

The master builders have hit upon a novel expedient for settling trade disputes. They are willing, they say, to submit to arbitration, but insist upon naming both arbitrators themselves. This the workmen very naturally object to. They are willing to arbitrate, but consider they have a right to a share in the election of the proposed tribunal. We feel sure that on reflection the employers will see the absurdity of their position, and adopt the suggestion of Mr. Mundella, to constitute a court of equal numbers of employers and workmen, which, assisted by some men of impartial character and sound judgment, and presided over by an umpire, shall deliberate and decide on the differences between them.—No great event has taken place in connection with the fam labourers' agitation. A summons has been granted against Mr. Garrett, the farmer of Todmorden, for assaulting a labourer named Bodfish with a horse-whip. The charge is preferred under the recent Trades' Union Act.—The Dundee servant-maids have held another meeting, but would not admit the reporters, whom they accuse of having made their meetings ridiculous.—The washerwomen of Surliton and Kingston have struck for fewer hours and an increase of 6d. per day, and with one or two exceptions the "laundresses," that is, the employers, have granted their demands.—The letter-carriers of Huddersfield struck last week, in consequence of their memorial to the authorities for increased pay having been refused. Great inconvenience and delay in the delivery of letters was the result.—A more commendable movement has been started in the metropolis, in the shape of a Benefit Society, to the membership of which all persons employed in the Post Office service are eligible. Some well-known and highly influential gentlemen are named as vice-presidents and arbitrators, and we wish the society every success. The postman is a hardworking public servant, and deserves much better treatment than he has hitherto received.—Sir M. T. Farquhar, Bart., died very suddenly last Sunday from the bursting of a bloodvessel. He was in his 35th year, and being a bachelor, is succeeded in the title by his brother, John Henry Farquhar.—The death of Sir Charles Dutton Price, Bart., has just been announced as having occurred at Jersey on the 18th ult. He was born in 1800, and was a somewhat eccentric character, having held aloof from his family for more than twenty years. His nephew, Rose Lambert, succeeds to the baronetcy.—Mr. M. D. Hill, Q.C., for many years Recorder of Birmingham, and formerly judge of the Bristol Bankruptcy Court, died last week. He was brother of Sir Rowland Hill.—The death is announced of the Rev. William Ellis, the well-known missionary in the South Sea Islands and in Madagascar. He was born in 1795, and in early life became connected with the London Missionary Society, under whose auspices he went out to prosecute his labours. Although a Dissenter, he was offered the bishopric of Madagascar, the Archbishop of Canterbury undertaking to ordain and consecrate him if he would accept it, but the proposal was declined. He was the author of a "History of Madagascar," "Three Visits to Madagascar," "Vindication of the South Sea Missions," "History of the London Missionary Society," and other works. He married Miss Sarah Stickney, who was one of the first to write on social subjects connected with women, and is universally known as the authoress of "The Women of England," "The Daughters of England," "Social Distinction," "Family Secrets," &c.—Dr. Jeremie, who has been Dean of Lincoln since 1864, died in London on Wednesday. He was educated at Cambridge, and filled the posts of classical Professor at Haileybury; Christian Advocate and Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge.

THE SESSION

SOME real business has been transacted during the past week in both Houses, but everybody is so taken up with one idea, the present writer not excepted, that he has hardly heart to settle down to any details of Scotch Education Bills, or Licensing Bills, or Ballot, or Supply or Navigation, questions all mightily important in their way, but looking pale and flabby in the full glare of the Alabama gas. One feels as men feel on the verge of some great crisis, totally unable to face common things. However, for the sake of posterity, who may perhaps not see the position with the same eyes, we must do our best.

On Thursday, of course, that happened which ministers had intended should happen, when the Lord Chancellor adjourned the debate on the previous Tuesday. Lord Granville was prepared with an announcement which was enough to stay proceedings, though it was probably rather because the Lords themselves were glad to catch at any excuse for doing so than from the intrinsic weight of the communications addressed to them by Government. The House, of course, was very full—the Peers are never "crowded"—the Ladies' Gallery appeared in more than all its usual brightness; and they were rewarded with just what they like, "a really fast thing," as they say in hunting, a rattling thirty minutes, though without a kill, the fox being lost over some cold swampy ground, called understandings. But while it lasted it was capital. Lord Derby began by reading out a letter from Sir Stafford Northcote, in which the right hon. baronet declared that he and his brother commissioners had always relied on the words of the Treaty itself, and not at all on anything outside of it to cover the withdrawal of the indirect claims. Lord Granville then got up and read out another letter from General Schenck, enclosing a telegram from Mr. Fish, to the effect that the United States would consider the new rule proposed in the Supplementary Treaty as a consideration for and final settlement of the "indirect claims." When he had done Lord Hatfield got off the woolsack and came down upon the floor to have his innings. But Lord Derby rose to order, and said that in his opinion, after the communication now made to the House, the debate ought not to be proceeded with. While Lord Grey was saying the same thing, Lord Russell, who had been absent, came into the House, and the American letter having been handed to him, he and Lord Cairns proceeded to study it together. While their heads were bent over the document, Lord Salisbury made a few remarks, and then Earl Russell rose to withdraw his motion, saying that the Indirect Claims were withdrawn, an assertion which produced loud cries of "No!" and even Lord Granville was obliged to explain that they could not be said to be withdrawn as long as the conditions on which the withdrawal depended were unsettled. Then a discussion arose as to whether the motion should be withdrawn or the debate adjourned; and the Opposition leader assenting to the former course, agreeably to the wishes of Government, drew from Lord Granville the very unnecessary laud that they only did so because they were afraid of Lord Hatfield, whose turn it was to speak. Ultimately their lordships broke up at twenty minutes to six.

The Licensing Bill was recommitted in the House of Lords

on Friday, and the Report was eventually agreed to without any material alteration. The debate, however, was remarkable for a speech delivered by Earl Grey, in which he described to the House a system in operation at Gothenburg in Sweden, recommending its introduction into this country. The wise men of Gothenburg, for doubtless that is where the wise men of Gotham came from, have given the monopoly of the beer, wine, and spirit trade to the mayor and corporation, who are forbidden to make a profit on the sale of these articles, but are allowed to sell tea and coffee, &c., for their own emolument; so that a direct inducement is held out to them to promote the consumption of non-intoxicating liquors. Lord Kimberley thought the system would not work in this country; and seeing that in most large towns every other mayor and every other common councilman is either a brewer or wine merchant, or has a relation a brewer or wine merchant, we are of much the same opinion.

On Monday the Lords took the Ballot Bill into consideration, and a more melancholy spectacle it is hardly possible to imagine than was afforded by the whole debate. Lord Salisbury, however, was the only speech worth listening to, for the simple reason that he addressed himself to the only point about which there were two opinions among his hearers—that is to say, whether the House of Lords should vote for the second reading or not. Everybody knew, he said, there was not a single member of their Lordships' House who approved of the Bill itself. As for resisting the will of the House of Commons, he contended that this was only improper when it represented the will of the nation, which it did not always do, and that whenever there was a suspicion that such was not the case it was the duty of the House of Lords to stand between the nation and its pseudo-representatives. He didn't believe the Commons represented the nation on this question, and reluctant as he was to differ from his noble friend, the Duke of Richmond, he must vote against the second reading, as he had survived the fond hallucination of supposing that their lordships' amendments would effect the same object; and even if they did, said the Marquis, you quarrel with the House of Commons as much by one method as the other. The dreadful truth of these remarks, and the heartless allusion to the fate of those hopeful amendments which have on so many occasions been begotten by the Conservative Peers, and as often been knocked upon the head before the eyes of their miserable parents, must have stung his neighbours to the quick. On a division fifty-six Peers voted with Lord Grey's amendment against the second reading, and eighty-six with the Government. The Duke of Richmond, with a large number of Conservative and Whig Peers, abstained from voting.

On Tuesday the American question came up again; and people begin to fancy they see the beginning of the end. The whole business, however, is still wrapped up in such a fog that our readers must excuse us if we do not make it perfectly clear to them. First and foremost, at all events, this fact stands out, that the Supplementary Treaty is a failure, and that we cannot go to arbitration upon any common agreement on the 15th of June, which is to-day. The second point which stands out clearly is this, that England has applied for an adjournment of the Treaty for eight months, and that America says we may settle that point with the Arbitrators as we can—it is nothing to her—if we can effect such an arrangement she won't interfere with it. She does not care enough about it to say either yes or no. Cool this, it must be admitted, on the part of America. And what a come down after the previous Tuesday, when Lord Granville—"a smile of satisfaction on his face"—read out General Schenck's letter, and everybody pretended to believe that they were out of the wood at last! After a gloomy discussion their lordships adjourned at a quarter to seven, some of them we should think with but small appetite for dinner.

In the House of Commons the discussions on the Alabama question have been only an echo of the House of Lords. In both Houses it was said equally that it would be a pretty joke to have the "Indirect Claims" and the "Punic faith" of Great Britain turned into an electioneering cry at the Presidential election in the autumn. In each it was said that the matter could be settled just as well in eight weeks as in eight months; and in each it was said that Government had named the latter period because both Congress and the House of Commons would then be sitting again. Government, however, has not hitherto shown itself so very fond of the House of Commons—in fact, that cock won't fight, and they must find another that will, with rather more game and a little less dunghill in his nature, if they are to beat Mr. Torrens's motion, of which notice was given last Wednesday. Meantime Mr. Gladstone has had to take his usual amount of punishment from Mr. Bouvier and Mr. Bernal Osborne. Mr. Gladstone, in making his statement on Tuesday, "neglected," as the *Times* euphemistically puts it, neglected to make any mention of Lord Granville's application for an adjournment of eight months; thereupon, of course, Mr. Osborne, who had read it in the *Daily News*, became admirably excited, and really did look as if he thought Mr. Gladstone should be hanged. Mr. Bouvier—and more power to his elbow—those who have seen him will understand what we mean—planted a few hits in the Premier's ribs; and Mr. Disraeli, who was vociferously cheered, went so far as to say that he "joined issue with the policy of the right hon. gentleman," which he believed would end in "disaster and disgrace to England." This is horrible. But let us hope that it is not quite so bad as all this. Mr. C. Bentinck, who with the brother Batavian that sits next him, is as dangerous to friends as foes, and fully illustrates one half of what Canning said about the Dutch, for he is always "asking too much of all parties," said that with regard to this Treaty Mr. Disraeli was as much to blame as Mr. Gladstone—a novel and mysterious assertion, but not more remarkable for obscurity than many other of the hon. member's observations.

On Thursday, Friday, and Tuesday, the Scotch Education Bill was carried forward as far as the 52nd clause, and all Mr. Gordon's efforts to decussate the measure were in turn defeated. On Friday Mr. Hawkins made himself very useful by calling attention to the system of navigation which prevails in Her Majesty's vessels, and to which he attributes the decay of the art, and many of the accidents which have recently occurred. He would make every captain his own sailing master. Mr. Goschen rather thought not, and so the matter dropped.

On Monday, in supply, Mr. Rylands renewed his attack upon the Secret Service money. He "failed to see what necessity there was for it." The House, however, failed to see the necessity of supplying Mr. Rylands with an intellect, and beat him without debate by a majority of five to one.

On Wednesday two very useful bills were read a second time, one for the protection of Wild Fowl, and another for the protection of agricultural children, prohibiting the employment in farm work of any child under eight years of age. This bill, brought in by two large tenant farmers, Mr. Reed and Mr. Pell, does them infinite credit.

SCRAPS

THE new Welsh University at Aberystwith will begin work in a fortnight.

TWENTY pictures a day are said to be bought at the Paris Salon by Americans.

THE well-known Poultry Chapel is to be pulled down and replaced by warehouses.

THE *Chicago Tribune* has discovered that excellent brandy can be extracted from pine sawdust.

THE Bethnal Green Museum will be opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales on the 24th inst.

A GREAT grandson of Tippoo Sahib has been called to the bar. He intends practising in the Indian courts.

THE Paris Academy have awarded the Gobert Prize to M. Gaston Paris, author of the "Vie de Saint Alexis."

A NEW bagle call, "stand fast," which differs from "cease firing," in that the gunners are not to empty their guns, has been instituted.

AN International Exhibition of Oil Paintings, under the patronage of the Princess Imperial of Prussia, will be held in Berlin next year.

ON Wednesday the honorary degree of D.C.L. was conferred on Prince Hassan, of Christ Church, Oxford, son of the Khédive of Egypt.

THE diameter of the big drum for the forthcoming Boston Festival is twelve feet. It is six feet high, and the shell is made of bird's-eye maple.

JOAQUIN MILLER is writing a new poem. The scene is laid in South America, and the story connected with the strange legends of the Amazon.

AN Arab Encyclopedia, under the title of "Dictionary of Conversation," is to be published at Beyrout, and will contain geographical and biographical articles.

EIGHTEEN years ago last Monday the Crystal Palace was opened by the Queen and Prince Consort. Between that time and Saturday it has received 30,976,929 visitors.

SINCE the Duc d'Aumale's energetic peroration about the tri-coloured flag, the Paris booksellers have ornamented the biographies of the Orleansist Princes with the "Flag of Concord."

THE Albert gold medal of the Society of Arts has been awarded to Mr. Henry Bessemer "for eminent services rendered to arts, manufactures, and commerce, in developing the manufacture of steel."

A BERLIN Academy of Modern Philology, in which modern tongues and literature are to be taught as carefully and exhaustively as classics in our universities, is being organised, and will open in October.

LONDON mortality last week was 1,289, being 93 below the average. Small-pox declined to 27. Among the deaths was an old woman at Wallbrook, aged 104 years. The mean temperature was 52.6 deg., or 4.6 deg. below the average.

SOUTH SHIELDS is to be supplied with sea-water, and a large reservoir at the north-west end of the town will shortly be finished. Besides supplying the public baths, the Corporation propose to lay on the water to private residences, and thus enable families to enjoy the luxury of unlimited sea-bathing in their own homes.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Edinburgh Courier* thus sums up the appearance of the House on a dull day. Exclusive of the Speaker and the orator, the members were occupied as follows:—Conversing, 21; reading, 12; sleeping, 9; staring into the future, 22; listening to the hon. member, 3; and walking from their seats, 2.

At a recent old china sale a Chelsea vase, 17 in. high, gros bleu ground, painted with subjects of the death of Adonis and the birth of Bacchus, produced 1,460l.; a suite of five others, painted with subjects from the poets and scenes on the Thames, 600l.; and a Worcester jug, 12 in. high, painted with exotic birds and butterflies, 101l.; the day's sale realising 3,323l.

ON Tuesday evening a dinner was given in the Queensland annexe of the International Exhibition, the bill of fare for which consisted of a selection of the preserved meats and wines of that colony. These were fair samples of the ordinary exports, and deserve to be better known for their excellence and cheapness. Better or more palatable animal food could scarcely be desired, and this can be retailed at nearly one-third the cost of ordinary butchers' meat.

THE Canadian Government, in turning its attention to emigration, and foreseeing that the projected Pacific Railway will open an immense field for labourers, offers an advance by warrant of ten dollars to each suitable adult emigrant. This liberal donation will bring the price of passages for emigrants to the low rate of 4l. 5s. for adults, 2l. 2s. 6d. for children, and 14s. 2d. for infants, including a good supply of provisions. The Dominion Government is also offering to settlers free grants of 160 acres of prairie lands in the new province of Manitoba. Intending emigrants should apply to the agent of the Canadian Government, Mr. William Dixon, Adam Street, Adelphi.

THE following extract from a letter from A. L. Clay, Esq., B.C.S., Chittagong, refers to the engraving of the Hairy Rhinoceros, which appeared in No. 118, published on the 2nd March last:—"We have lost five ladies lately, not counting Miss 'Begum,' the hairy rhinoceros. This lady was an old acquaintance of mine when I chummed with Hood in 1868. She used to inhabit a stockade in his compound; and after he left for Assam she was left in charge of a native servant, and her head-quarters were about a couple of hundred yards from the foot of my hill. I made her over to Mr. Jamrach, wild-beast speculator, who paid 3,000 rs. for her to Hood, and took her off in the steamer. The paragraph in the GRAPHIC relating to the animal, gives credit to Mr. Jamrach for catching her, with which operation it is needless to say he had nothing to do. The beast was found stuck in a quick sand, in 1867 or 1868, and brought up to the station with the help of elephants, by Hood and a man named Wickes, the executive engineer. The old 'Begum's' head must be turned by the sensation she created at home. We were so much accustomed to her out here, that she was not thought much of; two or three natives might be seen standing looking at her, but her audience was generally limited to this."