No. 1075.—vol. xxxvIII.]

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1861.

[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, FIVEPENCE

A BRITISH RAILWAY FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC.

"I HOPE," said her Majesty, on proroguing Parliament in 1858, "that its new colony in the Pacific (British Columbia) may be but one step in the career of steady progress by which my dominions in North America may be ultimately peopled in an unbroken chain from the Atlantic to the Pacific by a loyal and industrious population." The aspiration so strikingly expressed found a fervent echo in the national heart, and it continues to engage the earnest attention of England; for it speaks of a great outspread of solid prosperity and of rational liberty, of the diffusion of our civilisation, and of the extension of our moral empire.

Since the Royal Speech Governments have done, something and events have done more, to ripen public opinion into action. The Governments at home and in Canada have organised and explored. The more perfect discoveries of our new gold-fields on the Pacific, the Indian mutiny, the completion of great works in Canada, the treaties with Japan and with China, the visit of the Prince of Wales to the American continent, and, at the moment, the sad dissensions in the United States, combine to interest us in the question, and to make us ask, "How is this hope to be realised, not a century hence, but in our time?"

Our augmenting interests in the East demand, for reasons both of empire and of trade, access to Asia less dangerous than by Cape Horn, less circuitous even than by Panama, less dependent than by Suez and the Red Sea. Our emigration, imperilled by the dissensions of the United States, must fall back upon

colonisation. And, commercially, the countries of the East must supply the raw materials and provide the markets which probable contests between the free man and the slave may diminish, or may close elsewhere. Again, a great nation like ours cannot stand still. It must either march on triumphantly in the van, or fall hopelessly into the rear. The measure of its works must, century by century, rise higher and higher in the competition of nations. Its great works in this generation can alone perpetuate its greatness in the next.

Let us look at the map: there we see, coloured as "British America," a tract washed by the great Atlantic on the east, and by the Pacific Ocean on the west, and containing 4,000,000 square miles, or one-ninth of the whole terrestrial surface of the globe. Part of this vast domain, upon the east, is Upper and Lower Canada; part, upon the west, is the new colony of British Columbia, with Vancouver's Island (the Madeira of the Pacific); while the largest portion is held as one great preserve by the fur-trading Hudson's Bay Company, who, in right of a charter given by Charles II. in 1670, kill vermin for skins and monopolise the trade with the native Indians over a surface many times as large again as Great Britain and Ireland. Still, all this land is ours, for it owes allegiance to the sceptre of Victoria. Between the magnificent harbour of Halifax, on the Atlantic, open throughout the year for ships of the largest class, to Fucas Straits, opposite Vancouver's Island, upon which are harbours equally eligible, intervene some 3200 miles of road line. For 1400 or 1500 miles of this distance the Nova Scotian, the Habitan, and the Upper Canadian have spread, more or less, in lines and patches over the ground, until the population

of 60,000 of 1759 amounts to 2,500,000 in 1860. The remainder is peopled only by the Indian and the hunter, save that at the southern end of Lake Winipeg there still exists the hardy and struggling Red River Settlement.

The combination of recent discoveries places it at least beyond all doubt that the best, if not the only, thoroughly efficient route for a great highway for peoples and for commerce between the Atlantic and the Pacific is to be found through this British territory. Beyond that it is proved that while no practicable passes for a waggon-road, still less for a railway, can be found through the Rocky Mountains across the United States' territory north-west of the Missouri, there have been discovered already no less than three eligible openings in these mountains once considered as inacessible to man. While Captain Palliser prefers the "Kananaskis," Captain Blakiston and Governor Douglas the "Kootanie," and Dr. Hector the "Vermilion" pass, all agree that each is perfectly practicable, if not easy, and that even better openings may probably yet be found as exploration progresses. Again, while British Columbia on the Pacific possesses a fine climate, an open country, and every natural advantage of soil and mineral, it has been also discovered that the doubtful region from the Rocky Mountains eastward up to the Lake of the Woods contains a "continuous belt" of the finest land.

Professor Hind says :-

"It is a physical reality of the highest importance to the interests of British North America that this continuous belt can be settled and cultivated from a few miles west of the Lake of the Woods to the passes of the Rocky Mountains; and any



SIR EDWARD COLEBROOK, BART., MOVER IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF THE ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE ROYAL SPEECH.



THE EARL OF SEFION, MOVER IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS OF THE ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO THE QUEEN'S SPEECH,—SEE PAGE 147.

SLAVE AUCTIONS IN RICHMOND. VIRGINIA.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

ARRIVED in Richmond, the capital of Old I ARRIVED in Richmond, the capital of Old Virginia, on a Sunday afternoon, and found the whole slave population in the streets. I was much struck with the general well-to-do look of these people, for I had imagined they would have wretched, down-trodden appearance showing marks of ill-usage, and be afraid to look up at strangers; instead of which I found them well dressed, well fed, and apparently happy and contented; but I was looking on the surface only, I suppose.

I had a letter of introduction to a gentleman in the city, which I lost no time in delivering, and explained to him that my object in visiting the capital of the Old Dominion was to see what I could of slave institutions, and more particu-

and explained to him that my object in visiting the capital of the Old Dominion was to see what I could of slave institutions, and more particularly a slave auction, with the intention of writing an account of it, and also making some sketches, if possible, to be published in an English newspaper. My friend said this was rather a serious matter, for the Southerners had been so grossly libelled and misrepresented by novelists and newspaper-writers that they had got into a bad habit of not thinking of them or treating them in a kindly spirit; on the contrary, they rather manifested a desire to tar and feather them. I begged of my friend to understand that if these very worthy people did object to my sketching and taking notes I would promise not to do anything of the kind, and I began to wish myself in the district of Columbia again, for a sensation of stickiness had come over me in consequence of his tarand-feather allusions. However, he would consult, he said, with a gentleman of influence in the place, let me know the result, and advise me how best to proceed.

During the time he was absent I walked round the city, which is well built, chiefly of red brick and stone. The James River runs through it, entering at one end, a noisy torrent, tumbling helterskelter over huge masses of rock, through a variety of channels, with beautiful picturesque islands between them, and running out at the other through quiet valleys and pasture lands. There are a dock and quay at the lower end, where small vessels lie, and a canal to connect the upper and lower navigations. Numbers of tall chimneys peer above the housetops, indicating the positions of the tobacco factories, which abound throughout the city.

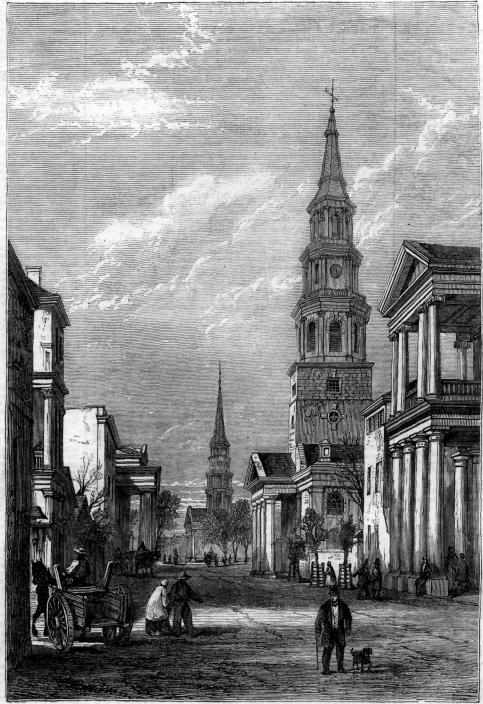
the housetops, indicating the positions of the tobacco factories, which abound throughout the city.

Taking up a station on one of the great wooden bridges over the river, I had an excellent opportunity of observing the negroes of both sexes who were promenading along the road which passes over these structures: some thousands of them were out, all dressed in their best, in the height of fashion—negro fashion, of course. Scores of them passed and repassed during my stay there, all looking happy and contented. Some of the ladies were splendid in rainbow colours, wearing little pink or emerald-green silk bonnets hanging at the backs of their woolly heads, and bright orange-coloured shawls, which harmonised micely with the skyblue satinties with huge bows worn by the dark young gentlemen who were taking their "fair" ones out. But the great feature was crinoline; this was worn in quite an original manner, not as useful in expanding other draperies, but as a thing of beauty in itself. It was suspended loosely from the waist and was at least a foot from the ground, and, having scant drapery over it, it swayed to and fro in a truly graceful manner, at the same time exhibiting the beautiful feet of Dinah and the scarlet silk strings with which her shoes were fastened to them. One of the happy youths wore a white hat with a black crape band, his hat stuck on one side of his head in a jaunty manner, the black band put on as being ornamental; a blue dress-coat with gilt buttons, a yellow waistcoat, and pants covered with a large and ornamental pattern. Some wore the oldest and most threadbare of finery, but, however old, it was always something that had been fine, and was worn in that peculiar manner which indicates that the wearer believes himself or herself to be producing a very powerful effect.

On my return to the hotel I found my friend waiting for me; he had with him the influential

self to be producing a very powerful effect.

On my return to the hotel I found my friend waiting for me; he had with him the influential person before alluded to, of whom I felt rather frightened at first, not forgetting what I had heard of these people's fondness for tarring and feathering. I liked him better, however, as our conversation progressed. He talked much like other people about slavery; thought it a very dreadful institution; but, having got it, and all their property embarked with it, it was not to be supposed they could give everything up at once at the bidding of New England parsons. He said that they were quite willing to discuss the thing in a statesmanlike and businesslike manner, and adopt such modifications in the system as would eventually place the negroes in a less degraded, and therefore better, position; but that the Northerners were coatinually threatening immediate abolition and proposing to use force to a less degraded, and therefore better, position; but that the Northerners were coatinually threatening immediate abolition and proposing to use force to carry out their views; that they were determined to meet force by force, and that there was, in consequence, little chance of peace between them. He said they had been most foully slandered by Mrs. Beecher Stowe, that the incidents described by her as having all actually taken place were picked out of the events of fifty years, and yet made to appear as though they were every-day occurrences. He complained bitterly of the continual tampering with the negroes, abolitionist newspapers being conveyed secretly to such as could read, that they might read special articles to those who could not. All the persons present evidently thought that a



THE PRINCIPAL CHURCH IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA .- SEE PAGE 147.

rising of the slave population against the owners was quite possible in some of the cities, but that generally the blacks would stand by their masters. A gentleman present from New Orleans said that he owned about a dozen negroes, chiefly household servants; that the young ones had been born in his family, and the old ones had known himself and his wife since childhood that their affection for his family was of the

strongest possible kind, and they would all look upon leaving him as the greatest calamity that could befall them; he would be bound to carry them from New Orleans to Boston and back without losing one. Yet, said he, in spite of all this affection for my wife, my children, and myself, if a rising of the negro population took place I would not trust one of them; they would murder us all in our beds if they could, and then howl in sorrow and misery over the bodies of their victims; they would blindly, and without reflection, follow others, doing what they did, and be deeply sorry for it afterwards.

As for myself, my new slaveholding friend

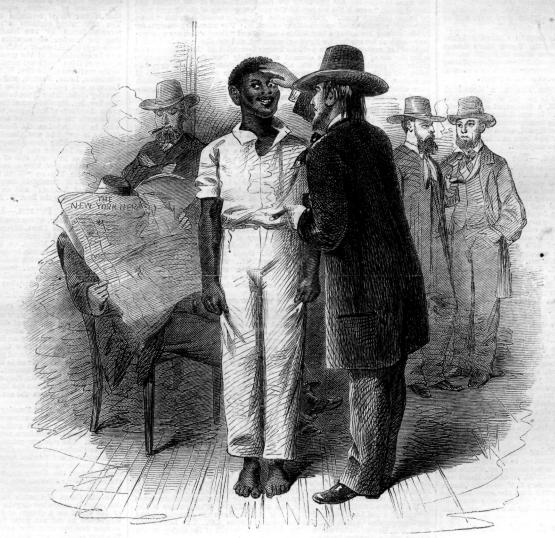
and be deeply sorry for it afterwards.

As for myself, my new slaveholding friend offered to show me everything I liked, and guaranteed that I should without molestation make what notes and sketches I pleased, on condition that I pledged my word of honour to tell the truth about what I saw, and to state that fairly and without prejudice, not taking any statements from other people or attempting to judge of that which I had not an opportunity of seeing. I of course promised to do this to the best of my ability, it being both reasonable and proper. and proper.

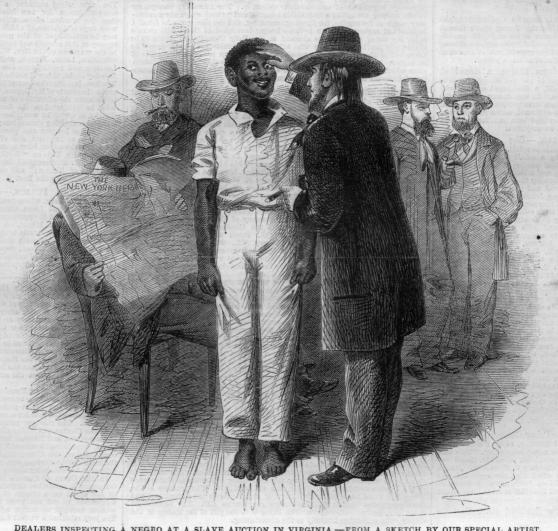
A carriage having been procured we drove into the country, calling at one or two places to see the negroes in their quarters, and very comfortable quarters too—little cabins of cottages, several in a row. The interiors looked very tidy, and the women and children seemed quite harrow. They brought me milk and fruit which happy. They brought me milk and fruit, which appeared to be abundant.

The next morning I went out to visit the tobacco manufactories, and saw the different methods pursued in preparing and packing the varieties it is intended to supply. In all these establishments are processed to but severs and all agos were working, and in some cases singing most merrily. I watched narrowly the manner of the negro when called and questioned by his master. I did not observe anything like feat do be not believe, from what I saw, that these workpeople were badly treated, generally.

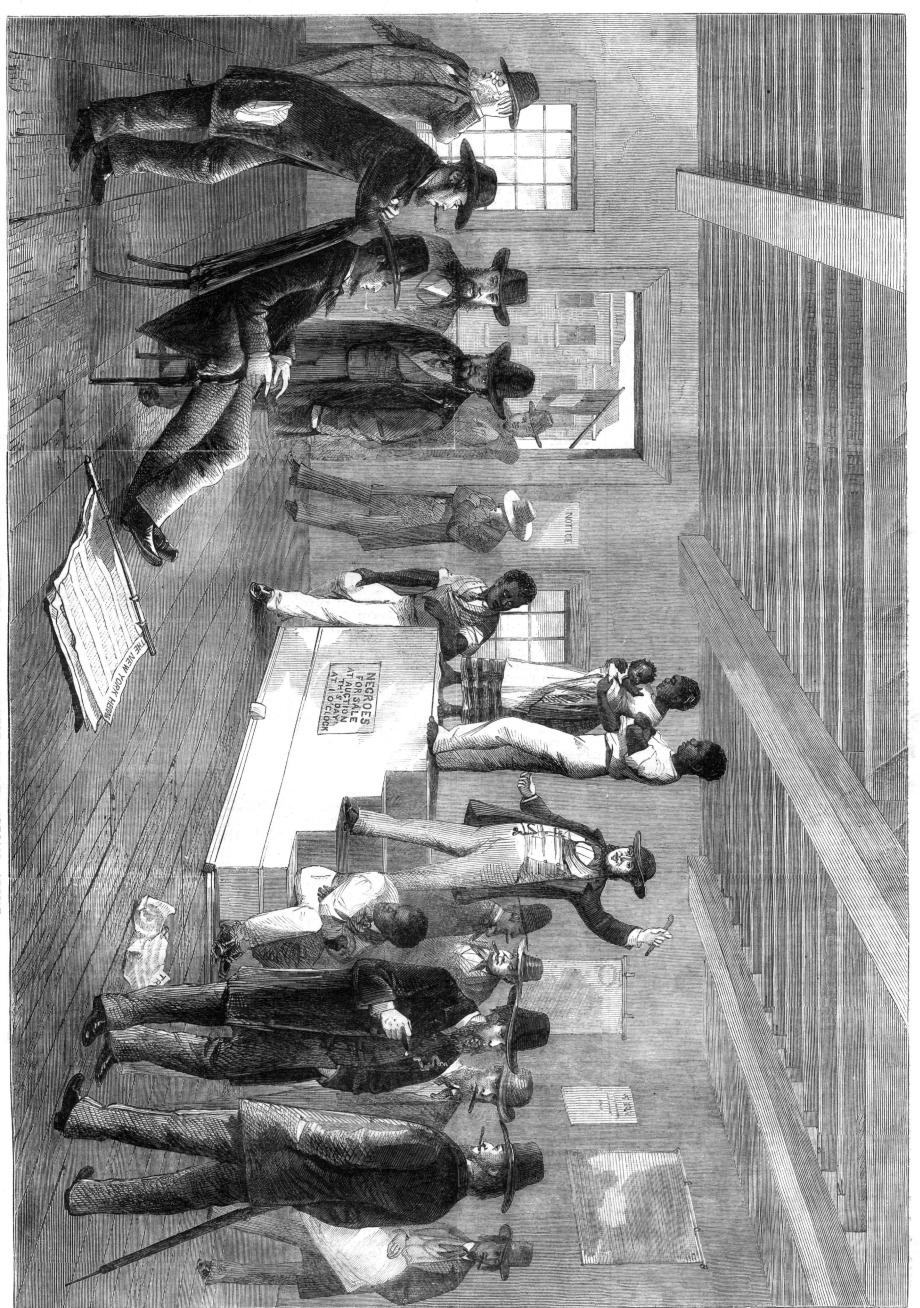
The auction-rooms for the sale of negroes are situated in the main streets, and are generally the ground shores of the build to any other auction-room. I observed that placards, advertisements, and notices as to the business carried on are dispensed with, the only indications of the trade being a small rod fing hanging from the front any other auction-room. I observed that placards, advertisements, and notices as to the business carried on are dispensed with, the only indications of the trade being a small rod fing hanging from the front with the other persons there and look about. I accordingly did so, and put on a bold front. "Negroes for sale at auction this day at ten o'clock,' or whatever other time the sale is fixed for. Besides this written notice and the heading to a sheet of letter-paper, I saw nothing the price of the pr himself, and the negro paced up and down the room to show that he was sound on his legs. Some



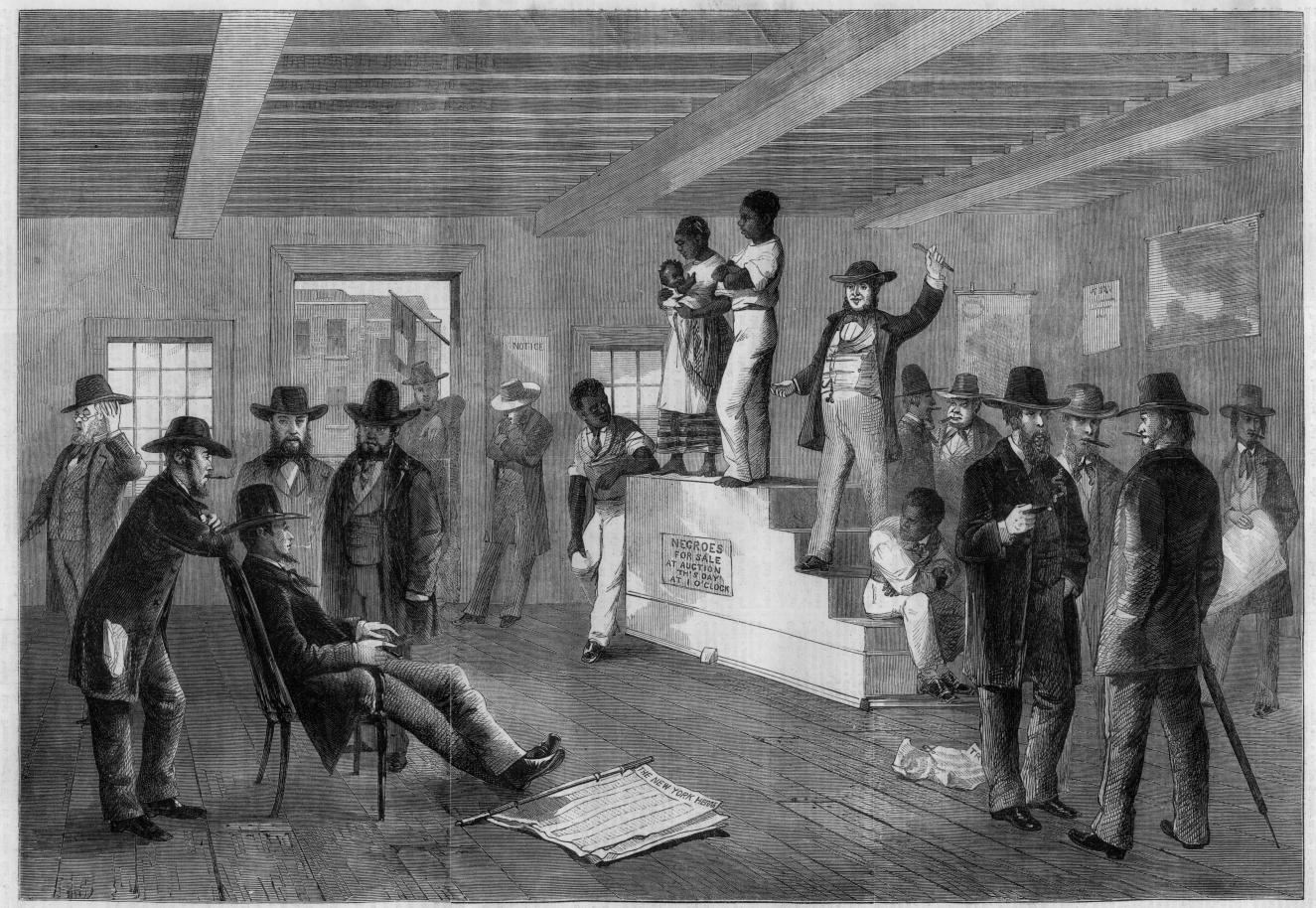
DEALERS INSPECTING A NEGRO AT A SLAVE AUCTION IN VIRGINIA, -FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST.



DEALERS INSPECTING A NEGRO AT A SLAVE AUCTION IN VIRGINIA,—FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST.



A SLAVE AUCTION IN VIRGINIA .- FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST.



A SLAVE AUCTION IN VIRGINIA .- FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST.

of the buyers stopped him during his walk and asked him a variety of the buyers stopped him during his walk and asked him a variety of questions, as to last employment, state of his health, and so forth. Then they turned his head to the light, and lifted the corners of his eyes, to ascertain whether they were free from indications of disease; in the same way they examined his teeth. They did not do this in a harsh or brutal manner, but just the same as a doctor might examine a patient. I did not observe anything like unkindness, much less brutality, in the way in which the buyers treated the negroes. The auctioneer had a couple of negro attendants who waited upon the slaves to be bought and sold, and I observed that these fellows were much more harsh and overbearing in their manner than their masters.

slaves to be bought and sold, and I observed that these fellows were much more harsh and overbearing in their manner than their masters.

The auctioneer having recovered himself, the negro remounted the block, and the bidding went on as before, the crier raising and lowering his voice and reiterating the bidding so rapidly that it was almost impossible to hear what he said, working himself up to a pitch of excitement most extraordinary, which was the more remarkable because the buyers were all sitting about, smoking and chatting to each other as quietly as though he were not present, and treating his excitement and oratorical exertions with the profoundest contempt. At last the time arrived when he thought he could get no more biddings. He said, "If you have all done," raising his hand in which was a paper. "Once, twice!" His hand did not, however, come down, for somebody bid, and away went his tongue like a mill, repeating the fresh bidding as rapidly as before until he again became exhausted. "Once, twice, gone!" The negro was sold for 1500 dols. Another lot was then brought forward.

This was the first human being I had ever seen sold, and during the time of the biddings I felt the greatest difficulty in preventing myself from fainting. A dreadful, indescribable sickness came over me, which defied all my efforts to conquer. I felt giddy, and believe I must have fainted outright had I not fortunately had a bundle of tobacco strip in my hand. By smelling these, and being able to get at some iced water, I got over this my first visit to a slave auction. I saw about fifty persons of both sexes and different ages sold afterwards in this and other sale-rooms.

Two or three other persons were sold in this place—among them a metty little girl and a boy. Then the buyers preceded to another

water, I got o'el this my hist visit to a save autoni. I saw adopting fifty persons of both sexes and different ages sold afterwards in this and other sale-rooms.

Two or three other persons were sold in this place—among them a pretty little girl and a boy. Then the buyers proceeded to another sale-room, of much larger dimensions; and here scenes similar to those described before took place, the auctioneer endeavouring to raise the biddings in the same manner. Several lots were sold—one lot a man and his wife, the wife in bad health. Some conditions were attached to this lot—they were bound to be taken out of the State of Virginia, They were put up twice, and evidently there was considerable difficulty in disposing of them. After several negroes, both male and female, had been disposed of here, the party again adjourned to another sale-room adjoining. I observed here a small apartment at the end of the large room in which a number of buyers were collected. There being a window between it and the large room I was enabled to observe what was taking place there. I found that in that apartment the male negroes were stripped, and were being carefully examined by those who purposed buying. The negresses are examined by a female specially appointed for that purpose, and the negress is sold on the faith of her statement being correct.

The negroes having been examined, the sale commenced, and was conducted in the same manner as the others. One young man was described as being a good farm-labourer, quite sound, but had one breast larger than the other. This man was carefully examined by some persons sitting beside me, so that I had an opportunity of observing him closely. He seemed in no way to feel pain at being sold, but endeavoured to make hinself out as fine a fellow as possible. On being asked how often he had the doctor his mouth opened with a grin from ear to ear, and he replied that he never had a day's illness in his life. He was very closely examined, as the buyers evidently suspected the swollen breast to be

tooked upon as a blemish, and he fetched a considerable sum less in consequence.

A boy about twelve years old was then sold—I think one of the handsomest boys I ever saw, perfect in form, his skin not black, but a deep brown. He fetched 750 dollars. A little girl was sold previously for 488 dollars. A very fine, strong, young man called "Captain" was sold for 1450 dollars.

Two young women were also sold, sisters, one with her first child, the child nearly white. Both these young women were exceedingly good-looking, the eldest being about twenty years of age. They were put on the block like the others, and were made to walk up and down the room. The auctioneer pressed hard for higher biddings in this manner:—"I want to sell this girl if anybody will bid anything like a price. I wish particularly to draw your attention to this girl, gentlemen: she is young, very pretty, and has beautiful teeth." She was stopped occasionally, her teeth examined, and then made to take off her shoes and stockings that her feet might be seen. The girls laughed and were very merry over the proceedings, and there was no appearance of harshness in manner of the people towards these unfortunate creatures. It was an every-day occurrence, and thought nothing of by those who bought and as little of, seemingly, by those who were sold. But the scene was one never to be forgotten by me. These girls fetched about 1300 dollars each.

The last lot I saw sold was a young man about nineteen or twenty years of age, with straight hair, not black but merely dark, not darker than a Spaniard's: he was described as a good house servant. I watched this young man attentively, and thought I saw clearly in his face that he felt deeply the degradation he was subjected to. Negroes of courage and ability are by no means scarce in the Slave States; the position of the negro is often one of trust and importance, and this brings them in contact with white people of the better class; from these they naturally learn more than their masters intend they should know.

brings them in contact with white people of the better class; from these they naturally learn more than their masters intend they should know.

I was much struck with the quickness and intellect of a negro whom I met in Missouri. He was in charge of the bar of an hotel. I entered into conversation with him about the condition of the slaves. He did not charge their owners with treating them cruelly. He admitted they were well fed and clothed, and generally not overworked. I asked him if he was a slave? He stammered, hesitated, was confused; and I saw clearly that I had asked him an exceedingly rude question. I felt sorry that I had done so, as I saw he was hurt and felt the misery of his position. He said, "I am not exactly a slave." I knew he was, but he was ashamed to own it. I said to him, "Now, as you admit the slaves to be tolerably well off, and not to be badly treated generally, are they contented with their lot, or do they desire to be free?" On the bar-counter in front of us were some slops of wine and beer and crumbs of biscuits: a number of flies were feeding upon them when I asked him if the slaves were contented with their lot. He instantly turned a tumbler glass down upon the counter and two or three of the flies were imprisoned under it; there was fire in his eye, and his whole body was agitated as he pointed with his finger to the glass in which the captured flies were buzzing about. "Why," said he, "don't those flies continue to eat and drink as before? There is plenty there for them, enough to last them a week, but they will neither eat nor drink; they have lost their liberty, and without that nothing else is of value." He lifted the glass, the flies flew away. "Now," said he, "they are happy again and will eat and drink, and enjoy what they cat and drink." It would be as safe to cram the cellars of their houses with gunpowder and continue to live over them as to fill the State with men like these, for certainly they will strike for liberty when they have a chance.

M. Bonaparte-Patterson has been unanimously chosen a member of the Paris Jockey Club.

Messrs, Glass, Elliot, and Co. have received a telegram announcing the safe submersion of the telegraph cable from Otranto to Corfu. The steel-plated frigate Invincible is to be launched in the

deckyard of the Mourillon, at Toulon, on the 21st inst. The city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, has again been visited by The city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, has again been visited by the calamity of a great fire. On Saturday night, the 12th ult., a fire broke out in one of the wooden stores in that city, and continued its ravages until it destroyed property to the value of £100,000. It burnt down upwards of sixty business establishments.

A letter in the Indépendance Belge says that a distinguished chemist, M. Rousseau, has made a discovery by means of which any private family may make sugar for its own consumption. With a peculiar apparatus an ordinary cook can fabricate a whole week's supply of the article at one time, and the raw materials may be purchased in any market.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK,

SUNDAY, Feb. 17.—Quadragesima. 1st Sunday in Lent.
MONDAY, 18.—Luther died, 1546. Moon's first quarter, 0h. 19m., a.m.
TUESDAY, 19.—Explosion at Lundhill Colliery, 1857.
WEDNESDAY, 20.—Doseph Hume died, 1855.
THURSDAY, 21.—Habeas Corpus Act suspended, 1817.
FRIDAY, 22.—Trial of Lord Cochrane, 1814.
SATURDAY, 23.—Cato-street Conspirators arrested, 1829.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 23, 1861

Sur	ıday.	M	onday.	1 '	Tuesday.		у.	W	Wednesday.				Thurs		y.	F:	Friday.		rday.
M h m 6 13	h m 6 31	h n 6 5	h m 7 13	h 7	м т 40	h 8	M 13	h 8	M m 56	h 9	A m 43	h 10	m 23	h 11	m 14	M h m 11 56	h m	M h m 0 31	h m 0 58

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED.

MEW BOOKS

A Memoir of Abraham Lincoln, President
Elect of the United States of America.

Low and Co.

A Treatise on Wood Engraving, With 300
Illustrations. By J. Jackson. Second
Edition. H. G. Bohn.

Art Studies: The "Old Masters" of Italy:
Eninting. By J. Jarves. Two volumes.

Athene Cantabrigienses. By C. H. and T.
Cooper. Vol. II. 1838-1899. Bell and Daldy.

Danish Fairy Legends and Tales. By Hans
Christian Andersen. Translated by Caroline
Peachey. Third Edition, With 120 Illustrations. H. G. Bohn.

Dod's Parliamentary Companion for 1861.

Whittaker.

Dod's Pecrage, Baronetage, and Kuightage
of Great Britain and Ireland for 1851.

Whittaker.

Whittaker, comestic Annals of Scotland from the Revo-lution to the Rebellion of 1745. By R. Chambers. Chambers. ducation in Oxford: its Method, its Aids, and its Rewards. By J. E. Thorold Rogers, M.A. Smith, Eider, and Co. Ierefordis. A Poem. By J. H. James. Lacey.

S RECEIVED.

Ionusa; or, Pleasant Raminiscences of a Two Years' Residence in the Island of Sardinia. By Mary Davey. Marbbrough. Life of the Earl of Dudonald. By J. Allen. Routedge.

Out with Earl of Dudonald. By J. Allen. Routedge.

Out with Garbaldi; or, From Melazo to Capna. By W. B. Brooke, an English Garbaldian V Bunteer. Ward and Lock. Routedge of the Carbaldian V Bunteer. Ward and Lock. Results of a Scientific Mission to India and High Asia. By Herman, Adolps, and Robert de Schlagintweit. Tribner.

The Garibaldians in Sicily. By A. Dumas. Routedge.

The Medical Missionary in China; A Narrative of Twenty Years' Experience. By W. Lockhart, Hurst and Blackett.

The Polar Regions. By Sir J. Richardson. A. and C. Black, Etinburgh.

The Railway and the Mine. Simpkin and Edwards.

Lawards. Allen.

The Year-Book of Facts in Science and Art for 1850. By J. Timbs. Kent.

dispatched to GAETA, and will immediately forward Sketches and interesting Descriptions of the interior of that far-famed Stronghold. Thence he will proceed to join the Staff of Garibaldi, whom he will accompany in his perilous progress through Northern Italy and elsewhere, forwarding Sketches and Descriptions from time to time, which will appear in this

OUR Artist and Correspondent, Frank Vizetelly, has been

The following beautiful PICTURES, PRINTED IN COLOURS, will shortly be published with this Journal, viz .: - "The State Entry of Lord Elgin into Pekin," drawn by George Thomas from Sketches taken by our Special Correspondent in China; and "The Muleteer," from a Painting by Richard Ansdell.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1861.

WITH the important exception of the Bankruptcy Bill, on which we shall make a few remarks in our next Number, the topics which have occupied the attention of Parliament hitherto have not been very interesting. But there is many a fight in store. The bill for the abolition of church rates has been introduced by Sir John Trelawny, who has also been championing a silly woman who thought proper to make a public avowal of scepticism, and whose evidence was rejected in a court of law. Lord Palmerston's assurance that orders had been sent not to surrender Anderson, the escaped negro, will have been satisfactory to the country. The Home Secretary does not mean to repress the City Corporation, but will do something on the coal duties question. A bill for providing a registration of births, deaths, and marriages for Ireland has been introduced, and opposed on the ground that Irish priests are forbidden by law to solemnise mixed marriages, unless the ceremony shall have taken place previously according to the Protestant ritual, and that, as they intend to continue breaking the law, they ought not to be asked to register the fact of their culpability. Whether this singular plea will have weight with the Government we know not. Sir G. C. Lewis proposes to deal with the subject of election abuses in a measure of a somewhat general character. The plan of Mr. Gladstone for enabling the humbler classes to use the money-order offices as savings banks seems to have given satisfaction.

Virginia steps in between the seceding States of the Republic and those which are true to the Union and proposes to mediate. But her good offices do not seem to have been very thankfully received by the South, and the North does not think that there is a case for mediation, and that rebels should be told to lay down their arms. Moreover, Virginia is not exactly in the position that gives weight to the interference of a third party, being herself largely interested in the question; and, although the circumstance might be thought to increase her zeal, it might not stimulate her to fair play. If the South finally separates and forms a new State (Slaveownia it has been suggested should be its name) Virginia must go with it. Mr. Buchanan is not, apparently, acting with any vigour, and is allowing the South ample time for arming, drilling, and fortifying; but in one fortnight from this time Mr. Lincoln takes office, and we shall probably see the loose reins drawn tight by the strong hand. Congress is debating, and many very eloquent speeches are made, but there seems a reluctance to commit the national council to any very distinct proposition, while the head of the Government is not likely to act upon the prompting of his Parliament. Last Monday was the birthday of Washington, and it will be interesting to read whether it was remembered-and

Gaeta has at length capitulated. Francis II. and his brave wife have embarked on board the Mouette, a French ship, and Victor Emmanuel's troops occupy all the fortifications. Such a result creates little surprise, for it had long been expected; the only wonder, indeed, being that the place should have held out so long. Other foreign affairs present little of immediate interest. It is said that Mr. Cobden has asked Switzerland to interfere between the Northern and Southern States of the Republic of America, but that such mediation has been pronounced impracticable. The majority in the Berlin Chamber of Deputies, who, in opposition to the Government, voted that Prussia ought not to oppose the consolidation of Italy, is severely chidden by the Austrian press, and not the less, perhaps, because M. de Vincke declared that the true course for Prussia to adopt was to engage in a close alliance with England. The French annexation of the little territory of Monaco should be mentioned, though it may not be very important.

Our convict yards and establishments have long been vaunted as models of discipline; but, like a few other of the institutions on which we have traditionally piqued ourselves, they have not come out so well as could be expected on trial. At Chatham there have been repeated outbreaks on the part of the convicts, and the milk-and-water measures taken by the officials have had so little effect upon the hardened criminals that they at length ventured on another revolt of a very serious character. Their ruffianism proceeded so far that the authorities had to call in soldiery, and even against these the convicts made some head, until the indignant soldiers demanded leave to fire, a significant demonstration which seems to have awed the ruffians. They were overcome at last, and then, of course, inspection and examination do the work which precaution should have done, and numerous floggings, apparently of a slight character, however, are ordered. The comparative impunity with which such revolters escape places valuable lives in daily peril, and we presume that the Home Secretary will interfere for the better protection of the officials, and, indeed, of the public, for there are no atrocities that may not be committed should a gang of these lenientlytreated miscreants succeed in breaking loose.

Terrible gales have swept our coasts, and great loss of life has been the result. In one case a life-boat with thirteen gallant fellows on board went over, and all were drowned save one. Still more melancholy was the catastrophe at Kingstown, where a brave officer, Captain Boyd, of her Majesty's ship Ajax, and several of his men, while trying to save others, were suddenly washed into the sea and lost. Many other sad events are recorded. Charity will have to open her hand again, and in the case of the poor widows and orphans who have lost husbands and fathers no one will cavil at liberality as "unthinking." Let it be added that the barometers duly give warning of the coming gales, and, though such warning was not distributed as it should be, science saved many and many a barque from destruction.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

Rear-Admiral Robert Spencer Robinson has been appointed eccessor to Sir Baldwin Walker in his office as Comptroller of the Navy.

The cavalry regiments on the British establishments are to be reduced from the 1st of April next by 25 men and 28 horses each. The dépôts of cavalry regiments in India are to be reduced to one troop each.

The iron-clad war-ship Black Prince, which is being built on the Clyde, is rapidly approaching completion, and preparations are being made for the launch, which is expected to take place towards the end of this month.

The launch of the Chanticleer, 17, screw-corvette, took place at Portsmouth Dockyard last Saturday in a satisfactory manner. The ceremony of "christening" the vessel was performed by Miss Grey, the eldest daughter of the Rear-Admiral Superintendent.

One of the sufferers by the late explosion at Chatham, named George Smith, a sapper, died from his injuries on Wednesday se'nnight. The deceased was the man who caused the accident at the laboratory by the careless way in which he filled the fuse he was at work upon.

Her Majesty's screw steam-frigate Bristol, of 51 guns and 600-horse power, built at Woolwich Dockyard, was launched in a most successful manner on Tuesday afternoon, in the presence of several thousands of spectators. The "christening" was performed by Miss Yelverton, daughter of Admiral Yelverton, of the Coastguard service.

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

The Hallamshire Rifles have appointed Lord Wharncliffe their Lieutenant-

Colonel.

The general meeting of the National Rifle Association takes place to-day (Saturday), under the presidency of Lord Herbert of Lea.

Lieutenant-General Sir James Outram, G.C.B., has intimated his readiness to accept the command of the 38th Middlesex (Artists' corps) Rifle Volunteers.

VOLUNTEER SHAM FIGHT.—Viscount Ranelagh writes to say that, with a view to ascertain in what numbers and time a body of volunteers can be concentrated on a given point in the event of an emergency, it is proposed to test the operation in connection with a sham fight on Easter Monday. The neighbourhood of Brighton has been selected as the locality, in preference to Croydon as originally intended.

neighbourhood of Brighton has been selected as the locality, in preference to Croydon, as originally intended.

VOLUNTHERS AND THEIR RIFLES.—A War Office circular has been issued relative to the recent order respecting the rifles purchased by volunteers. A return is asked for of the number and description of private arms in each corps; and Mr. Baring says:—"I amto add that the purchase by the Government of the private arms of volunteers will not be carried into effect until the Secretary of State has had an opportunity of considering these returns; but that in future corps will, on being newly raised or augmented, or requiring a renewal of their arms, be provided with them from the Government stores."

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will and two codicils of William Tassie, formerly of Leicester-square that ate of Upper Phillimore-place, Kensington, was lately proved in Doctors' Commons, and the personalty sworn under £35,000. The testator by his will leaves various pecuniary legacies to his relatives, and by the codicils bequeaths to the National Gallery of Sociland the original glass casts of the valuable collection of gems made by the late James Tassie, and added to by the testator—one of each in intaglio glass and in raised white enamel; also the original glass moulds of all his Egyptian, Greek, and Roman coins and medals, as well as his casts of modern medals; together with thirty-six original casts of portraits. including those of the Jameses of Sociland and Queen Mary; a painting of the Countess De Grey; also twenty-four studies from the best paintings in the galleries of Amsterdam and Antwerp. The executors are Edmund L. Snee and Frederick Snee, Esqrs., and the Rev. W. H. Vernon (the testator's nephew). The will is dated the 27th of August, 1858, and the testator died on the 26th of October, 1860.

The will of the late George Havcock, Esg., a member of the Society of

of October, 1860.

The will of the late George Haycock, Esq., a member of the Society of Friends, who died at Chelmsford, on the 16th of last month, has just been proved, and the personalty administered to under £45,000. After providing for several legacies, including £200 to the Colchester Idiot Asylum, £200 to the Deaf and Dumb Asylum in London, £200 to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, £200 to the Chelmsford and Essex Bible Society, £100 to the Chelmsford Benevolent Society, £50 to the use of schools in the West Indies, and directing his real estate to be converted into cash, he bequeatly all the remainder of his property in trust to his nephew, Joseph Haycock, Esq., of Wells, Norfolk, to be divided amongst his nephew's children on attaining twenty-three, and the interest applied to their education and advancement.

advancement.

The will of Lancelot Shadwell, Esq., of Lincoln's Inu, and of Nottinghamplace, Marylebone, was proved in London on the 30th ult., by his relict, the
sole executrix, who is also the sole legatee, the testator having left her all his
real and personal estate, the latter estimated at £20,000. The will is very
short, bears date the 23rd of February, 1857, and is entirely in the testator's
handwriting, and was attested by W. Lancaster and G. Whitley, clerks to
Messrs. Hoare, bankers, Fleet-street. Mr. Shadwell, who died on the 11th of
last month at the age of fifty-two, was the eldest son of the late Sir Lancelot
Shadwell, Vice-Chancellor of England.

The will of Sir John Hall K C.H. of Lancelour avascent. Konsington

Shadwell, Vice-Chancellor of England.

The will of Sir John Hall, K.C.H., of Lansdowne-crescent, Kensington Park, was proved in London, on the 7th inst., by his daughter, Miss Harriett Lydia Hall, the sole executrix, to whom he has bequeathed the whole of his property, real and personal, at the same time nominating her his universal legatee. Sir John has left rings as mementos to personal friends, Baron Platt and Philip Hardwick being amongst the recipients. The will bears date Nov. 6, 1856, and the testator died on the 21st ult. Sir John, who attained the great age of eighty-one, was a Knight Bachelor of the United Kingdom and Knight Commander of the Royal Guelphic Order of Hanover, created in 1831, and was Consul-General in England for Hanover.