellows of all shades are most popular. Chiffon is again used as a covering for silk and satin, and is frequently of white [illegible] colour; and there are several new kinds of Russian net, in which the ground, while retaining its special character, has a much [illegible] and is covered with large wafer spots [illegible] knots of velvet. Small bows of silk and ribbon are also sometimes placed at regular intervals over the surface, and embroideries of [illegible] form handsome borders for skirts.

Artificial flowers, chiefly violets, hyacinths, and [illegible] early spring blossoms imported at this season from the South of France, are reappearing [illegible], but they are now usually arranged in a naturalistic manner than in the summer, [illegible] trailing sprays and garlands being replaced by single blossoms, disposed symmetrically [illegible] designs, or woven without foliage into light [illegible] girdles, and fringes. A fresh girlish dress [illegible] has a full ruche, the same at the [illegible] and over this falls a fringe of single violets of deepest purple, each hanging loosely on its stem, [illegible] fringe surrounds the shoulders of the [illegible] bodice. Another skirt of leaf-green [illegible] draped over blush-pink silk, has several tiny [illegible] at the foot, and above them lie ruffles of [illegible] by leafless garlands of pale hyacinths. [illegible] method of arrangement is shown in a [illegible] of white satin, covered with net. Here [illegible] is strewn with a shower of lilac double [illegible] violets, and over them is thrown a [illegible] veil of net. The bodices of these light [illegible] are either drawn into a girdle or embroidered [illegible], or are draped from the shoulders in folds [illegible] at the waist and form small paniers on the hips. For more substantial gowns there is a [illegible] of Surah silk with a peculiar bright [illegible] surface. This is effective and inexpensive, [illegible] more durable than the transparent fabrics, [illegible] scarcely retain their freshness beyond the [illegible] evening. Silk skirts are made for young girls [illegible] and gracefully, with gored fronts and [illegible] pleats at the back forming the train. [illegible] trimming is a wide, full, pinked-out [illegible] of silk above the foot, and the long, [illegible] full bodices have girdles of silk or [illegible], and are drawn up in becoming puffs round [illegible]. Brocade is also much used for the fronts [illegible] dresses, the trains and bodices being of net [illegible] plain silk. A beautiful combination of [illegible] of maize and apricot is thus treated. The [illegible] of apricot brocade, has a wide ruffle at the hem [illegible] net, edged with satin ribbon. The [illegible] are of maize, and a deep Swiss belt of gold embroidery adds an effective touch of brightness. [illegible] new and artistic designs have appeared in [illegible], amongst these revivals of old Venetian and Florentine productions, while several of French [illegible] have wide many-coloured stripes, on which are raised Pompadour sprays and bouquets, and [illegible] have bold conventional patterns wrought in [illegible] on grounds of silk or satin. A magnificent [illegible] of the full deep orange which is [illegible] so much in favour has the under[illegible] of this velvet brocade, while the princess overdress is of thick rich Sicilienne. The front of the bodice is covered with folds of orange [illegible], drawn into a corselet belt of silver guipure, [illegible] reappearing beneath it in tiny puffs at the waist, and full sleeves of chiffon fall to the elbow. In striking contrast to this rich brilliant colouring is a pretty costume designed for a very fair woman, in which only the faintest and most delicate tones are used. Here the closely fitting gored skirt of pale peach-blossom satin is bordered with three tiny crossway flounces, and over it falls like a veil [illegible] white chiffon so fine as to be almost invisible, caught up in festoons with knots of peach velvet ribbon. The long tight bodice is cut up in [illegible] bordered with silver fringe, and round the low square are three soft gathered frills of chiffon falling one above the other in rippling folds, and short full puffs of chiffon form the sleeves.

For dinner dresses velvet is arranged with silk, satin, and brocade in many novel and original ways, but in almost every case the underlying idea of the over and under dress is retained. The shades now approved by fashion—the deep blues, browns, and amethysts—are seen at their best in velvet, and can be contrasted with most of the lighter colours, [illegible] especially being equally in harmony with [illegible] pink, and every kind of yellow. A charming [illegible] of amethyst tones, which recalls the colouring of a pansy, shows a front of heliotrope, brocaded heavily with gold. Over this falls a train of [illegible] velvet lined with lilac satin and caught up in pleats on the hips. The corselet of velvet is laced over a tightly fitting bodice of brocade, and has the corners turned back sharply to show revers of satin, and frills of chiffon fall round the shoulders and from the elbow sleeves. A French gown has the under dress of sky-blue satin, brocaded with coloured flowers, and over it is worn a Princess robe of golden brown velvet, which is cut out on the bodice and sleeves into quaint, fanciful designs, [illegible] with gold thread and revealing glimpses of the blue beneath. Black lace and net are draped over light silks, and quilted nets with a [illegible] ground are used over black satin for dress fronts, with trains and bodices of black velvet or [illegible].

Many pretty ornaments are to be found for the hair, chiefly in the form of fillets, to encircle the [illegible] knots which continue to adorn most heads, in spite of repeated rumours of a revival of [illegible] and drooping bandeaux. These bands of flowers, velvet or gold and silver, are becoming [illegible] to a well-shaped head, but the severe lines have a tendency to accentuate the defects which this fashion brings into prominence. In fans there is [illegible] novelty. Ostrich, marabout, and other feathers mounted in a variety of ways, gauze covered with frills of chiffon, and the floral fans, in which an enormous chrysanthemum, peony, or poppy covers almost the whole surface, are most frequently seen. A flower-holder has been devised which may be fastened to the outer sticks, and in which natural flowers to suit the dress may be arranged.

Evening cloaks are of two kinds—the very long and the very short,—elders preferring the long, comfortable garment, which envelops the whole figure, and can be wrapped snugly round the arms; while young girls remain faithful to the short capes and Tudor cloaks. In our variable climate, in truth, both are needed, for occasionally in the midst of the most severe winter two or three warm evenings will be found, when a long mantle becomes oppressive. Many cloaks are made in fawn and beige cloth, velvet, and corduroy, with yokes and collars embroidered with gold and lined with pale blue feathers; and silk grey, embroidered with silver and lined with salmon or lemon colour, is also much worn. For capes and short mantles black and white, brocaded with gold and silver, and every shade of velvet is used, and the Tudor cloaks are now made with one long end, which can be thrown over the shoulder.

Children's frocks are this season prettier than ever. Happily the day of over-dressed small folk is almost at an end, and simplicity is held to be in best taste. The costly plushes, velvets, and laces which [illegible] such a heavy burden of responsibility on young [illegible] and marred the enjoyment of many a [illegible] frolic have been superseded by light veilings, crêpons, delaines, and washing silks, which, if torn in a game of romps or spoiled by the accidental upsetting of a glass or cup by excited little fingers, can be replaced at no very great cost. A charming little frock for a tiny child of three or four is of white washing silk, with a pinafore-shaped overdress of white crêpon, drawn in at the waist with a soft silk sash, and at the throat a pretty ruffle of loops of white satin "baby" ribbon gives a dainty finish. In a similar dress the pinafore is of blush-pink silk muslin, and in place of the ruffle are little frills of pink chiffon; and the sash also is pink. For older girls nuns' veiling in delicate shades, silk striped delaines, and wool crêpon make charming dresses. These are often also of [illegible] suite, with sleeves and yokes of coloured silks. A French frock of willow green has a plain gored skirt, and a bodice with folds on the shoulders which cross at the waist over a vest of white lace and are tied at the back in sash ends. Lemon yellow crêpon has the skirt bordered with a frill, and a full bodice and girdle of gold passementerie, and frills of chiffon fall at the throat and wrists. Pale pink striped delaine is used for a tucked skirt and Swiss peasant bodice laced over a full chemisette of silk muslin, and a similar frock in grey is edged with narrow silver galon. Black or tan shoes and stockings may be worn with white, but with colours they should match the frock.

LITERARY AND OTHER NOTES.

Child Life, a Kindergarten journal, is announced.

A translation of Mrs. Hodgson Burnett's story "That Lass o' Lowrie's" is appearing in the *Journal de Genève*.

M. Oppert in a recent communication to the Académie des Inscriptions on the "Persée Chaldéen" detailed some of the exploits recorded in the cuneiform inscriptions of a great warrior and hunter. The name of this personage is given in ideographic characters which have been read Istubar, but M. Oppert says that the true name is Gilgames, who is mentioned by Ælian. There is a somewhat startling difference between the two renderings.

Mr. C. W. Sutton, the librarian of the Manchester Free Library, has written a memoir of Mrs. Felicia Hemans, which will appear in the forthcoming volume of the "Dictionary of National Biography."

Mr. William Andrews is the editor of a volume of antiquarian and miscellaneous essays on "Bygone Lincolnshire," which will be published by William Andrews and Co., of Hull.

To the "Historic Towns" series, edited by Dr. E. A. Freeman, there will shortly be added a volume on York, by the Rev. James Raine, D.C.L., and another on New York, by Mr. Theodore Roosevelt.

A new monthly, *Discovery*, devoted to invention, scientific discovery, and the application of science to industrial purposes, will be published in London and Liverpool simultaneously on the 1st of next month. It will be illustrated.

With the new year a periodical edited by the Rev. Henry Solly will appear. *Our Magazine* is intended to supply subjects for thought and discussion in social and political clubs, debating societies, lecture halls, and similar associations for mental improvement. There should be ample room for such an undertaking. Mr. Gladstone, who has seen a specimen number, "heartily wishes success to the enterprise as one likely to lead on to a more general appreciation of the various social and industrial problems which now confront us."

Scribner's will begin an Australian edition with the January number, and a group of articles on that country will appear during the coming year. Mr. Henry M. Stanley in the January number says:—"Intellectually, the pigmies of the African forest are the equals of about 50 per cent of the modern inhabitants of any great American city of to-day. And yet there has been no change or progress of any kind among the pigmies of the forest since the time of Herodotus." Further on he observes: "The little plump beauty we saw with Ugarrowwa—an ivory raider—was a bewitching little creature thirty-three inches high. It is possible that this beauty was due to perfect health and the good food with which she was fed by the Arab. She was certainly a gem worth seeing, and as calm and self-possessed as a well-bred lady. Artists would have doated on her, and sculptors would have paid goodly sums for such a miniature model. She was young, just at the dawn of womanhood, and her youth and girlish innocence made her simply charming."

The *Strand Magazine*, edited by Mr. George Newnes, M.P., makes a bold bid for popular favour, and is certainly a remarkable sixpennyworth. The literary contents are varied, with a quite unusual representation of foreign fiction. The illustrations are numerous, and generally excellent. The "portraits of celebrities at different times of their lives" are ingenious, and enable the beholder to decide how far the child is father of the man—in pictorial representation.

Mr. A. Hamilton Dunbar has contributed to the Scottish Society of Antiquaries a paper on the Scottish coats of arms emblazoned in the "Armorial de Gelre," a heraldic manuscript of the fourteenth century preserved in the Royal Library at Brussels, and consisting of a collection of the emblazoned armorial bearings of Coristian princes and their subjects. Three of its pages are devoted to Scotland, and exhibit what is supposed to be the earliest roll of Scottish arms now extant. Facsimiles are to be reproduced in the "Proceedings" of the Society.

The *Athenæum* states that the new edition of the "General Guide to the British Museum" may be expected to appear before Christmas, and will constitute a new departure, due to the initiative of the present principal librarian. The publication hitherto—in some departments at least—has been too much of a mere synopsis. The new guide will aim at a more expansive and literary treatment, and will have more of the character of an introduction to the branches of knowledge illustrated by the objects displayed, minute particulars being reserved for the departmental guides.

Messrs. Longmans will publish shortly a volume of nine lectures delivered by Professor W. Sanday as Ireland Professor of Exegesis at Oxford. It will be entitled "The Oracles of God," and it will deal with the nature and extent of Biblical inspiration and the special significance of the Old Testament Scriptures at the present time.

The *Academy* states that Archdeacon Farrar has written a novel about early Christianity, which will be published shortly by Messrs. Longmans in two volumes, under the title of "Darkness and Dawn."

The *Academy* says that Messrs. Longmans propose to follow the example of Messrs. Macmillan in publishing some of their important works at net prices. This will be the case with "Newman's Correspondence in the English Church"—which will have a brief autobiographical introduction,—and also with Sir Edwin Arnold's "The Light of the World." Both of these books are expected to appear early in January.

The "Christmas number" of *Rod and Gun* contains several pleasantly written stories and sketches, which are plentifully illustrated. A central page gives portraits of the contributors, amongst whom are "Nether Lochaber," Lady Colin Campbell, Mrs. Mona Caird, and Mr. W. H. Pollock.—"Golden Bells" is the title of the Christmas part of the *Little One's Own Coloured Picture Paper*, on which is an intimation "printed in Holland." The pictures and tales and verses will no doubt please the audience for whom they are intended.

Mr. Byron Cooper, who has been working this year in the Isle of Wight, has now in his studio in Manchester a number of paintings and sketches which give an excellent idea of Tennyson's country. The most striking, perhaps, is a view of Freshwater Bay in which an evening effect is handled with great skill. Another large painting, full of good work, affords a general idea of the wooded downs among which the poet lives, and a third has Freshwater Church against an evening sky, with the river in the foreground. In addition to these works in oil, Mr. Cooper has made a number of water-colour drawings which contain much of the autumn beauty of the island.

The press view of the Guelph (Hanover) Exhibition at the New Gallery will take place on the 29th inst., and the private view on the 30th inst. It is expected that it will prove to be, both from a historical and an artistic point of view, one of the most interesting special displays yet brought together in London.

Mr. J. S. Sargent will probably send to the summer exhibition of the Royal Academy an important character-study of the well-known Spanish *danseuse* Señorita Carmen, painted by him last winter at New York. This will somewhat recall to his admirers his first great popular success at the Salon, the "Dancing Gitana."

Messrs. Boussod, Valadon, and Co. have on view at their gallery in Paris the pastel drawings executed by M. Laurent Desrousseaux in illustration of M. André Theuriet's charming "Reine des Bois." Among these the landscape studies and interiors—the former somewhat in the pensive vein of M. Cazin—have won the high praise of French critics.

The Maison Quantin of Paris are bringing out, among other sumptuous works such as more especially make their appearance as heralds to the new year, "L'Art Gothique," an important publication by M. Louis Gonse, the well-known author of "L'Art Japonais." This will be on a scale of elaboration similar to its predecessor, and will deal not only with the well-worn subjects of religious, civil, and military architecture, but more especially with painting, sculpture, the illumination of manuscripts, the weaving of tapestries, and industrial art generally. So many illustrious predecessors and contemporaries of the editor of the *Gazette des Beaux Arts* have already trodden the same ground that his task must have been comparatively an easy one.

There has recently been unveiled at Philadelphia, U.S., an equestrian statue of Joan of Arc, by M. Frémiet. This is a repetition, with some variations, of that bronze statue of the national heroine which has long adorned the Place des Pyramides in Paris. The new statue is a gift from the Artistic Association of Fairmount Park to the municipality of Philadelphia, and has been placed at the entrance to the park in question—the great pride of the Pennsylvanian capital.

An enterprising and, it must be owned, imaginative Spanish architect of Bilbao, Señor Palacio, has projected as the crowning feature of the International Exhibition problematically to be held in 1892 at Chicago a colossal monument to the glory of Christopher Columbus. This would take the form of an immense sphere, 300 metres in diameter, placed on a gigantic substructure rising 60 metres above the ground. The whole would be crowned by a model of the discoverer's ship, including which the entire altitude of the monument would be 400 metres. At the base would appear a colossal statue of Columbus, grouped with all the most famous navigators and explorers. This audacious "castle in the air" would, it is estimated, cost the trifle of 31 millions of francs. It remains to be seen whether America will avail herself of this tempting opportunity to eclipse the glories of the Eiffel Tower.

An interesting discovery has recently been made at Rome, in the course of excavating the foundations for the Palace of Justice in the ancient gardens of Domitian. Two sarcophagi were discovered, one of them being the tomb of a young bride, Crepereia Tryphaena by name, who is represented as asleep upon her funeral couch, at the foot of which stand a man and woman with faces expressive of their grief. In the coffin were the remains of the corpse, the head still covered with long and beautiful hair. Near the head of the dead girl was a finely carved oaken doll, with jointed limbs. Tryphaena had worn several rings, and on one of these is the word "Filetus," perhaps the name of her husband. Another of red jasper has engraved on it two clasped hands holding the stalk of some ears of wheat—an allusion, it is supposed, to the ceremony of marriage by *confarreatio*. Amongst other objects was an amber hairpin. A crown of myrtle leaves—still in good preservation—is supposed to have been the nuptial wreath of the young Roman damsel whose pathetic story is thus made public after so many centuries of oblivion. The tomb of Crepereia Tryphaena has been placed in the Museo Capitolino. English antiquaries will be reminded of the young Romano-British girl whose bright tresses are still to be seen in the York Museum. The Roman "find" is, however, much more important archeologically. The tomb is believed to belong to the age of the Antonines.

In connection with the visit of the Royal Archæological Institute of Great Britain to Edinburgh next summer, an exhibition illustrative of heraldry is being organised. A large committee is being formed under the presidency of Mr. Balfour Paul, Lyon King of Arms, and it is expected that the Board of Manufactures will allow the exhibition to be held in the Scottish National Portrait Galleries.

THE PUNISHMENT OF "SCUTTLERS."

DEPUTATION TO THE HOME SECRETARY.

A deputation representing the justices of the city of Manchester, the borough of Salford, and the Manchester division of the county had an interview yesterday with the Home Secretary for the purpose of urging that power should be granted to magistrates to order corporal punishment in cases of scuttling. Mr. Stuart-Wortley, the Under Secretary, and Mr. Godfrey Lushington, Permanent under secretary, were with Mr. Matthews. The deputation (who were accompanied by Mr. Lees Knowles, M.P., and Mr. H. H. Howorth, M.P.) consisted of the following gentlemen:—The Mayor of Manchester (Mr. Alderman J. Mark), Mr. F. J. Headlam (stipendiary magistrate), Mr. Charles Lister, Mr. C. Malcolm Wood (chief constable), and Mr. C. Le Court (magistrates' clerk), representing Manchester: the Mayor of Salford (Mr. Councillor Robinson), Mr. J. Makinson (stipendiary magistrate), Mr. A. L. Dickins, and Mr. J. A. Foyster (magistrates' clerk), representing the justices of Salford; Mr. J. H. P. Leresche (stipendiary magistrate) and Dr. Royle, representing the justices of the Manchester division of the county.

Mr. Lees Knowles, M.P., in introducing the deputation, said that scuttling was an offence which had no legal definition. It might be described as outrageous horseplay taking the form of faction fights between roughs in thickly populated districts. About twelve months ago the Mayor and Town Clerk of Salford asked him to introduce a bill dealing with the offence, but he felt that the matter was one which could more appropriately be taken in hand by the Government than by a private member, and the deputation now asked the Government to deal with it.

The Mayor of Manchester said that in the first instance he proposed to read a statement prepared by Mr. Le Court, clerk to the Manchester city justices, giving some account of scuttling. It was as follows:—

"This is an offence which has no legal definition, and is a local application to an offence of frequent occurrence in this city and the surrounding neighbourhoods, being very prevalent in Salford and in the thickly populated places within the jurisdiction of the county justices which border on the city. We could not give the origin of the term, but the offence to which it is mainly applied has been in existence for many years, and the justices have always had great difficulty in dealing with those apprehended for it. The offence to which it is applied in this neighbourhood is a collection of a body of young persons—male and female—in a part of the city who have a real or fancied grievance with another body of similar persons in an adjacent part of the city, and the opposing forces are captained and armed, and turn out occasionally for a regular affray, when weapons such as knives, pokers, sticks, stones, and leather belts with large buckles are used, and frequently very severe injuries inflicted. The conflicting parties are, as may be supposed, drawn from the lowest type of the working class, and when they turn out on one of their expeditions it may truly be supposed that the whole neighbourhood is in a state of great alarm, great damage being done to property and persons. Frequently large bodies of police have to be called out to endeavour to quell the disturbance and the police often get so injured as to enforce their retirement from duty, often permanently. In the newspaper extracts which have been collected for the last two years will be shown the kind of weapons used, the injuries inflicted, and the sentences passed upon those found guilty, and in two instances, one at the Assizes at Liverpool and one at our City Sessions, Justice Day and the Recorder in passing sentence both gave it as their opinion that *flogging would be the only means of suppressing the evil.* When not going about in bodies, it frequently happens that two or three or more of one gang meet one or two of an opposing gang and attack them, and it is on such occasions as these that the most injuries are done. At present the justices have only power to deal with the offenders under our Police Act, which gives a penalty of 40s. and costs, or one month's imprisonment; common assault, £5 or two months: aggravated assault, if on women, £20 or six months' imprisonment; assault on police constable, six months; or they can send them for trial at the assizes or sessions for the more serious injuries when inflicted. They have been for years dealt with under these various Acts of Parliament, but still the offence is not put down, and at times it assumes nearly the form of an epidemic. If they are fined the party club together and pay the money, and if they are sent to gaol, when they come out they are looked upon as martyrs and made leaders of their factions. So do what the justices will they have failed to put the crime down, and at last have come to the conclusion that corporal punishment should be inflicted, fully believing that it would have a very beneficial effect. Of course, it would be for the Legislature to define the corporal punishment, and the instrument, whether 'cat' or birch, to be used, and the age up to which the birch should be used, also the age at which power should be given to use the 'cat.' Most of the justices have at different times acted as visiting justices of the gaols, and have frequently seen what power the corporal punishment has in subduing unruly prisoners in gaol. And it does seem an anomaly that two justices can give it for a gaol offence, perhaps merely insubordination, and yet for offences of this violent description no judge or justice has any such power. Many of the cases mentioned in the newspaper paragraphs have occurred in a place called Gorton, which at the time was not in the city but which has now been absorbed in Greater Manchester. The belt which is so often used is a kind of body belt such as is worn by navvies. Generally they are about from one to two inches wide, from two to three feet long, and have large brass buckles at one end. These belts, when in use, are held by one end in the hand, and the other, the buckle end, is swung round, and inflicts very dangerous cuts and wounds about the head and face. Sometimes, in addition, nails are driven through near the buckle, the sharp points projecting, and these, of course, increase its wounding powers. Those worn by the captains of gangs are frequently ornamented with devices in brass, showing how proud their owners are of the distinction given to them. In most of the neighbourhoods blackmail is sometimes levied on the shopkeepers, who are afraid to complain for fear of a worse fate befalling them."

The Mayor of Manchester handed in a list of 42 scuttling cases reported in the *Manchester Guardian* between January 31, 1888, and September 2, 1890. He also produced a number of belts, sticks, and other weapons used by scuttlers in their encounters.

The Home Secretary, examining the list of cases, said he noticed cases of stabbing. One had been accustomed to believe that the law was strong enough to put down serious stabbing.

The Mayor of Manchester: We expected to be met with that objection, but there is a strong feeling that the full penalty of the law ought not to be inflicted in the case of youths such as those concerned in those cases. They are liable in some instances to five years' penal servitude. It is thought to be a pity, however, to run the risk of making them hardened criminals by sending them to prison for this class of crime. The opinion is general that corporal punishment would be much more summary, and would put a stop to the evil. The Mayor proceeded to refer to several cases mentioned in the list, one being a case of stabbing in which 11 youths were concerned.

The Home Secretary asked the date of the case.

The Mayor of Manchester: October 2, 1889.

The Home Secretary: What was done with them?

Mr. Leresche: They received nine calendar months' imprisonment, the indictment being for common-law riot, there being no proof of the actual stabber.

The Home Secretary: Then you could not have flogged anybody? I want to know why the existing law has failed.

Mr. Leresche: No, not in that case; but we want a short and sharp remedy.

The Home Secretary: Is it a case of English and Irish?

The Mayor of Manchester: Oh, no; it is not that. There are more youths in Strangeways gaol for this offence than for any other.

Mr. Lister, in reply to the right hon. gentleman, said that in a case decided on August 3, 1890, in which grievous bodily harm had been done, two prisoners received five years' penal servitude and others were sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

The Mayor of Manchester: These affrays have led the divisional police superintendents to give certain localities extra police protection, both of uniform and plain-clothes officers, and the superintendents are of opinion that corporal punishment would have a very deterrent effect.

The Home Secretary: Has it ever occurred to the police to administer corporal punishment when they find rioting going on?

The Mayor of Manchester: It is exceedingly difficult to apprehend them in the act. They get away as soon as the police appear. Moreover, I do not think the police have the power to inflict corporal punishment.

The Home Secretary: Where a fight is going on, and knives are being used, the police might use force to disperse the riot.

Mr. Leresche: That is done, no doubt, when the police get there and have to clear the street, but as to the police administering actual punishment in each particular case, I am afraid the law would hardly allow it.

The Home Secretary: I should have thought the police would be fully justified in charging two mobs fighting each other.

The Mayor of Manchester said that in these cases a mere fine did no good. The fine was paid by comrades, and the offender was treated as a hero. The deputation thought that birching for those under a certain age, and flogging for those over that age, would help the authorities to keep down the offence.

The Home Secretary: What is the age beyond which flogging is not allowed now?

The Mayor of Manchester: Fourteen years.

The Home Secretary: I suppose all these youths are above 14?

Mr. Headlam: They vary from 14 to 21.

The Mayor of Manchester: And they are assisted by girls, who bring missiles forward.

Mr. Headlam: You cannot flog them for assault—only when there is felony.

The Home Secretary: Can you tell me how the evil has originated?

Mr. Headlam: It was in existence when I went to Manchester, and I was always told that it originated in the Irish in one street fighting the Irish in another. Since then scuttling has broken out in various ways. The rival gangs have filled the streets, and the shopkeepers have had to close their shutters and live in a state of terror for two or three days.

The Home Secretary: Do they rob the shops?

Mr. Headlam: No, but they threaten what they will do in case they give information or refuse to assist them in case of difficulty.

Mr. Leresche: Dishonesty has nothing to do with it. They are youths from foundries, ironworks, and the like.

The Home Secretary: Can you trace any one of these scuttlers after undergoing punishment?

Mr. Headlam: I cannot say these cases come very much before me. The cases which come before me are of a worse class. One bad case I sent to the Liverpool Assizes, and Mr. Justice Day said he wished he could punish the offender with the "cat." I am rather averse to corporal punishment myself, but I really think that, existing methods having failed, some short sharp punishment should be applied. The birch would very likely have its effect on the younger prisoners, but in the case of older prisoners, who would not be deterred by the birch, we require the "cat." But that should be left to the Judge or Recorder, with liberty to use the one or the other, as seems best. As to giving magistrates the power, I do not believe that would be allowed.

The Home Secretary: Have you considered whether Mr. Milvain's bill would meet the case?

Mr. Headlam: I have not seen the bill, but I thought it applied only to armed burglars.

The Home Secretary: I understand that these scuttlers do not belong to the criminal classes?

Mr. Headlam: No, they are almost all workers.

Mr. Leresche: In almost all the cases which are brought before me from Gorton, Newton Heath, and Miles Platting the majority of the lads and young fellows are in work, generally at ironworks and foundries, or as blacksmiths; but there is also an element among them of the street rough. That element is not, however, the leading characteristic of the gangs. The girls, who harry on the respective gangs, also produce a great deal of mischief. The notion that they must acquit themselves well before their women has had a great deal to do with aggravating the violence, and that has been a very bad feature of the case. We want to stop the practice in the beginning—to deal with the offenders at once, before a case of actual assault occurs. It appears to us, after considering the matter very fully, that these are not cases which should be dealt with by the ordinary terms of imprisonment or penal servitude, but that some short, sharp, summary punishment, including corporal punishment, would be the most effectual method, so that a scuttler might be taken red-handed and punished without being sent to prison.

The Home Secretary: You would not flog a man who by his conduct and action looks as if he were going to commit an assault, and before he had committed it?

Mr. Leresche: If they are assembled in the streets armed with these weapons. These belts are most serious weapons.

The Home Secretary: Most serious.

Mr. Leresche: If we found a gang of these young fellows mustered and preparing themselves for battle, supported perhaps by their female companions, I think we should have the power to arrest them and deal with them in some short and sharp way.

The Home Secretary: I should like you to put the words in a clause, but it seems to me, Mr. Leresche, you want to flog for the intention to take part in one of these fights.

Mr. Leresche: If you are satisfied as to what was the intention of the parties, the right thing, I think, would be to punish them.

The Home Secretary: What do you say as to people walking about the streets with revolvers? I can hardly conceive how you would frame a bill to meet the case Mr. Leresche has put to me.

Dr. Royle remarked that these offences appeared to arise from a sort of exuberance of vitality on the part of those who engaged in them, but ultimately degenerated into abominable and unmitigated nuisances. The men decorated themselves, and *éclat* was lent to the proceedings by the presence of the women.

Mr. Makinson informed the Home Secretary that in this matter Manchester, Salford, and the county division had acted independently, but had arrived at the same conclusion. He was of opinion that these cases should be dealt with as speedily as possible. A case that came before the magistrates in petty sessions was as it were photographed before them—the wounds and everything else being fresh from the conflict,—but by the time the case reached the quarter sessions the wound probably was healed, the prosecutor might have been got at by friends of the prisoner, and matters generally might have been smoothed down. He had several times noticed that cases which came before the quarter sessions were very different indeed from the cases as they appeared on the depositions.

The Home Secretary: You appear to put rather a new light on what the deputation wish. I understand you to suggest that power should be given to magistrates in petty sessions to indict this punishment.

Mr. Makinson: That is a matter which has not been separated.

The Home Secretary: It is rather material. You would not punish for offences unknown to the law—an unexecuted intention to assault?

Mr. Makinson: I think some assault should be committed first.

The Home Secretary: You would confine your jurisdiction to lighter cases—mere assaults?

Mr. Charles Lister said that in visiting the prisons he had been struck with the great number of young people who had been convicted of scuttling, and having regard to the numerous circulars which the Home Secretary had issued on the subject of juvenile offenders, he thought that as these prisoners did not really belong to the criminal classes it would be better if the magistrates in petty sessions, instead of inflicting fine or imprisonment, had the power to order corporal punishment.

The Home Secretary: Have you read the bill introduced last year giving courts of summary jurisdiction power to deal with a case proved against a juvenile offender by whipping the offender, if a male, up to the age of 16 years?

Mr. Lister: These scuttlers are from 14 to 20 years. I have a list of six whose ages ranged from 16 to 19 years. The evidence disclosed a remarkable state of things, and there was stabbing in the case.

The Home Secretary: Have any of you gentlemen tried to put your ideas in the shape of a bill? It would be an admirable test, and it would be interesting to see how you propose to deal with the matter. I say this simply because I want you to see the difficulties passing through my mind. It seems to me that you want courts of summary jurisdiction to deal with the lighter cases by way of corporal punishment instead of fine and imprisonment, and you also want the courts of quarter sessions or the assizes to add flogging in graver cases. My difficulty is to frame any definition of this scuttling which would not include all cases of assault, all cases of unlawful wounding, and all cases of grievous bodily harm. It would be a startling proposition to say that all such cases are to be punished by flogging. It would be hopeless to propose that in the House of Commons in its present mood. My difficulty is to distinguish cases of scuttling from the other cases of assault.

The Mayor of Manchester: It is done in the case of the muzzling order in prescribed districts.—(Laughter.)

The Home Secretary: Oh!

Mr. Leresche: The case of a multitude armed in this way would seem to be distinguished from the class of assault.

The Home Secretary: You speak of a multitude armed. There were multitudes in Trafalgar Square, armed with gaspipes, sticks, and stones. Your definition of scuttling would include them. Just imagine whether public feeling would allow the rioters of Trafalgar Square to be flogged! I am proposing by the Youthful Offenders Bill to flog in all cases of summary jurisdiction up to 16 years of age.

Mr. Lister: Can you make the age 18 and frame a clause including this offence?

The Home Secretary read the clause as follows:—"Where a youthful offender is proved before a court of summary jurisdiction to have committed any offence punishable by the Court, the Court may if it think fit, with or without proceeding to conviction, and without prejudice to its other powers, deal with the case in such one or more of the following modes as may in the opinion of the Court be suitable; that is to say, a Court may (a) adjudge that an offender, if a male, be whipped." The expression "youthful offender" means a boy under 16.

Mr. Lister: Extend that to 18 and you accomplish all we want.

The Mayor of Manchester: In a proclaimed district at least.

The Home Secretary (laughing): I will ask Mr. Lees Knowles whether the House of Commons will accept 18. You say "a proclaimed district." Are you going to have proclaimed districts?—(Laughter.)

Closing the interview, the Home Secretary: I need not make any formal reply, because I have already said what I have to say by way of interlocutory remarks. I quite see the gravity of the case. It is a most shocking state of things. I shall be entirely with you in adopting any remedy which the public sentiment of the day will allow us to adopt, but I need not tell you that corporal punishment is a thing to which the House of Commons and the public feeling is very averse, especially in the case of big boys and men. I also feel the difficulty of defining scuttling in such a way as shall not include cases in which it would be altogether outrageous to ask for flogging. It is quite clear you could not flog in every case of a street fight. I should be exceedingly glad to see your ideas put into a clause, and I should then be able to judge whether I could support it.

The deputation thanked the right hon. gentleman and retired.

The clauses of the bill referred to by the Home Secretary, entitled the Youthful Offenders Bill, which is now before the House of Lords, are as follow:—

"1. Where a youthful offender is proved before a court of summary jurisdiction to have committed any offence punishable by the Court, the Court may if it think fit, with or without proceeding to conviction and without prejudice to its other powers, deal with the case in such one or more of the following modes as may in the opinion of the Court be suitable; that is to say, the Court may (a) adjudge that the offender, if a male, be whipped, (b) fine the parent any sum not exceeding one pound, (c) order the parent to pay to any person injured by the offence compensation not exceeding five pounds, (d) order the parent to give security for the good behaviour of the offender.

"2. The powers exerciseable by a Court over a parent under this section shall not be exercised unless the parent has been summoned to attend before the Court, nor unless the Court is of opinion that there has been on the part of the parent neglect or default in relation to the offender.

"3. Where a youthful offender is charged with an offence to which this section applies the same summons may require the parent to appear as well as the offender, and any such summons may require the parent to produce the offender before the Court. The Court may also in any case to which this section applies require the parent of the offender to attend before the Court as if he were the person charged.

"4. A youthful offender adjudged to be whipped in pursuance of this section shall as soon as practicable be privately whipped with a birch rod by a warder of the prison or a constable, in the presence of the governor of the prison, or of an inspector or other officer of police, or of some other person of higher official position than the person inflicting the whipping, and also in the presence of the parent of the offender if he desires to be present. The number of the strokes shall be specified by the Court, and shall, if the offender appears to the Court to be below the age of twelve years, be not more than twelve, and if the offender appears to the Court to be of or above the age of twelve years be not more than 18. This subsection shall not apply to Scotland.

"5. Where a court of summary jurisdiction has power to deal summarily with an indictable offence committed by a youthful offender, either with the consent of the offender or in the absence of objection by his parent or guardian to his being dealt with summarily, the Court may, with the like consent or subject to the like objection, deal with the case under this section.

"6. In this section the expression 'youthful offender' means a boy or girl who, in the opinion of the Court before whom he or she is brought, is under the age of 16 years."

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF HULME.

A meeting in connection with the Hulme Working Men's Sanitary Association was held yesterday in one of the committee-rooms of the Manchester Town Hall. The Rev. W. Calder presided, and there were also present Dr. Brierley, Dr. Collins, the Rev. J. N. Pocklington, the Rev. H. Thompson, Mr. W. Spinks, Mr. J. Corbett, and other gentlemen.—The Chairman read a letter from Dr. A. H. Guest, medical officer of No. 2 district in the Chorlton Union, who stated that in his opinion the closeness of the streets to each other, the want of open backs in the more crowded districts of Hulme, and the prevalent practice of hanging clothes to dry across the streets, thus preventing a free current of air, were among some of the chief reasons for the unhealthy conditions which prevailed. If in certain parts of Hulme every other street could be taken down entirely and the spaces thus made left open as yards and drying grounds, it would be a good measure, and would certainly somewhat check the evil state of things at present existing. He also thought that if the Hulme Barracks could be converted into model dwellings and let on the "flat system," thus providing accommodation for those necessarily displaced, it might prove a remedy for the overcrowded state of the locality, which of course would be intensified for a time by removing on a large scale dwellings at present inhabited.—The Chairman, proceeding, said that during the twelve months he had been in Manchester he had been struck by the extraordinary joylessness and wretchedness of that particular part of the city in which they were working; and, going in and out among the people as he did, he could not but feel that the sanitary conditions under which they lived were of the worst possible description. That Association was endeavouring, by the spread of sanitary education and the remedying of nuisances wherever they were found to exist, to improve the wretchedness and misery of the people, and while they were essentially a working men's institution, they desired that those who had leisure and a knowledge of sanitary science, as well as medical men and other persons of culture, should come forward and help them. It was their intention to act in a way as sanitary missionaries, and, in addition to holding meetings in the winter months, they proposed, in the summer time, to organise mission work in the slums and in the midst of the squalor and wretchedness that prevailed. They hoped that all who had a knowledge of the subject would come and help them.—Mr. J. Waddington, the sanitary officer of the Association, read a number of letters he had received from medical officers of health in different parts of the country in answer to inquiries made as to artisans' model dwellings and methods of disposing of refuse. One letter from the borough engineer of Hastings enclosed reports as to the satisfactory result of a system of destructors in use in that borough. Another letter was from Mrs. Buckton, of Leeds, who has carried on sanitary work there for some time, heartily commending the aims of the Association. Mr. Waddington pointed out that in his opinion the town should remain as the workshop, and every endeavour should be made to take the people out into the country, and thus remove them from the unhealthy conditions by which they were surrounded. The evil, however, could not be reached until they removed the poverty of the people. He appealed to the meeting to aid in obtaining for the working man a better rate of wages. They needed better dwellings, with more rooms, baths, and other things, but for want of means they were unable to pay for them. Counter-attractions to the public-house were much needed in the crowded parts of Manchester. Sanitary education must also be taken to the poor.—Dr. Collins said the question of sanitation touched all classes alike, and was not confined to the poor. With that view they should make their schemes as wide as possible. The three great evils which prevented the accomplishment of a better state of things were ignorance, drunkenness, and filth. As soon as those evils could be got rid of, they would have disposed of a great proportion of the sick-rate of Manchester. Instruction must be given to the ignorant, and he recommended that women should be employed as well as men to carry knowledge of sanitary matters to the working people. He thought it would be well if the School Board authorities would drop a little of their geography and fine arts and take up the teaching of sanitation. The knowledge thus imparted would be carried by the children to their parents, and great good would result.—The Chairman said the Association had already taken into consideration the question of the establishment of classes on sanitation, and of a library of books on sanitary subjects for the use of the members of the Association. They desired to make every working man who joined them a centre of sanitary light to those around him.—Mr. W. Spinks said that as an engineer having considerable experience in sanitary matters he should be glad to render the Association any assistance in his power.—Dr. Brierley said that while he had no desire to come into collision with the authorities, he thought that there had been no greater delinquents in the matter of sanitary improvement than the Corporation of Manchester. They should omit no opportunity of forcing upon the attention of members of the Corporation the necessity for sanitary reforms, and should insist that such reforms were carried out.—The Rev. W. Thompson referred to the good work done by a similar Association in Salford, and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

A Curious Invention.—A Norwegian invention for the production from skim-milk of a new material which has been called lactite, or milk ivory, has just taken practical shape, and a factory for its production is about to start operations in Ireland. This new material bears a close resemblance to real ivory, and, in addition, can be made in black or any colour desired. It is intended to adapt lactite for such purposes as electrical fittings, buttons, door handles, embossed panels, dados, cornices, &c.

Dark Lane Ragged School.—The annual meeting of officers and teachers in this school was held on Thursday evening in the school buildings, Ainsworth-street, Dark Lane, Ardwick; Mr. J. R. Wainwright presiding. Mr. W. Bradley, of Cheetham Hill, was elected to the office of president for the ensuing year. The report presented by the hon. sec. (Mr. W. Littlejohns) stated that the necessity for the work of the school was as great as ever. No one but those who came in contact with the homes in the district could imagine the amount of misery and degradation which surrounded them. When they thought of the influences for evil amid which so many of their scholars lived they felt there could be no question of relaxing their efforts. Rather did the call come to them more distinctly than ever to "rescue the perishing." With the help of the Manchester and Salford Recreative Committee, a singing class and a wood-carving class—the latter for boys—had been held weekly, and once a month a Saturday evening entertainment had been given. At the Sunday evening services there had been an average attendance of 325, being a decrease on last year of 42. All the other branches of work were in active operation, and with enlarged resources a great deal more good might be accomplished.

Salford Board of Guardians.—The weekly meeting of the Salford Guardians was held yesterday at the offices, Eccles New Road; Mr. S. Hill presiding. The relief returns for the week showed the total indoor recipients 1,545, as against 1,631 in the corresponding week of last year, and outdoor 1,619, at a cost of £99. 12s. 1d., as against 1,792, at a cost of £121. 12s. Vagrants relieved had declined from 248 in the corresponding week of last year to 141.—The Chairman having given an account of the work of the deputation at the recent Poor-law Conference in London, Monsignor Gadd said that the question of the reduction of out-door relief dealt with at that Conference was one of the most important in Poor-law matters at the present day. It was a fact that some Boards of Guardians in the country had reduced their out-relief—and it was said without hardship—to almost *nil*. Such being the case, and remembering the position in which Lancashire stood as one of the foremost English counties, they as one of the most important of the Boards of Guardians in the county ought to consider the matter thoroughly and put their out-relief on a sound basis. He proposed the election of a committee for that purpose.—Mr. Simcock seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

DISTRESS ON THE CONNEMARA SEABOARD.

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian.

Sir,—In the excitement of current political events in Ireland there is danger that the suffering condition of the poor people in the congested districts may be overlooked and the duty of help neglected. It is almost impossible for English people whose notions of poverty are derived from the poorer portions of English cities and from the condition of English paupers to realise the state of the Irish on the Connemara seaboard. Let them remember the description of Carna given by the *Guardian's* special correspondent, and then read over again the letter of Father Conway, of Carraroe, in to-day's paper. These people live always on the verge of starvation. Periodically the famine comes, as it came in 1887—as it has come now. Then the weakest must perish and the strong be brought low. But what about the Poor Law? Cannot the Guardians relieve the distress? The following are the replies sent me by a Guardian of the Clifden Union—of which Carna is a parish—in answer to some inquiries I recently addressed to him. Your special correspondent referred to had stated—and I had learned from other sources—the fact that the Union was bankrupt:—

1. "The Clifden Union owes at the present time £3,544, incurred during the years 1886-7.

2. "The money was expended in extraordinary outdoor relief, given in kind for the construction of useful roads, &c.

3. "The sum of £900 has been paid to the contractors, in two instalments of 2s. 6d. in the pound, for the last two years."

Now another period of deep distress is upon the people. The potato crop has failed. Some of the facts reported to me are heart-rending enough. Mr. Balfour thought at first that the reports as to the failure of the potato were coloured for political purposes. He has not said so since his drive in the West. He now knows something from personal observation of the miserable condition of the people. I don't want to limit or localise the sympathy of Manchester friends of the Irish, but we have for three years now been helping the people at Carna without pauperising. We have given no money without its value in work. In extreme cases oatmeal or Indian meal has been distributed, and by the kindness of friends blankets and worn-out clothes have been given in deserving cases. We have learned of some shocking cases of exposure of children and sick people for want of bedding. This will not happen again this winter. By the kindness of Mrs. Ashton of Ford Bank, Mr. E. S. Heywood, Mr. John Gough, Mr. T. Nolan, and others, a sufficient supply of blankets has been sent to meet all such cases of extremity. But to buy the people's work is better than almsgiving—that is, where there are persons in the family who are able to do saleable work,—and I want to ask the special help of Manchester people to the sale of work which is to be held at the Young Men's Christian Association Rooms, Peter-street, on Tuesday and Wednesday next. It will not be confined to Carna work, but will include Mrs. Ernest Hart's productions from Donegal, whose enterprise is too well known to need dwelling upon, and also some of the productions of Miss Sturge from Letterfrack.

I do not think this work of Miss Sturge has ever been brought before the Manchester people. Let me say one or two words about it. Sophy Sturge is a daughter of the late Joseph Sturge, whose statue adorns the city of Birmingham, but whose name and good deeds find a less perishable record in Whittier's noble verses. Miss Sturge, acquainted with the miserable conditions of life in Connemara, conceived the idea of planting at Letterfrack a basket industry. She went to Northern Italy and France to learn the art of fancy basket making, living in the house of a basket maker and learning as an apprentice would. Now she has a French teacher at Lettertrack and a class of boys. The work was started a little after the Manchester effort at Carna. Some of the productions are now excellent. Miss Sturge has also ascertained what kind of willows are best suited to the district and planted osier-beds. She has stuck to the work with heroic patience under great discouragements. She has not had a Father Tom to help, as we have had at Carna, and at first got cold-shouldered all round. Now she is finding satisfaction in the fruit of her work, and, possessing as she does a thorough Quaker obstinacy of purpose, will establish a permanent source of employment in the district. May I conclude by expressing the hope that the friends who have hitherto helped in this work of encouraging Irish industry will renew their help and secure the co-operation of others?—Yours, &c.,

JAMES W. SOUTHERN.

BREACH OF PROMISE CASE.

At the London Sheriff's Court on Thursday Mr. Under-Sheriff Burchell and a jury sat to assess damages in an action for breach of promise brought by Miss Jessie Holloway against Mr. Oliver Arthur Burgham. The plaintiff was the daughter of a cabinet maker of Bath, and the defendant manager of his mother's brewery at Redbrook, Monmouthshire. They met in 1881, when the defendant offered marriage. The plaintiff told him she had no money, but the defendant said that did not matter, as his mother was going to give him the Bridge Hotel, Monmouth, on his 21st birthday. They became engaged, and much correspondence passed between them. Extracts from these letters were read, in which the defendant spoke of the plaintiff as his "pet," and said that if she was true to him all would come right, and that he should choose his own wife, and would not be dictated to by any members of his family. In 1888, however, the defendant's ardour cooled, and he offered the plaintiff £40 to release him from his engagement. The damages were assessed at £400.

MANCHESTER COUNTY COURT,

YESTERDAY.

(Before His Honour Judge Heywood.)

BANKRUPTCY BUSINESS.

Re John Webb.—Application was made by Mr. Parry, barrister, for the discharge of John Webb, formerly trading at 112, Grosvenor-street, Chorlton-on-Medlock, as a pinafore and fancy goods manufacturer.—The Official Receiver (Mr. Dibb) reported that the debtor's liabilities amounted to £2,088. 2s. 10d., and that his assets had realised the sum of £145. 7s. 8d., so that the creditors had received a dividend of a fraction over 11d. in the pound. The offences alleged against the debtor were—(1) omitting to keep such books of account as sufficiently disclosed his business transactions and financial position within the three years immediately preceding his bankruptcy, and (2) continuing to trade after knowing himself to be insolvent, namely, from December, 1886.—Mr. Parry said the Official Receiver's report, like all others that had come before him in any way, was an eminently fair one. From a Bankruptcy Act point of view the report was no doubt correct, but the Court had to look at the case from a moral point of view, and he thought when that was done it would be seen that this was not a serious case—that was to say, not a case in which the debtor had done any harm to anyone; he had not endeavoured to do, and had not done, any injury to his creditors. The most serious allegation against him was that he continued to trade after 1886 knowing he was insolvent. The debtor freely admitted this, but pleaded in extenuation that he placed himself at the time in the hands of his creditors, and they advised him to go on. Of course from a legal point of view that was wrong, but from a moral point of view, from the point of view of a man in business, and in the peculiar business in which Mr. Webb was engaged, he submitted that it was not a wrong thing nor an immoral thing to do. Mr. Webb was engaged in a trade relating to ladies' ruffles and children's pinafores, and had invested a considerable amount of money in machinery. An unfortunate change arose in fashion. The machinery consequently became valueless and the debtor was ruined.—The Official Receiver pointed out that the debtor had kept proper books of account, but failed to post them.—The Judge granted the discharge, suspending it for nine months.

Re William Ashton.—In the matter of William Ashton, who traded for many years at the Commercial Foundry, Bridgewater-street, application was made for the debtor's discharge.—The Judge said he did not think the bankrupt's affairs were yet in such a position as would justify him in considering the application. He therefore proposed to adjourn it *sine die*, and when the litigation now going on in reference to his affairs had ceased, or had settled to some extent, the debtor would have another opportunity of applying for his discharge.

Re Charles Henry Healey.—Mr. H. A. Sims applied for the discharge of Charles Henry Healey, residing at Wilmslow, and carrying on business at Byrom Court, St. Mary's Gate, Manchester, as a dealer in cigars. Liabilities amounted to £427. 5s. 10d., and assets £41. 5s. 3d., affording a dividend of 1s. 0½d. in the pound. Offences: Omitting to keep books in proper order, and trading for a brief period with a knowledge of insolvency.—The Official Receiver reported that the bankrupt's books appeared to have been fairly well kept, but they did not disclose his financial position at any time after he commenced business, nor did they contain a complete record of his business transactions.—The discharge was granted, but suspended for one month.

Re Thomas Howard.—In this case the Judge granted the discharge but suspended it for four years. The debtor, for whom Mr. F. O. S. Leak appeared, carried on business at 293, Great Ancoats-street, Manchester, as a farmer and wholesale butcher. The Official Receiver, in his report, said the debtor's liabilities amounted apparently to £362. 11s. 5d., and his assets to £90. 15s. 10d., allowing a dividend of 2s. 9½d. in the pound to be paid to creditors. The debtor had failed to keep proper books of account and had continued to trade for some time knowing he was insolvent.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE, YESTERDAY.

SALFORD BOROUGH COURT.

Crying Sunday Papers.—Nine boys were summoned under the new by-laws of the Salford Corporation for crying newspapers in the streets on Sunday. The names of the defendants, whose ages ranged from ten to fourteen, were Charles Scarr, Christopher Hunt, Joseph Scott, Francis A. Hendley, Joseph Stanton, Daniel Johnson (or Murray), Thomas Devonport, William Pickford, and Jonathan Wood, and they were all fined 1s. each.

ECCLESIASTICAL INTELLIGENCE.

The Liverpool Diocesan Board of Education is promoting a movement for the confederation of the whole of the Church schools in that diocese.

Mr. H. Offley Wakeman has been elected president and Lord Kenyon and the Rev. T. M. Bulkeley Owen vice presidents of the Salop district branch of the English Church Union.

The Rev. Arthur E. Mills, curate of Emmanuel Church, Bolton, has been appointed to the curacy-in-charge of St. John Evangelist's, Read, in the parish of Whalley.

The Chester Nonconformist ministers have decided to hold a public meeting in support of "General" Booth's scheme for bettering the condition of the poor.

The Rev. E. A. Davies, Primitive Methodist, of Stockport, has accepted an invitation to Rochdale, where he will commence his ministerial labours in July next.

The Pope has conferred upon Mr. Austin Oates the Order of Knight of St. Gregory in consideration of the services he has rendered as hon. secretary of the Salford Catholic Protection and Rescue Society.

The Rev. J. M. G. Owen, of Portland Baptist Church, Southampton, has intimated to his congregation his intention to decline the offer of the important charge at Collins-street Church, Melbourne. The church has voted £125 additional salary to their pastor.

The Royal Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund have directed that orphan girls being daughters of deceased soldiers, sailors, and marines belonging to the Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be admitted to the Royal Victoria Asylum, and that henceforth they shall have the religious ministrations of the ministers of their own Church.

The Committee appointed by the Wesleyan Conference to consider the method of presenting the obituaries of deceased ministers to the Conference have agreed to recommend that the obituaries ought to be read as at present, but that having been revised by a small committee appointed by the preceding Conference they should be printed; that the reading should be postponed to the third week in the sessions, and taken immediately after the discussion on stations and before the conversation on the work of God and the confirmation of the stations; that it should be regarded strictly as a religious service, during which no committees shall be in session.

The memorial-stones of a new Wesleyan chapel which is in course of erection at Penmaenmawr were laid on Wednesday. The new building is partly the result of an aggressive movement started some years since, which has been instrumental in the erection of several new chapels along the Welsh coast, intended specially for the benefit of English visitors.

Steps are being taken to erect a larger church, in a more suitable position, for the parish of Charlton, near Dover, of which the Rev. S. F. Green is the incumbent and the Warden and Fellows of Keble College, Oxford, are the patrons. The sum of £3,500 has already been raised towards this object.

Between £1,300 and £1,400 has now been raised by local subscriptions towards erecting the proposed new parochial schools in connection with St. Thomas's, Heaton Chapel.

Suspension of a Clergyman.—The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol presided yesterday over the Consistory Court at Bristol Cathedral, before which the Rev. Newton Ebenezer Howe, who since 1887 has been vicar of Swindon, pleaded guilty to a charge of improper conduct towards a Sunday school teacher and visitor of his parish. The accused was suspended from his living for three years.

Yesterday a two days sale of work was opened in St. John's School, Bury, in aid of the East London Mission to the Jews. In the absence of Mrs. Moorhouse, whose recent accident prevented her attendance, the Rev. W. H. Little, Bishop's chaplain, Manchester, performed the opening ceremony. The Rev. Michael Rosenthal, the founder of the mission, gave a brief sketch of the work and the success which had attended it. The sale was promoted by the Ladies' Working Association connected with the mission, assisted by a number of local ladies.

The Rev. R. Harrison, who retires from the office of Governor of the Primitive Methodist Jubilee College, York, after Christmas, is to be succeeded by the Rev. George Seaman, of Sunderland. The Revs. H. J. Taylor and Paul Peacock, of Scarborough, have accepted invitations for the next Conference to Hull and Sheffield respectively, and the Rev. T. J. Gladwin, of Sheffield, will remove to Scarborough. The Revs. S. S. Henshaw and J. Pearson, of the Oldham First Circuit, have accepted invitations to Sheffield Second Circuit and Lincoln Second Circuit respectively. The Revs. J. S. White and W. Spedding, of Blackburn Second Circuit; J. Shephard and S. J. Wallis, of the Sheffield First Circuit; J. Day Thompson, of Harrogate, and L. E. Ellis, of Belper, have all accepted invitations for another year.

The total cost of the new parish church of Portsea, the foundation-stone of which was laid by the Empress Frederick of Germany, has been £46,200. "A Layman" subscribed in all £23,647. 0s. 8d., and at a meeting of the Building Committee on Wednesday the Vicar (the Rev. Canon Jacob) announced that he had given £3,000 towards meeting the deficiency, and made a conditional promise of £500 more. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the donor for "his unfailing sympathy and munificent help," without which, the Committee added, they could not have brought to a completion the splendid church which has been provided for the parish of Portsea. It is known at Portsmouth that the donor of these large sums is Mr. W. H. Smith, First Lord of the Treasury.

MUSICAL SERVICES.

THE CATHEDRAL.

Third Sunday in Advent.—Holy Communion, 7 30 and at noon. Matins, 10 30: Walmisley, in D; Anthem, 251 (Arnold), "Who is this?" Evensong: Walmisley, in D; Anthem 164 (Handel), "Behold a virgin." Preachers: Morning and afternoon, Rev. J. W. Challenor, A.K.C.; evening, Very Rev. the Dean, D.D. Hymns: Morning, 69 and 474 (204 A. and M.); afternoon, 71 and 345.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

Sunday.—Morning, 10 30: Dr. Walmisley, in C; Anthem (Oliver King), "O, how amiable;" Communion, Dr. Cooke, in G; Offertorium, Lightollers. Evening, 6 30: Prout, in F; Anthem (Elvey), "In that day."

ST. BENEDICT'S (BENNETT-STREET), ARDWICK.

Sunday.—Morning, 11: Kyrie, Credo, Sanctus, Benedictus, and Agnus Dei, Casciolini, in A minor; Offertorium (from Gounod's "Mors et Vita"), "Yea, and God Almighty then will wipe away all tears." Evening, 6 30: Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, Wesley, in F.

NOMINATION OF DOCK BOARD CANDIDATES AT LIVERPOOL.

The nomination of candidates for seats on the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, in the room of six members retiring at the end of their four years of office, took place yesterday at the central offices of the Board, in Canning Place. Mr. A. Holt, the chairman, presided. The six retiring members were Sir James Poole, Messrs. James de Bels Adam, G. B. Crow, John W. Hughes, David Jardine, and R. Bushell. Mr. Jardine did not offer himself for re-election, but all the others did. Mr. F. J. Harrison, vice chairman of the Steamship Owners' Association, nominated Sir James Poole, Mr. Crow, Mr. Hughes, and Mr. F. Henderson, of the Anchor Line Company, in the room of Mr. Jardine. Mr. R. H. Dixon seconded, and tendered the thanks of the Steamship Owners' Association to Mr. Jardine for the great services which he had rendered. They very much regretted his retirement. Mr. Richard Dart, on behalf of the Fruit Brokers' Association and the trade, begged to nominate Mr. de Bels Adam as a member of the Board. They had been very much gratified in having Mr. de Bels Adam on the Board as a member of the fruit trade, and they were much obliged to him for having taken the post. He also nominated Mr. Bushell. Mr. F. J. M'Georgo seconded. There were no further nominations, and after a short pause, the Chairman declared the candidates duly elected to serve for four years.

MANCHESTER CITY SESSIONS.

Yesterday at these sessions, before Mr. H. W. West, Q.C., the Recorder, the following sentences were passed:

Five years' penal servitude and three years' police supervision: John Cassidy (a convict on licence), for house-breaking at Chorlton-on-Medlock; John Williams, 50, carter, also for house-breaking on November 3 last; a lad named Sumner, who had been charged in conjunction with Williams was discharged, no evidence being offered, and handed to the care of Mr. Devine, of the Gordon Boys' Home.

Five years' penal servitude: Robert Smith, 57, brushmaker, convicted of receiving stolen goods. Smith had been charged in conjunction with his son, William Smith, 27, also a brushmaker, with receiving goods stolen by a lad of fourteen named Percy Beswick. This lad, among other offences, went to the house of Mr. Storer, solicitor, Fountain-street, and removed a box—giving another lad a shilling to help in the carrying—which contained goods valued at £50, and took it to the house of the elder Smith. Other valuable property was also taken there by Beswick. The Recorder said receivers of stolen goods were such dangerous characters that although the elder Smith had received in some sort a good character, he could not pass a less sentence than five years. On this the prisoner, who had been holding by the rails of the dock, turned and fell to the floor and was carried below.—William Smith, whom the jury recommended to mercy, was sentenced to nine months' hard labour, and the lad Beswick to hard labour for one month, to be followed by three years in a reformatory.

Eighteen months' hard labour and five years' police supervision: Michael Bird, 69, hawker, for stealing, on the 19th November, property belonging to Nathan Jacobson and David Barratt.

Twelve months' hard labour and three years' police supervision: Samuel Spencer Percival, 47, salesman, for embezzling money belonging to Samuel Potts, his employer.

Nine months' hard labour and two years' police supervision: Florence Wilson, 20, tailoress, for theft of money from the person; John Wilson Patchett, 44, clerk, for house-breaking and stealing watches, the property of Peter Black.

Six months' hard labour: Thomas Burns, 50, labourer, for stealing from the person of William Walker a watch value £5.

Two months' with hard labour: John Joseph Hillier, 16, printer, charged with house-breaking on October 18 last.

Acquitted: George W. Daniels, 18, printer, and William Stewart, 20, labourer, charged with having on the 18th October inflicted grievous bodily harm on James Moran; Stephen Byrne, charged in conjunction with Joseph Hillier, with house-breaking.

Mr. Bewley, Q.C., has accepted the Judicial Judgeship of the Irish Land Commission, which was offered to him by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, subject to Her Majesty's approval. Mr. Bewley is an able lawyer of long experience and in extensive practice, and his appointment will give confidence to the legal profession and the public.—*Times.*

THE POLLUTION OF THE RIVERS IRWELL AND MERSEY.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INQUIRY.

Colonel Walter M. Ducat, R.E., and Mr. Thomas William Thompson, inspectors of the Local Government Board, held yesterday, at the Assize Courts, Strangeways, an inquiry into an application which has been made by the County Councils of Chester and Lancaster, under sub-section 3 of section 14 of the Local Government Act, 1888, to the Local Government Board, for power by provisional order "to constitute a joint-committee representing the administrative counties of Chester, Derby and Lancaster, and certain county boroughs, the said counties and county boroughs being those through or by which the river Irwell or any tributary thereof passes or through or by which so much of the river Mersey as is above the point of intersection by the said river of the southern boundary of the borough of Warrington or any tributary of such part passes, and to confer on such committee all of the powers of a Sanitary Authority under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, 1876, or such of them as may be specified in the order; and further that such order may contain such provisions respecting the constitution and proceedings of the said committee as may seem proper, and may provide for the payment of the expenses of such committee and for the audit of the accounts of such committee and their officers."

There was a large attendance, the principal authorities interested being represented as follows:—County Council of Lancashire: Mr. Hulton, the clerk. County Council of Cheshire: Mr. Reginald Potts, the clerk. County Council of Derbyshire: Mr. Hughes Hallett, the clerk. Borough of Bolton: The Town Clerk. Borough of Bury: The Mayor and a member of the Town Council. City of Manchester: The Town Clerk (Mr. W. H. Talbot); Mr. Alderman Thompson, chairman Rivers Committee; Councillor Worthington, Deputy Chairman Rivers Committee; Alderman Hopkinson, Alderman Smith, Councillor Boddington, Councillor Myerscough, Councillor Tetlow, the Assistant Town Clerk (Mr. Hudson); the City Surveyor (Mr. Allison), and the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Tatham). Oldham: The Assistant Town Clerk and Alderman Noton. Rochdale: Alderman Schofield, Alderman Tweedale, and the Town Clerk. Salford: Mr. Yates (Recorder), Mr. Alderman Walmsley, and the Deputy Town Clerk (Mr. Holmes). Stockport: The Town Clerk. Ashton-under-Lyne: The Town Clerk and the Mayor. Bacup and Middleton: Mr. Costeker, Town Clerk of Darwen, as secretary of the Association of Non-County Boroughs of Lancashire. Warrington: Alderman Burgess and the Borough Surveyor. Hyde: The Mayor (Alderman Hibbert) and the Assistant Town Clerk. Stalybridge: The Mayor and Deputy Town Clerk. Heywood: The Mayor, the Town Clerk, and Councillor Chadwick. Glossop: The Mayor and Town Clerk. For the United Bleachers' Association and the Association for the Protection of Water Rights: Mr. Wright. The Manchester Ship Canal Company: Mr. Marshall Stevens. The United Calico Printers' Association: Mr. Norris. There were also present gentlemen representing the following Local Boards:—Barton, Eccles, Winton, and Monton; Castleton, Chadderton, Crompton, Denton and Haughton, Droylsden, Farnworth, Gorton, Haslingden, Heaton Norris, Horwich, Hurst, Kearsley, Lees, Levenshulme, Littleborough, Little Hulton, Little Lever, Milnrow, Newton-in-Makerfield, Prestwich, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Reddish, Royton, Swinton and Pendlebury, Turton, Tyldesley, Chorley, Dukinfield, Lymm, Marple, Moss Side, New Mills, Westhoughton, Whitefield, Whitworth, Withington, Wuerdle and Wardle. The Barton-on-Irwell and Bolton Rural Sanitary authorities, the Burnley and Warrington Unions, Rural Sanitary Authority of Ashton-under-Lyne, the Altrincham Union, the Stockport Union, and the Glossop Union.

The grounds on which the application is made are set out in the following communication from the Lancashire County Council to the Local Government Board:—

(a) The rivers Irwell and Mersey, together with their tributaries throughout their entire length, are polluted with the sewage of the towns through or by which they pass, and with the refuse, chemical and otherwise, of the manufactories on their banks, and are thus rendered injurious to the health, offensive to the sight and smell, and destructive to all fish.

(b) The Manchester Ship Canal is expected to be finished within the next two years, and when completed will be supplied with water from these rivers. There will be practically no stream in the Canal, as fresh water will only be required to replace what is used in the working of the locks; and if the water is taken direct from the rivers in their present condition, and allowed to become almost stagnant, the damage to the health of the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of the Canal, and of those using the Canal, will be materially increased.

(c) In addition to the County Councils and county boroughs having jurisdiction in the watershed of these rivers, there are many local authorities, very few of which have taken any steps towards the construction of sewage works.

(d) In order to obtain the full benefit of the provisions of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, 1876, a joint committee of the different authorities interested should be constituted, as by a joint committee only could uniformity of action in the entire watershed of these rivers be ensured.

The Council do not wish to interfere with the manufactories and industries which have grown up on the banks of the Irwell and Mersey in such a way as to cause any damage or loss to their trade, or any diminution in the number of hands employed, but feel that the time has come when steps should be taken to stop the very serious pollution that is now going on.

Mr. Hulton, clerk to the Lancashire County Council, formally opened the case in favour of the application. In the course of his opening statement he read a copy of the petition sent to the Local Government Board, from which it appeared that the proposed composition of the joint committee was as follows, viz., Lancashire 8, Manchester 5, Salford 2, Oldham 1, Rochdale 1, Bury 1, Bolton 1, Stockport 1, Cheshire 4, Derbyshire 1—total membership 25. The district embraced within the scheme, Mr. Hulton went on to say, ended at the town of Warrington, and the reason it did not extend further west was that the river Mersey at that point was a tidal river. There was a small portion of the watershed of the Irwell which was in the West Riding of the county of York. It had been found that the streams in that particular district were of very small extent, and there was no reason to suppose that there was any pollution arising within them. The County Council of the West Riding very strongly objected to any portion of that county being included within the area, and thereupon it had been agreed on all hands that that small portion should be omitted. In length of miles the district embraced by the scheme extended to 247, it had an acreage of 588,703, a population of 2,163,942, and a rateable value of £8,245,262. There were no less than 94 urban and rural sanitary authorities within the watershed. A meeting had been held that morning of the representatives of all the county boroughs in the watershed, and resolutions had been passed (1) in favour of the area as laid down in the map which had been prepared by the Cheshire County Council; (2) that the rateable value be the basis for the purpose of fixing the representation on the joint committee; and (3) that Manchester should have six representatives instead of five, and that the county of Chester should have three representatives instead of four, leaving the number of 25 intact. He thought he might say further that in all probability the Derbyshire County Council would not oppose the proposal to include a portion of Derbyshire within the watershed. He did not think it would be necessary for him to call anything except formal evidence to prove the necessity for a joint committee and to prove that the rivers in Lancashire and Cheshire were much polluted both by sewage and by factories.

Mr. Hibbert, chairman of the Lancashire County Council, who was received with applause, said the application now made was an outcome of the Local Government Act of 1888, in which there was a clause which suggested to the different county authorities the means of dealing with the difficult question of the pollution of rivers. He might at once say, on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, and he thought he might say the same for Cheshire, that they had no wish that the powers which were given to the joint committee should in any way interfere with the rights and powers which the different local authorities possessed at the present time. Valuing local government as highly as he did, he should be sorry to do anything to impair the powers those authorities possessed. The powers the joint committee would have would be concurrent powers which would run along with those which the local authorities possessed at the present time, and he did not see why one local authority should be afraid of another authority getting the powers it possessed itself. He could not help saying that anyone who looked at the state of the rivers Mersey and Irwell and their tributaries would feel that there was justification for the action that was now being taken. The state of the rivers had long been a by-word, and it was necessary that something should be done without delay in the interests of the public health and in the interests of the great undertaking which would shortly be opened between Manchester and Liverpool. He need not say that so far as the manufacturers were concerned, if the powers asked for were given to the committee, the manufacturers, he trusted, would be treated with forbearance, with moderation, and with judgment.—(Hear, hear). He did not think that any of the members of the committee would have any desire to interfere with the industries of the district. So far as he had any influence he would rather invite the manufacturers to confer with the committee and see what could be done to deal with the great pollution which was now taking place. With a large central board, manufacturers might take it for granted that instead of some of their numbers being singled out and treated in a vexatious way, the same principles would be carried out and the same treatment given in every part of the district. He thought that the proposal, if carried out, would be for the benefit of the whole district. Unless the proposal was carried out it would be impossible to deal with this great and difficult question, for if it had been possible he did not believe the rivers would have been in the state they were in at the present time.

Dr. E. Sargeant, medical officer of health to the Lancashire County Council, gave evidence with regard to the deplorable condition of many of the rivers in the watershed. He expressed a very strong opinion with regard to the state of Glossop Old Brook, and for this he was taken to task in a somewhat amusing fashion by the Town Clerk of Glossop.

Mr. Thomas W. Killick, a member of the Cheshire County Council and chairman of the Rivers Pollution Committee of that body, said the grounds on which the application was made were that the rivers Irwell and Mersey, and their tributaries, in consequence of their pollution by sewage and the refuse from manufactories and other places, were offensive both to smell and to sight, and were often injurious to health. Within two years it was expected that the Manchester Ship Canal would be filled with water from these rivers and their tributaries. The Ship Canal would not be a continuous stream, but a succession of pools, with a stream running through them. The danger to health arising from those rivers would be undoubtedly increased. The Cheshire County Council were concerned directly with the state of the waters of the Manchester Ship Canal, as it passed through or by a large number of townships in the county of Chester; and also indirectly, as the communication between Manchester and Salford and Cheshire was so great and continuous that the outbreak of any epidemic in those cities would certainly spread through large portions of the county of Chester. There were more than 70 local authorities in the watersheds of the Mersey and

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