LITERATURE.

THE GOLD OF THE SOIL.

Dublin: 1861.

The above is the title of an interesting essay, or rather a series of essays on Agriculture. The writer evidently feels the great importance of his subject, for he enters warmly into it. In these days of agricultural progress the importance of applying scientific principles to the cultivation of the soil, will hardly be questioned; and any system whereby the produce of the soil may be increased is a national benefit. Whilst acknowledging the great improvement which has taken place, the author has a strong notion that our present farm economy and estate management are yet very defective, and the resources of our soil imperfectly developed. He also stoutly maintains the importance of the reclamation of our waste lands, which, in the language of our author, are a "Home California, far safer and of more duration than any auriferous surface to be found in the distant region of Mexico, or the colonial fields of the Antipodes." The work is divided into four parts:—1st, The Rise and Progress of Agriculture; 2nd, Irish Agriculture, with special reference to the reformation of the country; 3rd, Soil and Climate; 4th, Rent and Expense of the Farm set opposite to productions. All these are well and ably investigated; and we commend the book to the attention of those of our readers who are practically interested in the management or cultivation of land. The book is neatly got up, and contains some useful plans for improved farm buildings and labourers' cottages.

SPORTING.

CURRAGH APRIL MEETING—THURSDAY, APRIL 25.

Stewards—William Quinn, Esq.; Captain D. W. Pack Beresford, C. St. George, Esq. Ranger—Robert Browne, Esq. Deputy Ranger and Keeper of the Match Book—J. R. Hunter, Esq. Judge—R. J. Hunter, Esq. Starter—Mr. M. Clancy.

There were only three races set for decision on the card, but the stewards, with the assistance of John Hunter, Esq., managed to make up a fourth race in the shape of a handicap, to which 20 sovs were added, and this helped to bring the meeting to a more satisfactory conclusion than was at first anticipated. The contest for the Mares' Plate was of a most exciting description—had not Gardiner's stirrup-leather broke just at the finish—the result, in all probability, would have been different. Lawyer struggled very gamely in the Second-class Madrids; the crushing weight of 9st 12lb, however, told a tale, and he was beaten cleverly by Lord Howth's Croagh Patrick. All the arrangements were carried out during the meeting in a highly satisfactory manner, and the weather was most propitious. The following is a return:—

The FLYING STAKES of 3 sovs each, 25 sovs added. Half a mile. The winner to be sold for 100 sovs by auction, and the surplus to go to the fund. 1 sov entrance.

Captain Beresford's b f Diana, by Bantam, 3 yrs, 8st 4lb (Murphy) 1
Earl of Howth's ch f The Lamb, 3 yrs, 7st 12lb (Snowden) .. 2

Not placed—Albert Smith, 8st 9lb (L. Mahon); Alcyone, 8st 5lb (Lynch); Busy Bee, 8st (Moran); Mountainstown, 7st 12lb (D. Wynne); Irish Ensign, 7st 7lb (Gardiner); Brown Fanny, 7st 4lb (Page).

Betting—3 to 1 agst Diana; 7 to 2 agst The Lamb; 4 to 2 each agst Busy Bee and Alcyone.

A capital start was effected, and, after keeping well together two-thirds of the journey, Diana and the Lamb came to the post, the former winning by half a length. Busy Bee a bad third.

Second Class of MADRID STAKES (renewed) of 25 sovs each, 15 ft for two yrs old. Rathbride Post. Those who declared forfeit to the Keeper of the Match Book, Kingstown, on the 1st of January, 1861, to pay five sovs ft. If three start, the second horse to save his stake. The winner of the First Class to carry 5lb extra. Twelve subscribers.

Earl of Howth's b c Croagh Patrick, by Mountain Deer, 7st 10lb (Lynch) 1
Mr. Cockin's br c Lawyer (h b), 9st 12lb (Gardiner) 2
Mr. Brennan's br c Magnesia, 7st 5lb (L. Mahon) 0
Mr. Biddulph's Keerawn, 6st 12lb (Larrisy) 0
Mr. Irwin's Mark, 6st 12lb (Gannon) 0

Betting—5 to 4 agst Croagh Patrick; 2 to 1 agst Mark; 3 to 1 agst Lawyer. The race was entirely confined to the two placed, the weight on the Lawyer putting him out of court, and he lost his cause by a length.

HER MAJESTY'S PLATE of 100 guineas for mares. Weight for age—Three years old, 7st 9lb; four, 9st 7lb; five, 10st; six and aged 10st 2lb. Two miles.

Captain Beresford's b f Diana, by Bantam, 3 yrs (Woodhouse) .. 1
Mr. Hawksley's Nutbush, 3 yrs (Gardiner) 2

Not placed—Honor Bright, 4 yrs (L. Mahon); ch f by Bryan O'Linn out of Petticoat, 4 yrs (D. Doyle); Sparta, 4 yrs (Lynch); Emblem, 5 yrs (Knott); May Queen, 4 yrs (Banting); Katinka, 3 yrs (J Jones).

Betting—6 to 4 on Nutbush; 7 to 2 agst Emblem; 6 to 1 agst Diana.

All got off well together, Emblem making the running, May Queen, Honor Bright, and Nutbush following in the order named. At the turn into the straight Diana was cannoned and nearly driven out of the course in the attempt to take the inside turn; Woodhouse, however, soon got her to rights, and she came away, with Nutbush on her left. A most exciting struggle ensued, ending in favour of Diana by a short head. Gardiner's stirrup leather broke in the final effort.

SWEEPSTAKES of 5 sovs each, 20 added. One mile and a quarter on the Peel Course.

Colonel Leslie's Bamborough, by Heartbreaker, 4 yrs, 8st 12lb (Murphy) 1
Mr. Irwin's Alcyone, 7st 10lb 2
Earl of Howth's The Lamb, 7st 10lb 3
Mr. L. Keegan's Remember, 7st 4

Betting—6 to 4 on the winner; 5 to 2 agst the Lamb; 4 to 1 agst Alcyone.

Won after a good race by a neck.

KILCOCK STEEPLECHASES.

CITIZENS' GOLD CHALLENGE CUP.

The Stewards of the Turf Club have decided that Gladiator is the winner of this race, having gone over the course pointed out by the stewards.

ELPHIN RACES.

The FREE HANDICAP of 50 sovs not having filled, will be left open until twelve o'clock on the morning of the race, Monday next.

CORK RACES.

Weights for the CITIZENS' PLATE of 100 sovs.

Billy Banks, 8st 12lb; Daniel, 8st 9lb; Forager, 8st 7lb; Frailty, 8st 7lb; Consolation, 8st 5lb; Frost Bit, 7st 12lb; Sparta, 7st 8lb; Katty Flanagan, 7st 7lb; Mountain Dew, 7st 5lb; Lena Rivers, 6st 7lb; Maid of Magenta, 6st 5lb.

TEMPLEMORE STEEPLECHASES—MONDAY.

APRIL 22.

Stewards—John Lanigan, Esq., M.P.; James Mason, Esq., J.P.; F. H. Chambers, Esq., 38th Regiment; H. F. Gaubert, Esq., 39th Regiment; Dr. O'Brien, Captain Lidwell, Captain Byrne, Theophilus Byrne, Esq. Treasurer—Valentine O'Meara, Esq. Secretary—Mr. William Fogarty.

The TEMPLEMORE CHALLENGE CUP, value 50 sovs, added to a sweepstake of 2 sovs each; 10 sovs added by the stewards. Mile and a-half heats; second horse to save his stake. Weight for age.

Mr. Biggs' Fairy King, 3 yrs, (D. Meany) 1 1
Mr. O Meara's Palermo, 4 yrs, (M. Ryan) 2 2
Mr. Lanigan's National Petition, 3 yrs, (J. Doyle) .. 3 0

The TOWN PLATE—Weight for age—Selling Race of 2 sovs each, with 20 sovs added.

Mr. Cassidy's b h Trinculo, 4 yrs, 9st 7lb (£40) .. 1 1
Mr. Fahy's b m Feckless, aged, 10st 11lb (£30) .. 2 2
Mr. Gaubert's b g The Czar, 3 yrs, 9st (£60) .. 3 0
Mr. Biggs' b m Twilight, 3 yrs, 8st 5lb (£60) .. 0 2

Not placed—Mr. Hunt's b f Colleen Bawn, 3 yrs, 9st 7lb; Mr. Mahony's b f The Dove, 3 yrs, 8st 5lb; Dr. O'Brien's Johnny Blair, 3 yrs, 8st 5lb; Mr. Chambers' b m Maid of Erin, 5 yrs, 10st 9lb.

SECOND DAY—TUESDAY.

The RICHMOND STAKES, of 2 sovs each, 20 sovs added by John Lanigan, Esq., M.P., Weight for age. One mile and a-half heats over the Steeplechase Course.

Mr. Mahony's Canary 1 1
Mr. Cassidy's Trinculo 2 0
Mr. Donnelly's Piper 0 0
Mr. Hunt's Colleen Bawn (broke her back) 0 0

The HUNT CUP, to be run for by horses that have been hunted with the Thurles Harriers. Weight 12st each. Gentlemen riders.

Mr. Chambers', 38th Regt., Maid of Erin 1
Mr. Cormack's Handy Andy 2
Mr. Gaubert's, 39th Regt., Czar 3

Colonel Jones' Galatino and Mr. Mulvany's Maid of the Mill were distanced.—*Nenagh Guardian.*

GASKIN'S THEORY AND PRACTICE OF VOCAL MUSIC.—It is pleasing to find that educational works published in Dublin and written by Irishmen are favourably noticed by the London press. The following is from the pen of the celebrated musical critic of the *Times*, relative to Mr. Gaskin's new popular work on "The History, Theory, and Practice of Vocal Music and Sight Singing":—"The second title of this publication is 'Sight and Part Singing made Interesting.' It is a work full of matter, and of interesting matter into the bargain, divided into two parts. Part I., after some introductory remarks on the early history of music, touches on the Ambrosian and Gregorian chants; the Greek and Roman staves; the Guidonian invention and development of modern musical notation, clefs, &c.; remarks on the voice and its management; the origin of the harp, and its connection with Ireland; the analogy of sound and colour, music and painting. It contains, moreover, an illustrated register of the human voice, with a tabulated arrangement of the vocal artists of European reputation; references to Wilhem's popular and scientific exercises on intervals illustrated by part songs; solfeggi and exercises on vocalization. As if this were not enough for one short volume, the second part contains diagrams, illustrative of the chromatic and other scales; refers to *fioriture*, transposition, accidentals, modulation, and intervals; the moral obligation of learning to sing as set forth by Byrd in 1558; solmization, vocalization, accentuation, reading in all measures; minor scales—their relation to major scales; ancient modes and psalm tones; includes part songs, &c., selected (or rather arranged) from Rossini, Sabbatini, Beethoven, Mozart, Handel, Durante, Mendelssohn, Wilhem; a summary of the lives and works of those composers; part songs, by T. T. Magrath, Vicar Choral of Christ's and St. Patrick's Cathedrals; R. P. Stewart, Mus. Doc., Couran, Harvey, and Guernsey; concluding with chapters on chanting, and its early practice in the Christian Church. The work is not only interesting and comprehensive, but of absolute utility; the musical illustrations are short, varied, and always to the purpose; and the whole put together so symmetrically, that any section can be immediately referred to—*because* (and here is a point too often overlooked in such like works—*raisonnees* or *non-raisonnees*, as the case may be) they invariably occur in the right place. This work will prove a valuable addition to the musical literature of the day, and be of much interest to those solicitous for the musical education of the people."

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS.

The Select Committee appointed to consider whether, by any alterations in the forms and proceedings of the House of Commons, the dispatch of public business can be more effectually promoted, have considered the matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following report:—

"1. In discharge of the duty confided to them, your committee, in the first instance, directed their attention to the inquiries and reports of three select committees, which have been appointed within the last 30 years for the purpose of considering the best means whereby public business might be conducted in the House of Commons with improved regularity and dispatch.

"2. The first of these committees was appointed in 1837, and recommended only two changes, comparatively small, in the ancient rules and established orders, both of which were adopted by the house.

"3. The second committee was appointed in 1848. Mr. Evelyn Denison, the present Speaker of the House of Commons, presided over it. Various important changes were considered by that committee. The evidence of distinguished foreigners was taken with regard to the forms and order of proceeding in the popular assemblies of France and of the United States of America. No changes based on these models were recommended. The alterations adopted were six in number, although many others were discussed. The most important of them was that by which the rule of progress was applied to committees of the whole house on public bills.

"4. Again, in 1854, the same question was referred to a third committee. They also took evidence, and entered into a larger inquiry. They heard the opinion of Lord Eversley, then Speaker, with respect both to the causes of delay in the transaction of public business, and the remedies which might be applied. Thirty-six alterations were proposed by the chairman; they were tantamount to a revision of the standing orders of the house, and to a change of many ancient usages; but the committee were unable to concur in the great majority of these proposals, and ended in making to the house nine recommendations. Eight of these were adopted. They were of the same character as those which were sanctioned by the house on the report of the committee in 1848, and may be regarded rather as supplementary aids than as decisive changes.

"5. On all these occasions, the house and its committees have proceeded with the utmost caution. They have treated with respect the written and the unwritten law of Parliament, which for ages has secured a good system of legislation, perfect freedom of debate, and a due regard for the rights of minorities.

"6. This respect for tradition and this caution in making changes have proceeded on the principle that no change is justifiable which experience has not proved to be necessary, and that the maintenance of the old rules is preferable to new, but speculative, amendments.

"7. It is also to be observed, that this caution in making changes had not been unproductive of advantage. The new rules, which have been introduced in consequence of the reports of the three committees above enumerated, have been found to work so well that not one of them has been hitherto either altered or rescinded.

"8. Such, then, being the principle on which proposed alterations in the forms and proceedings of the house may be safely founded, the question arises, what are the objects to be kept steadfastly in view when alterations are suggested or adopted?

"9. These objects are well defined by Lord Eversley in his evidence before the committee of 1854, when (in answer to question 516) he says, 'In all the improvements that we have yet made in the conduct of public business, we have endeavoured, as much as possible, to let the house understand exactly what questions they will have to discuss, and to prevent surprises, and also to have some certainty to our proceedings.'

"10. The present Speaker strongly corroborates this opinion. He says that the most important thing to which the attention of this committee can be directed is certainty, day by day, so far as it is possible, as to the business to be transacted; and that for dispatch, for the convenience of members, and for decorum of proceedings, certainty is to be regarded as the primary object.

"11. Mr. Massey also, the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, considers it desirable, for the order of proceedings, as well as for the convenience of members that some closer approximation to certainty in the arrangement of the business of the House should, if possible, be effected.

"12. In pursuit of this object of greater certainty in the proceedings of the House, the special attention of your committee was called by the Speaker to the motions constantly made before going into Committees of Supply. Although only one amendment to each motion, 'That the Speaker do leave the chair,' can be put to the vote, yet the attention of the house may on that motion be called to any number of questions, and a long debate may be taken before the house resolves itself into a committee. This course may be daily repeated on the same class of estimates, and long delay as well as uncertainty is the consequence before the details of the estimates can be considered. The remedy suggested by Mr. Speaker is, that upon the four great heads of the army, the navy, the revenue departments, and the civil service, the house, having once gone into committee, might, on that same head of estimates, resume its deliberations in committee without any questions being put. In a word, that the same rule of progress which prevails with regard to committees on bills, might be extended to Committees of Supply on these four classes of estimates. This suggestion was offered to the committee of 1854, as appears from their report; yet, from fear of unduly limiting the opportunities of debate and of the discussion of grievances, the committee, while admitting the inconvenience complained of, declined to recommend the adoption of any new rule by the house. This cause of delay, if it be an evil, has now for seven years remained unchecked, and, in the opinion of the Speaker, the delay has increased. At the same time, without imposing some new restriction, it is admitted by the Speaker to be impossible to avoid these delays, and to give greater certainty to progress in Committees of Supply.

"13. Your committee have anxiously considered the policy of imposing some such check. The time consumed in these preliminary discussions was in the last session on an average three hours a day, on the eleven occasions when the motion was made for the Speaker leaving the chair, to go into committee on these four classes of estimates, which is equivalent to the average of time occupied in four government order days. It cannot be denied that these multiplied preliminary motions are a serious obstacle to certainty in the proceedings of the house, and are a cause of much delay. On the other hand, it must be remembered that the statement and consideration of grievances before supply are among the most ancient and important privileges of the Commons, and this opportunity of obtaining full explanation from the Ministers of the Crown is the surest and best. Before going into a Committee of Supply, the ministers have an interest both in making a house and keeping a house. The debate proceeds, with the Speaker in the chair, with an appropriate motion under discussion; and the strictest rules of debate are necessarily observed. Your committee, moreover, apprehend that the application of the rule of progress as proposed to Committee of Supply might produce serious inconvenience by creating an additional obstacle to the Speaker leaving the chair for the first time in going into any class of Estimates, and thereby delaying votes in supply which may be of great importance to the public service. On the whole, therefore, your committee adhere to the decision of the committee in 1854, and have not thought it expedient to recommend a departure from established usage in this particular.

"14. Under this same head of greater certainty, and of avoiding needless consumption of time, another question presented itself, which had been considered by the committee in 1854. It relates to the motion ordinarily made on Fridays, 'That the house at its rising do adjourn to Monday next.' The committee of 1854 recommended that, by a standing order, the house on Friday 'should stand adjourned till the following Monday, without question put, unless the house should otherwise resolve.' This recommendation was brought in 1854 under consideration of the house; it was not negatived, but the motion to give effect to it was withdrawn, from the disinclination of the house to adopt it. This disinclination has been indicated in a marked manner for the last seven years, and now almost invariably on every Friday a desultory discussion takes place on the motion of adjournment to Monday. Doubtless, many grave objections may be urged against these discussions, especially when prolonged. They are inconclusive, because no amendment to the question before the house can be moved, except as to the time of the adjournment; they are irregular, because they have no reference to the question put from the chair; they are unsatisfactory, because various subjects are interlaced; and they are dangerous in their tendency, as leading to a relaxation of the strict rules of debate, the maintenance of which rules in all their integrity is essential to the character and dignity of the House of Commons. The practice, as it now exists, imposes on the Speaker the undefined and embarrassing responsibility of endeavouring to enforce order in discussions not strictly orderly, and this responsibility is increased by every attempt to classify the various topics, with reference to the minister to whom various questions are to be put. Attempts of this kind give rise to dissatisfaction, as tending to obstruct the free current of debate. Nevertheless, these discussions have been found convenient, as affording prompt opportunities for bringing before the house matters of interest as they arise at short intervals; they often supersede the necessity of formal motions, which would occupy much longer time; and, without altogether setting aside the rules of debate, they give some latitude to questions and answers, accompanied by reasons. These balanced considerations have been weighed by your committee. The Speaker, with the view of attaining certainty as to the hour of commencing the business of the day, suggested a limitation in point of time, and proposed that at a given hour on Friday the question of adjournment, if not previously decided, should be put, and the voices be taken. A resolution to this effect was moved in your committee, but was negatived, on a division, by a majority of two, the ayes being eight and the noes ten. This proposal is obviously of the nature of a compromise; but it has been urged that it removes none of the objections; it restricts the advantages, if advantages there be; it would save some loss of time, at the expense of the introduction of a new principle into the proceedings of the house; it would cut short debate by the clock, without adjournment, and before its natural termination.

"15. But your committee are of opinion that the advantages of the practice might be equally obtained in a more regular manner.

"16. In strict conformity with the ancient use of the house, the motion for going into a Committee of Supply or of Ways and Means does afford a legitimate opportunity for the introduction of a wide and full discussion on every variety of subjects. A range as unlimited as that now assumed on the motion for adjournment to Monday is thereby opened without the transgression of any rules or usages of the house; and the vote in conclusion bears relation to the debate which precedes it.

"17. Your committee think it therefore expedient to adopt the standing order recommended by the committee of 1854, whereby the house at its rising on Friday, without motion made, would stand adjourned to the Monday following, unless the house shall otherwise resolve; but this on condition that Friday be a government order day throughout the session, and that the motion for a Committee of Supply or of Ways and Means stand first among the government orders on that day.

"18. The motion for adjournment on Fridays would thus be superseded, and the proceedings on Friday evenings, unrestricted, although desultory, would be conducted according to the established rules of debate, on a suitable motion and with an appropriate conclusion.

"19. Apart from the consideration of the means of giving greater certainty to the transaction of the daily business of the house, your committee have directed their attention to the inquiry whether any impediments to the progress of measures from the first commencement of each session can be justly attributed to the standing orders.

"20. By standing order, 25th June, 1852 (No. 408), the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means are fixed for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and for any other day on which orders of the day shall have precedence of notices of motions.

"21. By standing orders, 25th June, 1852 (No. 97), unless the house shall otherwise direct, all orders of the day set down in the Order-book for Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, are to be disposed of before the house will proceed on any motions of which notices shall have been given.

"22. By No. 99 the orders of the day are to be disposed of in the order in which they stand upon the paper, the right being secured to her Majesty's ministers of placing government orders at the head of the list, in the rotation in which they are to be taken on the days in which government bills have precedence.

"23. The days on which this precedence is now given to government orders, at the commencement of the session, are limited to two, namely, Monday and Thursday; since, by a recent arrangement, Thursday had been substituted for Friday as an order day. On Wednesday the government orders have no precedence, and the bills introduced by private members generally occupy the whole of each Wednesday, until the close of the session is at hand.

"24. On Tuesdays and on Fridays notices of motion have precedence; and the practical operation is this, that on two only out of five sitting days in each week can the government business be brought forward with certainty.

"25. It is true that a third order day is generally conceded to the government towards the middle of the session. But it must be remembered how large a proportion of the public business transacted is now devolved on the ministers of the Crown. All questions of supply and of ways and means are exclusively in their hands; and for the express purpose of bringing large branches of the public expenditure more closely under the annual review of the House of Commons, numerous charges have been recently removed from the Consolidated Fund, and have been placed on the Estimates. Moreover, the whole cost of the collection of the revenue is now submitted in detail to annual vote. These salutary changes have added greatly to the labours of the Committee of Supply, and make a large deduction from the time available for Government Bills on order nights.

"26. Although it is expedient to preserve for individual members ample opportunity for the introduction and passing of legislative measures, yet it is the primary duty of the advisers of the Crown to lay before Parliament such changes in the law as in their judgment are necessary; and while they possess the confidence of the House of Commons, and remain responsible for good government and for the safety of the state, it would seem reasonable that a preference should be yielded to them, not only in the introduction of their bills, but in the opportunities for pressing them on the consideration of the house.

"27. It has been already observed that at an advanced period of the session a third night in the week is generally set apart for government orders. But it ought not to be forgotten that it is at the commencement of the session when the real pressure is most urgent for the early transaction of the government business. The mutiny acts expire annually on the 25th of April. Previously to their introduction for renewal, the number of men must be voted in a committee of supply. On the number of men mainly depends the annual charge for the army and navy, which constitutes the largest portion of the supplies to be voted for the year. Much discussion necessarily arises; and thus, before Easter, the two government order nights in each week are principally occupied by debates before going into committee of supply on the navy and army estimates, and by the consideration of the leading details of these two estimates in committee.

"28. The obvious effect of this delay is to retard legislation, and to postpone the consideration of the government bills until after Easter. A further consequence is the failure of many bills which are introduced. For this the government cannot be fairly blamed; some are withdrawn in the Commons from the want of time fully to consider them; others miscarry in the House of Lords, where they are set aside without discussion of their merits, on the ground of the lateness of the session.

"29. These considerations have led your committee to the conclusion that more time should be given for government orders of the day from the first commencement of each session; and that standing orders of the 25th of June, 1852, should be revised.

"30. With this view, your committee have agreed to recommend—

'1st. That the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means may be fixed for any day on which the house shall meet for dispatch of public business.

'2nd. That on Friday, until the end of the present session, orders of the day shall have precedence of notices of motions, the right being reserved to her Majesty's ministers of placing government orders at the head of the list.'

"31. The first of these two recommendations will leave untouched the precedence given on Tuesdays to notices of motions over orders of the day. Private members will continue to enjoy, unchanged and unrestricted, their present right of making motions on Tuesdays, before any order of the day can be considered; and this recommendation, if adopted, will give on Tuesdays to the ministers of the Crown no power of placing their orders at the head of the list. Its limited effect will be to enable the ministers to place supply on Tuesdays among the orders of the day, but without precedence. In the early part of the session this power may not be operative; but as the session advances occasions will occur when progress in supply may be made on Tuesdays, after the termination of debates on motions.

"32. An indirect effect also of this recommendation may be anticipated. It is remarkable that, since the year 1856, on no one occasion has the house not been made at 4 o'clock. In the present Parliament, since July, 1859, the house has been counted out 18 times. This happened nine times out of the 18 on Tuesdays, and eight times out of the nine before 9 o'clock. It may be conjectured that ministers on Tuesdays, having little business of their own fixed for that day, are indifferent as to keeping a house. The contingent right to bring on supply at a later hour of the evening would give to ministers an interest in keeping a house, and a portion of a fifth night in many weeks of the session might thus be gained for public business.

"33. These reasons have a bearing on the second recommendation of your committee. Independently of Tuesday, which will continue to be the motion night, the opportunities of making motions are numerous throughout the session before going into Committees of Supply and Ways and Means. With the view of advancing public business, order days are indispensable; and on casting the balance between motions and orders, your committee are of opinion that three days out of five in every week set apart for orders will greatly facilitate the dispatch of public business, without an undue encroachment on the privilege of private members. Your committee therefore recommend the trial of this change in the standing orders, at least, for the present session.

"34. Before the committee of 1854, Lord Eversley (in answer to question 457) expressed an opinion, 'that it would be desirable that a bill, which has been committed to a select committee up stairs, should not in all cases pass through a committee of the whole house.' He thought that the present practice of the house might be modified in this particular, and 'that the rule of recommitting to a committee of the whole house might, in certain cases, be dispensed with.'

"35. The Speaker decidedly concurs in this opinion. He says that, 'While other recommendations would, perhaps, tend more to certainty in the conduct of business, some alteration with regard to the proceedings in committee would, perhaps, tend to expedite public business more than anything which has yet been considered.' Mr. Speaker then proceeds to state fully his reasons for this opinion. They are strong, and are clearly enunciated, and your committee trust that they will receive the careful consideration of the house.

"36. It is not proposed that in any case a bill, after its second reading, shall be referred to a select committee without a distinct motion from the chair, and without the special order of the house. But on the report from the select committee, it is proposed that the bill shall not be recommitted to a committee of the whole house, without a motion made and carried to that effect. The presumption now is, that the examination of a bill before a select committee is insufficient; and that examination ought, clause, by clause, to be repealed in the house. By the proposed change the presumption would be inverted. The examination of the bill before the select committee would stand good, and be held to be sufficient, unless the house by vote should declare to the contrary, and order the bill, either in whole or in part, to be re-committed to a committee of the whole house.

"37. The precise nature of this proposal is worthy of close attention. If a motion be made that a bill after the second reading be referred to a select committee, the house on each occasion will have the opportunity of exercising its judgment whether the principle and details of the measure are so much intermixed as to render the reference to a committee upstairs inexpedient. The controlling power of the house over each bill will in no degree be compromised. The decision to refer or not to refer will remain entirely in their own hands; and when the report comes down from the select committee the house will have an ample opportunity of revising the proceedings and the decisions of the select committee. If they be sanctioned, the delay and the unnecessary step of a reference to a committee of the whole house will be avoided; if it be deemed necessary or wise to re-consider the amendments, on motion the bill will be re-committed, and an appeal will thus be given to the judgment of the whole house.

"38. Without recommitting the entire bill, there may be frequently great advantage in recommitting certain clauses only. The consolidation of the statute law is now a great branch of law reform. But consolidation without amendment is imperfect, and the re-enactment of the existing law without change may be well considered in all its details exclusively by a select committee, and a great saving of time be thereby effected; yet changes in the provisions of the law ought still to be submitted to the collective wisdom of the house; and this might be conveniently done, if clauses containing new matter were specially reported by the select committee, and if these clauses only were recommitted to the whole house.

"39. The bills which have been sent down by the Lords in the present session, for the consolidation of an important branch of the criminal law, and for the repeal of statutes which have fallen into desuetude, would afford a good opportunity for testing the experiment. The latter bill contains a schedule of 108 pages, in which are given the titles of nearly 800 Acts of Parliament to be repealed in whole or part. Your committee recommend therefore that—

"When a public bill has been committed to a select committee, and reported to the house, the bill, as amended, shall be appointed for consideration on a future day, when, unless the house shall order the bill generally, or specially in respect of any particular clause or clauses thereof, to be recommitted to a committee of the whole house, after the consideration of the report, the bill may be ordered to be read a third time.

"40. Your committee have not overlooked a proposal made in the other house of Parliament, that a power should be given by statute, to either house of Parliament, of suspending (at any stage of proceeding) bills which shall have been passed by the other house of Parliament, and of resuming such bills in the succeeding session at the precise stage where they had been dropped.

"41. The objections to this proposal are grave and numerous. The power sought would only be exercised with respect to important measures; and this power of suspension would give increased facilities for retarding legislation. There is also much greater facility in altering in a new session the frame and scope of a measure when it has been extinguished by prorogation. A bill sent from one house and suspended in the other could not be amended during the recess. It must be resumed as it was left; and all amendments which might then be introduced could be fully debated in one house only; for the house to which the amended bill is returned cannot recommit it, but must accept or reject the amendments proposed. The opportunities for reconsidering, improving, and amply discussing important measures would thus be inconveniently abridged.

"42. Moreover, this suspending power in either House of Parliament, if exercised at its own discretion, would be at variance with the prerogative of the Crown. The deliberations of Parliament may be cut short at any moment by the exercise of the Royal power of prorogation, which quashes all proceedings pending at the time, except impeachments by the Commons, writs of error and appeals before the House of Lords, and trials in progress before election committees. Every bill must be renewed after a prorogation, as if it had never been introduced, though the prorogation be for no more than a single day. In 1689, Parliament was prorogued from the 21st of October to the 23rd, for the purpose of re-introducing the Bill of Rights, concerning which a difference fatal to its progress had risen between the two houses.

"43. In June, 1610, the Commons established a rule 'that no bill of the same substance be brought in the same session,' and so imperative has this rule been regarded, that in 1707 Parliament was prorogued for a week, in order to admit the revival of a bill which had been rejected by the Lords.

"44. If this power of suspending had then existed, in neither of these two cases could the prerogative of prorogation have been exercised with its salutary effects; and the tendency of this new power would be to give to the house exerting it an equivalent to the Royal vote in its mild form, when the sovereign declares '*Le Roi s'avisera.*'

"45. But in the bill introduced in the House of Lords in 1848 there was a provision that the consent of the Crown should be first duly signified to such suspension. This consent of the Crown to the mode of dealing with bills not perfected by the concurrence of the other branches of the Legislature would be a novelty at variance with constitutional practice not to be defended by any necessity. The prerogative of the Crown in all cases where the rights, interests, and property of the Crown are not specially affected is limited to assenting to or rejecting bills which have passed both houses. It is barred from all interference during the discussion of them in either house of Parliament.

"46. On the whole, therefore, your committee adhere to the opinion expressed by the select committee in 1848, and which came to the resolution 'that, having considered the provisions of the Parliamentary Proceedings Adjournment Bill, they do not think it advisable to recommend it for adoption by the house.'

"47. Your committee cannot leave unnoticed an intimation, which they have received from the Select Committee of the House of Lords on public business, that they would suggest for adoption by both houses the three following resolutions:—

"1st. That it is expedient, in certain cases, to adopt an abridged form of proceeding with reference to bills which shall be again brought before this house after having been passed by it, in the immediately preceding session of the same Parliament.

"2nd. That the bills in respect to which such abridged form of proceeding may be adopted shall be, *mutatis mutandis*, the same bills which this house may have passed and sent to the other house, and as to which that house may have resolved that there did not remain time for their due consideration in the session in which they were received.

"3rd. That on a resolution being moved, that it is expedient again to pass, and to send to the other house for its concurrence, any such bill, the question shall be put whether the house will agree to the same, and on such resolution being agreed to, the bill to which it relates shall be forthwith sent to the other house for its concurrence, without any further question being put or any debate allowed.

"48. These resolutions are not, indeed, open to the objection of interference with the prerogative of the Crown, as they do not contemplate the actual suspension of bills from one session to another, notwithstanding a prorogation; nor are they open to the objection of sanctioning a novel practice as to the concurrence of the Crown in the mode of dealing with bills in progress through Parliament.

"49. But their avowed object is to provide in certain cases for the resumption, in a new session of the same Parliament, of bills passed by one house and not considered by the other, by means of new and summary forms of proceeding, which they declare it expedient to adopt.

"50. The objections already stated against a statute for the purpose above-mentioned apply in a great degree to these resolutions. They, in common with the statute, would apply only to measures of importance, involving considerable detail; and it is extremely improbable that, after an interval of several months, either house would desire to send up to the other house measures of this nature without any amendment.

"51. In order, however, to effect this object, if desired, the resolutions, so far as the Commons are concerned, are not necessary. Whenever it may be thought desirable promptly to pass, and to send to the other house for its concurrence, a bill passed in a former session, but set aside in the Lords, the Commons may pass the bill rapidly through all stages, if they be so minded; and this course is not open to the objection of providing fresh opportunities for the postponement of legislation.

"52. With regret, therefore, your committee have come to the conclusion that the three resolutions suggested by the committee of the House of Lords cannot be recommended to the Commons for their adoption.

"53. There is a minor point, on which it is understood a new arrangement might be made by the Commons, which would be satisfactory to the Lords. Every bill sent up from the Commons is, on the motion of the Chairman of Committees, read a first time, and is ordered to be printed, as a matter of course and of courtesy, but no time is necessarily fixed for the second reading. Bills sent from the Lords to the Commons are not so treated. They are not read a first time and printed, unless some member, who makes the motion, proposes also a day for the second reading. By a standing order of the House of Commons, made on the 25th of June, 1852, when any bill is presented by a member in pursuance of an order of this house, or is brought from the Lords the questions, 'That the bill be read a first time,' and 'That it be printed,' are to be decided without amendment or debate, and no bill can therefore be read a first time and printed, without such leave being obtained. Your committee apprehend that, if the suggested alteration as to bills brought from the Lords were to be adopted, it might lead to an alteration of this established usage of the Commons, which your committee think would not be expedient. The Lords are desirous that bills in the same circumstances should be treated alike in both houses. But the practice of the two houses with respect to the introduction of bills is dissimilar. No member of the House of Commons can bring in a bill without a vote of the house, after due notice, permitting its introduction; and even when leave has been so given, the first reading is a question to be put from the chair. It is not expedient, in the opinion of your committee, to change this established usage of the Commons; and some danger of a departure from it might be incurred by the adoption of the suggested alteration.

"54. It is admitted that within the last few years the public and private business of the house has greatly increased. It must be admitted also that this increase of business has been met by a corresponding diligence and energy on the part of the house. In the last session of Parliament, the house on an average sat nearly nine hours on five days in each week. The number of days of sitting was 145; the entire number of hours was 1,244; the number of hours after midnight, 147; this, too, independently of the time employed in committees upstairs both on public and private business. The number of public acts passed in the last session was 154. Here there is an immense amount of business transacted on the whole to the satisfaction of the public, without any extensive change in the forms and order of proceedings.

"55. Your committee suggest that, except for the purpose of bringing some important debate to a conclusion, the house should not sit more than nine hours out of the twenty-four on days when the house meets in the evening, and not more than 11 hours when the house sits both in the morning and evening. Your committee believe that this object would be best secured by a refusal to commence the discussion of opposed business after 1 o'clock in the morning.

"56. It is necessary, however, to be watchful, and to guard against the inroad of new causes of delay. A practice has arisen of putting questions to ministers, on notice, when no motion is before the house; and these questions, and the answers to them, are confined within narrow limits, intended to be precautions against irregular debate. There is convenience in this course; but to prevent this licence degenerating into abuse it is most important that both the questions and answers should be as concise as possible, and not sustained by reasoning, which might give rise to debate. Recourse on these occasions has been sometimes had to the expedient of moving the adjournment of the house for the express purpose of opening the debate. This proceeding is to be regarded with the greatest jealousy. It is in reality an abuse of one of the forms of the house with the avowed intent of virtually breaking its essential rules. Your committee have come to the conclusion that this evil has not reached the point where special interference by a new standing order would be expedient. They are disposed still to rely on the forbearance of members in the use of forms which respect for ancient usage leaves unaltered; and the marked disapprobation of a large majority of the house may check the growth of so objectionable a practice.

"57. Your committee, like preceding committees on the same subject, have passed in review many suggested alterations, but like them have come to the conclusion that the old rules and orders, when carefully considered and narrowly investigated, are found to be the safeguard of freedom of debate, and a sure defence against the oppression of overpowering majorities. Extreme caution, therefore, in recommending or introducing changes is dictated by prudence. These rules and orders are the fruit of long experience; a day may break down the prescription of centuries. It is easy to destroy; it is difficult to reconstruct. But if changes be thus dangerous, and if the excellence of the existing rules be thus constantly recognized, it is the first duty of the house to maintain these rules inviolate, and to resist every attempt to encroach on them. The Speaker is their appointed guardian; he is entitled to the unanimous support of the house in his efforts to enforce them. Common consent is the best security for their maintenance. Order is their sole object; and without order, freedom of debate and prompt dispatch of business cannot long exist.

"58. It remains only to give a summary of the recommendations adopted by your committee. They are four in number, and are as follows:—

"1. That the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means may be fixed for every day on which the house shall meet for the dispatch of public business.

"2. That, on Friday throughout the session, orders of the day shall have precedence of notices of motions, the right being reserved to her Majesty's ministers of placing government orders at the head of the list.

"3. That, by standing orders, the house, at its rising on Friday, do stand adjourned to the following Monday without question put, unless the house should otherwise resolve; provided that, while the Committees of Supply and of Ways and Means are open, the first order of the day on Friday shall be either Supply or Ways and Means, and that on that order being read, the motion shall be made, 'That the Speaker do leave the chair.'

"4. That, when a public bill has been committed to a select committee, and reported to the house, the bill, as amended, shall be appointed for consideration on a future day; when, unless the house shall order the bill generally, or specially, in respect of any particular clause or clauses thereof, to be recommitted to a committee of the whole house, the bill, after the consideration of the report, may be ordered to be read a third time."

SPAIN AND SAN DOMINGO.

The Madrid journals of the 16th are chiefly occupied with details and comments on the proclamation by the Dominicans of annexation to Spain.

It appears that a General Santana is at the head of the movement, and that he had issued a series of decrees and proclamations "in the name of her Majesty Queen Dona Isabella." It further appears that the Captain General of Cuba, though he had entered into communication with the annexationists, had expressly reserved to the Home Government the power of sanctioning or repudiating their act. The sitting of the Cortes on the 15th was entirely occupied with the discussion of a railway bill. The *Contemporaneo* affirms that the government has just discovered another conspiracy, but gives no details of it. The *Espana* states that President Juarez, of Mexico, has, through the Captain General of Cuba, expressed a wish for the renewal of diplomatic relations with Spain.

A letter from Madrid, of the 18th, has the following:—

An important matter has just occupied the Parliament, viz., the offer of annexation of St. Domingo to Spain. The majority of the journals have advised the government to accept it immediately, but persons who know best what passes in high places affirm that it will go to work more prudently. Before accepting either annexation or a protectorate, Spain would address to the European powers, as well as to the United States, a statement of the events that have taken place at San Domingo; she would in that statement establish the entirely spontaneous character of the decision of the Dominicans, and would protest against any idea of new aggrandisements on the American coasts. However this may be, alarming rumours have been afloat since yesterday in political circles. Probable complications between England and Spain have been spoken of; it has even been asserted that in a note addressed to its representative at the court of Madrid, the Foreign-office declared that the annexation of San Domingo would be regarded by it as a *casus belli*. This news is at least premature. What is certain is, that an extraordinary sitting of the Council of Ministers took place yesterday evening, to deliberate on this question. The result is not yet known.

THE ARMY.

DEPARTURE OF TROOPS.—Twenty-nine officers and eight hundred and fifty-three rank and file of the 16th Foot have embarked at the North-wall on board the Juverna and Prussian Eagle, *en route* from the Curragh Camp for Aldershott, *via* Liverpool.

ARRIVAL OF TROOPS.—Yesterday morning seven officers and one hundred and seventy-one non-commissioned officers and privates of the Military Train arrived at the North-wall, by the Trafalgar, from Woolwich, *en route* for the Curragh Camp. Seventy-six horses accompanied the troops.

FULL AND HALF-PAY RETIREMENT OF OFFICERS IN THE ARMY.—The following is a copy of the Royal Warrant issued on Monday, regulating the full and half-pay retirements of officers in the army:—

"VICTORIA R.—Whereas we have judged it expedient to revise certain parts of our Royal Warrant of the 14th October, 1858, which regulate the full and half-pay retirements of officers of our army, it is our will and pleasure that instead of the provisions contained in clauses 30, 45, and 46, of the aforesaid warrant, which are hereby cancelled, those contained in this our Royal warrant shall be adopted. The colonels, lieutenant-colonels, majors, and captains, of the Guard and Line, allowed to retire upon full pay, shall be selected and recommended to us by our Commander-in-Chief, with the consent of our Secretary of State for War, and appointed according to their regimental and not according to their brevet rank. But no officer shall be placed on the retired full pay list until after a service of thirty years as a commissioned officer on full pay of a regiment, or in a staff situation; or if promoted from the ranks, until after an aggregate period of not less than thirty years' service in all grades, of which at least fifteen years shall have been as a commissioned officer on regimental full pay or on the staff; unless under special circumstances arising from ill-health contracted in the service, or in consequence of wounds received in action, it shall be deemed expedient by our Secretary of State for War to reduce such service to any shorter period than 30 years. An officer having actually done duty in some regiment or corps, or in some other military capacity, as a commissioned officer, or in the public service for a period of at least three years shall be entitled to be placed on the half-pay establishment on reduction from full-pay. An officer who has been promoted from the ranks shall be entitled to the benefit of this provision after one year's service on full-pay as a commissioned officer, and least, five years, service as a non-commissioned officer. No officer shall be permitted to retire upon permanent half-pay until after a service of twenty-five years as a commissioned officer on full pay of a regiment, or in a staff situation; or if promoted from the ranks, until an aggregate period of not less than twenty-five years, service in all grades, of which at least two years shall have been as a commissioned officer on regimental full pay, or on the staff; unless the retirement shall be occasioned by unfitness for service, resulting from wounds received in action or from ill health, certified to have been contracted in and by military service, or in accordance with the provisions laid down for officers of the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers in clause 51 of our Royal Warrant of the 14th October, 1858. The provisions in clauses 30, 45, and 46 for officers of the Guards and Line promoted from the ranks are also applicable to the same class of officers of the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers. Given at our Court at St. James' this 28th day of March, 1861, in the twenty-fourth year of our reign.—By her Majesty's command, "HERBERT."

THE MILITIA.

WESTMEATH RIFLES.—Notices have been posted throughout all parts of this county, calling on the various members of the above corps to assemble in the barrack-square of the county town (Mullingar), at nine o'clock, a.m., on Wednesday, the 1st proximo, those who have not attended former embodiments, for 38, and those who have, for 28 days' training. The unoccupied barracks will be allotted as their quarters during the period of their embodiment.

THE NAVY.

The following appointments were made at the Admiralty on yesterday:—Master, George H. Dominy (additional), to the Indus. Master's Assistants, W. Couzens, W. J. Symons, F. Hire, W. H. Fox, and W. J. Gorman (additional), to the Marlborough. Paymaster, H. E. L. P. Baily (additional), to the Fisgard. Assistant Paymaster, William K. Horne to the Victory, as supernumerary.

THE FAILURES AT MARSEILLES.—A letter from Marseilles says:—"Contrary to what had been expected, the firms of Demetrius, Balthazzi, and Co., and Gabriel, Hava, and Co., of this city, have suspended payment. The Bank of France advanced them in one day about 3,000,000f., but when one of its principal functionaries was sent to ascertain their real situation, and found that they would require a further sum of 6,000,000f. before the end of the month, it refused them any further discount, and they were obliged to suspend. Very few bankers of this city are said to be compromised, owing to the bank having for three months discounted directly for the two firms in question. It is stated that the bank holds their bills to the amount of 31,000,000f. The two firms, however, have large assets; the Sultan owes them about 25,000,000f.; and if the French Government would authorise a Turkish loan they would be able to resume payment. It is feared that these suspensions will cause other disasters among the Greek firms of Marseilles." Another letter says:—"The houses in question are two of the most eminent houses in the Levant trade, and it is believed that the aggregate liabilities will not be less than a million and a quarter sterling. The bulk of their acceptances are held by the Bank of France. Any loss that may occur will fall chiefly abroad. In most quarters, however, it is believed that the two firms have merely been overtaken by the undue extent of their engagements, and that the assets will prove to be very large. The excellent character for caution enjoyed by the management of the Bank of France, who have hitherto given them great support, affords much ground for this hopeful view. It is considered by no means improbable that assistance may yet be extended to them. Meanwhile, a good deal of anxiety is felt by the Greek interest here with regard to the effect of these disasters in Constantinople, where each of the embarrassed houses has an establishment. It may be as well to mention that Messrs. G. Hava and Co., of Marseilles, are understood not to be partners in the firm of P. Hava and Co., of London. Messrs. D. Balthazzi and Co., of Marseilles, have no house in London. The Bank of France is said to have installed two clerks in each of the houses at Marseilles with a view to have the whole ramification of the business of the houses with the Turkish Government clearly brought out."

THE EARL OF WILTON AND COLONEL DICKSON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING POST.

SIR—Much misrepresentation having taken place with regard to pecuniary transactions and extra costs in the actions for libel between the Earl of Wilton, colonel of the Queen's Own or 2nd Tower Hamlets Militia (now out for training at Bethnal-green), and myself, I beg to transmit to you a copy of a document on the subject which was sent to me (and returned written across) while attending a meeting at the London Coffee-house, on Wednesday evening, the 6th of March last, by Mr. Wyld, M.P., acting for Mr. Edwin James on the part of the Earl of Wilton.—I am, sir, your obedient servant, LOTHIAN S. DICKSON.

10, Stanhope-terrace, Hyde-park, W., April 23.

"Wednesday Evening, March 6, 1861.

"Mr. Wyld asks the delay of the publication until Friday morning.

"Having full power to act, he engages, if this delay be conceded—

"1. That Lieutenant-Colonel Walker shall place his resignation in the hands of Lord Wilton.

"2. That Lord Wilton shall make Colonel Dickson an acceptable apology.

"3. That Lord Wilton shall nominate Colonel Dickson to his former position in the Tower Hamlets Militia, and inform Colonel Dickson that he has forwarded his nomination to Lord Combermere, as the *amende honorable* for his former conduct towards him.

"4. That £5,000 shall be deposited in a bank in the joint names of Messrs. Wyld and Vance, to be handed to Colonel Dickson on the 3rd of April next, if before that date the appointment be not gazetted.

"5. That Lord Wilton shall also recoup Colonel Dickson all his expenses, including Walker's extra costs.

(Signed) "JAMES WYLD.

"If the money be not lodged to-morrow, or a further delay until Monday be absolutely requisite, it should be granted."

"Wednesday Evening, March 6, 1861.

"Not if the Wilton family were to offer £50,000, and my reinstalment certified by Lord Herbert this day week, would I alter my determination to place before the public the true state of the case.

(Signed) "L. S. DICKSON."

LONDON CATTLE MARKET—THURSDAY.

To-day's market was but moderately supplied with beasts; nevertheless, all breeds moved off slowly, and prices barely supported. Prime sheep were scarce, and in good request at full currencies; otherwise the mutton trade was very inactive at late rates. Good and prime lambs sold briskly, at an improvement in value of 4d per 8lbs. Inferior lambs were a slow inquiry. Calves, the supply of which was limited, were in good request, at an improvement in value of 2d per 8lbs. Pigs and milch cows were tolerably firm in price.

Per 8lbs. to sink the offal:—Coarse and inferior beasts 3s. 4d. to 3s. 8d., second quality do. 3s. 10d. to 4s. 2d., prime large oxen 4s. 4d. to 4s. 8d., prime Scots, &c. 4s. 8d. to 4s. 10d., coarse and inferior sheep 3s. 6d. to 3s. 10d., second quality do. 4s. to 4s. 4d., prime coarse woolled sheep 4s. 8d. to 5s. 6d., prime Southdown do. 5s. 8d. to 5s. 10d., large coarse calves 4s. 8d. to 5s. 2d., prime small do. 5s. 4d. to 5s. 8d., large hogs 4s. to 4s. 6d., neat small porkers 4s. 8d. to 5s., lambs 6s. to 7s. 8d., suckling calves 18s. to 22s. and quarter-old store pigs 22s. to 30s. each.

HEAD OF STOCK ON SALE.

Total Supply—Beasts, 950; sheep and lambs, 7,630; calves, 76; pigs, 290. Foreign—Beasts, 180; sheep, 1,400; calves, 40.

GREAT MUNSTER FAIR.

LIMERICK, THURSDAY.—The great spring fair opened this morning with the sale of pigs and horses. The weather was exceedingly fine, and at an early hour business transactions commenced in swine, of which there was an exceedingly large supply, and of prime quality. Sales were briskly effected, chiefly by buyers from Waterford, who carried off several droves. Dealers were also in attendance from Cork and Clonmel, who made extensive purchases. The prices paid were exactly similar to those of the former spring fair—namely, from 60s. to 63s. per cwt. for bacon; Berwicks, 50s. to 56s.; stores, 40s. to 50s.; car pigs, 20s. to 25s.; bonhams, (which were in great request), 16s. to 20s. each. At these quotations a general clearance was effected before ten o'clock, the number sold exceeding 2,000.

HORSES.—The horse fair was not as large as was anticipated, and although some of the well-known buyers accustomed to attend here were absent at the great Lincoln fair, which opened yesterday, still there were numbers present ready and willing to purchase if animals to suit offered. The chief show was of made hunters, a class not so much in request, but any that changed owners went off at high figures, ranging from fifty to seventy guineas. At Hartigan's repository some private sales are reported to have taken place, and in two or three instances from £100 to £120 was paid for first-class well trained horses. Troopers were scarce, and so much the better for owners, as I understand there were no buyers for the military in attendance. Upon the whole the horse fair is set down as extremely poor, as regarded numbers and paucity of sales.

CATTLE.—The cattle and sheep fair takes place to-morrow, and owing to the long spell of fine weather experienced, which promoted the growth of grass lands, stock will appear in good condition.

MOATE FAIR.—THURSDAY MORNING, HALF-PAST EIGHT O'CLOCK.—This fair opened at five o'clock, and the principal sales were made between that and six. The stock appeared to be in better condition than last year, and the supply was the same. There was a great number of purchasers prepared to give the largest figures, and purchased up before six o'clock anything worth looking after in the fair. The following is an extract quotation of prices of cattle:—Colonel Bernard sold one hundred and twenty heifers to Mr. Mark Aungier at £15 5s.; Mr. Henry Trench seventy ditto at £16; Mr. Murphy sold a hundred ditto at £16; Mr. Mark Russell a top lot of forty at £16 10s.; fifty bullocks at £17; and a lot of Kerries at £8; Mr. Holmes of Prospect, near Moate, sold eighty heifers at £16 10s.; Mr. Robert Drought thirty ditto at £11 5s.; Mr. Pennefather Lodge, twenty at £12 10s.; Mr. Clarke of Portumna, fifty at £12 7s. 6d.; Mr. E. W. Costello, of Springfield, twenty at £13 10s.; Mr. Maher bought fifty at £11; Mr. Corcoran sold forty at £12, and twenty bullocks at £12, to Mr. Browne; Mr. John Ryan sold thirty bullocks at £15 15s.; Mr. James Johnston thirty ditto at £13; James Craughwell thirty-five ditto at £13; John Kenny forty at £12 10s., and forty ditto at £12; Mr. Robert Adamson to Mr. Boylan, thirty heifers at £10 10s.; Mr. R. Adamson thirty-four ditto at £12 5s.; Mr. G. Adamson thirty to Mr. Colgan at £12 10s.; Mr. Murphy, of Roscrea, sold fifty ditto, at £17 and fifty at £16; Mr. Glarin sold forty heifers at £13 10s. The principal buyers were the Mahers, Cullens, Aungiers, Coffeys, &c. The sheep department is well supplied, but few sales were effected up to this hour; but the lots disposed of went at from 40s. to 45s. for hoggets.—*Saunders.*

NEW GOLD FIELD IN GIPPSLAND, VICTORIA.—The *Melbourne Argus*, by the last mail, states that the report of Mr. Alfred Howitt, the son of William Howitt, who was appointed to head one of the two parties sent into Gippsland to search for fresh gold fields, had been published by the government. It stated that a new and paying gold-field had been discovered by Mr. Alfred Howitt on the Crooked River in Snowy Mountains. That it had attracted a large proportion of the population from South Gippsland. That many miners were engaged with remunerative results, and amongst them were the principal portion of the men who had accompanied both Mr. A. Howitt and Mr. Nicholson, the leader of the other party which had been to the eastward of Gippsland, but without success. The best road to the new gold-field was said to be from Port Albert and through Sale, fifty miles from that place, and onward by the Wanangari river. The government prospecting party had not only discovered the new field, but had made a passable track through the mountains, blazing the trees through the forests, cutting sideling roads along the hills, and building up hollows, with logs and stone. This is good news for Victoria, whose old gold-fields have for some time been falling off.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]—Holloway's Pills and Ointment are indispensable for the security of life and health. Fever, influenza, bronchitis, sore throat, diphtheria, and bilious complaints are ever present plagues to mankind; but these can certainly and permanently be put to flight by the aid of these unrivalled aperient, detergent, and restorative remedies. There are multitudes of sallow and feeble invalids now languishing in all parts of the world under these diseases, who would soon find their healthy appearance, strength, and cheerfulness return, if they judiciously used Holloway's preparations, from which no harm can possibly result. The Ointment should be well rubbed, night and morning, over the afflicted parts, while the Pills are taken with discretion. A great and happy change for the better will speedily appear.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]—INFANT-REARING—Miss Martineau, who, like all philosophical ladies, has studied the matter thoroughly, says, that "in England alone, 40,000 babes die annually; and one-third more of that number grow up either idiotic, sickly or deformed." The reason is evident, as mothers, through inability to nurse their offspring, resort to the administration of baked flour, biscuits, tops-and-bottoms, or pap. The infant stomach cannot assimilate such crude preparations, and frequently rejects them; but still the nurse or mother continues them, under the hope of soothing the child. Internal inflammation takes place—eructations, diarrhœa, and consumption appear—and most frequently convulsions are induced, which seal the infant's fate. The *Medical Times and Gazette* conveys Dr. C. B. F. Routh's views on the same important subject, and his opinion of Du Barry's Revalenta Arabica Food, as adapted to obviate the mischief effectually. Dr. Routh is physician to the Samaritan Hospital for women and children. This learned and experienced practitioner says:—"The human milk contains, besides salts of lime, chloride of potassium. Now, in common with carbonic acid, this salt enjoys the peculiar property of dissolving carbonate of lime or chalk. An absence of it in the food, as in wheat bread, is very injurious to a growing child; hence a child fed on pap for a time grows fat, but the bones are soft; frequently it sickens, and severe symptoms supervene. Amongst the vegetable substances, that which comes closest to milk in its composition, besides being more easily assimilated and strengthening, is, without doubt, Du Barry's Revalenta Arabica Food, containing both phosphoric acid in abundance, and chloride of potassium; it also includes cassein, the same principle which is found in milk in its constituent parts. No wonder, therefore, that under its influence many children affected with atrophy (wasting away of the body), and marked debility, have completely recovered. I have given it with the greatest advantage in such cases; and so far as I may judge from my own experience, practice fully carries out what theory, from a knowledge of its composition, led us to anticipate. It gives good muscle and strengthens the bones, restoring tone, and a healthy, regular action to the stomach and bowels, whether constipation or a relaxed state of the system is complained of."—C. B. F. Routh, M.D. Packed in tins with full instructions; 1lb., 2s. 9d.; 2lb., 4s. 6d.; 5lb., 11s.; 12lb., 22s.; 24lb., free of carriage, 40s. Barry Du Barry and Co., 77, Regent-street; also, Fortnum, Mason, and Co., Piccadilly, London, and through all grocers and chemists. Agents in Dublin—Bewley and Evans, 4, Lower Sackville-street; Bewley and Draper, 23, Mary-street; Chas. Butler, M.D., Medical Hall, Sackville-street; Oldham and Co., 107, Grafton-street; W. Fleming, Grocer, Stephen's-green; Fawcett and Co., 39, Henry-street; T. Evans, 5, Stephen's-green; J. E. Kinslagh, Grafton-street; J. MacCarthy, Westmoreland-street; Hoyte and Son, Lower Sackville-st.; F. Falkner, Grocer, Grafton-street; W. F. Wells, Upper Sackville-street; Anderson and Adams, Grafton-street; Wm. Jackson, 9, Westland-row; Thomas Johnson, Grafton-street. In Cork—Woodford, Bourne, and Co. Belfast—Mercer and Ker, J. Moore. Kilkenny—J. Douglas. Londonderry—Osborn and Patten. Limerick—Scarr, Brothers.

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