

AN OLD SAILOR AND HIS BIBLE.—At a late meeting held in connection with Sunday schools, the company were much interested by the presence of an old sailor, who is doubtless one of the oldest Sunday scholars in England. He produced a Bible on the occasion, the fly-leaf of which contained a narrative, of which the following is a copy:—

"This Bible was presented to me by Mr. Raikes, at the town of Hertford, January 1, 1781, as a reward for my punctual attendance at the Sunday School, and good behaviour when there. After being my companion fifty-three years, forty one of which I spent in the sea service—during which time I was in forty-five engagements, received thirteen wounds, was three times ship-wrecked, once burnt out, twice capsized in a boat, and had fevers of different sorts fifteen times—this Bible was my consolation; and was newly bound for me by James Bishop, of Edinburgh, on the 26th day of October, 1834, the day I completed the 60th year of my age.

"As witness my hand, JAMES BEACH NORTH." "N. B. During the whole time but one leaf is lost, the last of Ezra and the beginning of Nehemiah." "I gave it to my son James Beach, on the 1st of January, 1841, aged 4 years; after being in my possession 60 years, and being enabled, by the grace of God, to read at that age. And may the Lord bless it to him, and make him wise unto salvation!

"J. B. North." Mr. North was a master in the navy, and it is believed now lives on his half pay.—Liverpool paper.

Visit to the Victory, Nelson's Ship.—Capt. Basil Hall left us no time for dawdling. He has been a lion-hunter, and understands the art of lion-showing, and what I think rather the nicest part of that art, what not to show. Off we set towards the sallyport. We were to go first to the Victory, which is now kept here, "a kind of toy," as one of our seamen of the St. James said, but which, in fact is something more than that,—a receiving and drilling ship. We found a boat awaiting us, put (of course by Captain Hall's intervention) at our disposal by the commander of the Victory. It was manned by a dozen youngsters in the Victory's uniform, a white knit woollen blouse, with the word Victory in Maria-Louise blue on the breast. They were stout, ruddy lads. The Victory, you know, is the ship in which Nelson won the battle of Trafalgar, and died in winning it. Captain H. led us to the quarterdeck, and showed us a brass plate inserted in the floor, inscribed with these words, "Here Nelson fell!" This was a thrilling sight to those of us who remembered when Nelson was held as the type of all gallantry, fighting against the world. R. was obliged to turn away till he could command his emotions, and I thought of the time when we were all children at home, and I saw him running breathless up the lane, tossing his hat into the air, and shouting, "Nelson! Victory!" Truly, "the child is father to the man." We were received very courteously by the commander, Captain S., who invited us into an apartment which, save that the ceiling was a little lower, had the aspect of a shore drawing room: there were sofas, showbooks, flowers, piano, and a prettier garniture than these, a young bride, reminding us, with her pale, delicate face and French millinery, of our fair young countrywomen, quite un-English. The Victory is Captain S.'s home, and the lady was his daughter. We then went into the cockpit, and groped our way to the dark, narrow state-room (a midshipman's) where Nelson was carried after he was shot down. Captain H. pointed to the beam where his head lay when he died. There a heroic spirit had passed away, and left a halo in this dark dismal place. Place and circumstance are never less important to a man than when he is dying, and yet it was a striking contrast (and the world is full of such), the man dying in this wretched, dark, stifling hole, when his name was resounding through all the palaces of Europe, and making our young hearts leap in the New World. Shall I tell you what remembrance touched me most as I stood there? Not his gallant deeds, for they are written in blood, and many a vulgar spirit has achieved such: but the exquisite tenderness gleaming forth in his last words, "Kiss me, Hardy!" These touched the chord of universal humanity.—Miss Sedgwick, the American Authoress.

SOAP.—I have always taken pleasure in superintending some of the chemical operations of the kitchen; by this means I have acquired some practice, in addition to my theoretical knowledge of the art of making common soap. I shall give below, the result of my experience in making this detergent article:

The bottom of the hopper, or barrel intended for the ashes, should be covered with hay or straw; the ashes then to be thrown in, and pressed down as the hopper is filled. Leave room for a bucket full of water. If quick lime can be conveniently had, put in a gallon or more with the ashes; it is not important where, whether at the bottom or in the middle, or at the top of the barrel; or whether intermixed throughout the ashes. Boiling water is now to be poured on the ashes until the ley passes out at the bottom. Cold water may then be used. Rain water in both cases is preferable to hard water. Four buckets full of strong ley, with the requisite proportion of fat, will make half a barrel of prime soap. When ley is put into the kettle, throw in the fat without measure, the surplus is easily removed after the ley has "eaten" its share. If the process be rightly conducted, the combination will take place, and soap will be formed within half an hour's boiling. Now skim off the superabundant fat; and if brittle soap be desired, add to the hot soap 1-8 of its bulk of warm water, or more, and stir the mass well. Care should be taken to have both the fat and the ley as free as possible from any earthy matter or dirt. If these directions are pursued, and the precautions observed, soap will "come" in spite of all the witches that beset the soap kettle.

The above process is intended for the soft soap, or soap of potash. If the hard soap or soap of soda be required, it is only necessary to add common salt, and a sufficient quantity, to the newly formed soft soap; and to boil the mass until it becomes hard on cooling, and this may be easily ascertained by taking a little of it in the ladle, and setting it in cold water. When this change takes place, remove the contents of the kettle from the fire. It is sometimes necessary for the preparation to stand several days, that the soap may become sufficiently solidified. If after a large quantity of salt is added, there appears to be no formation of hard soap, throw in some strong ley. Plenty of salt, and plenty of ley to decompose it, will ensure success.—Albany Cultivator.

At this time there are building on the banks of the river Wear, Sunderland, 94 ships, and 35 more, recently launched, lying in the river fitting out and for sale, making a total of 129, many of them of large tonnage.

A Whig candidate in the north of England, during the election, hit upon an ingenious method of corruption. He presented the wives of several electors with silk flags to hang from their windows, each piece of silk being sufficiently large to make a gown!

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS—TUESDAY, AUGUST 24.

At two o'clock the Lord Chancellor entered; and prayers having been read by the Bishop of Worcester, the Lords Commissioners—viz: the Lord Chancellor, Viscount Melbourne, the Marquis of Normanby, Viscount Duncannon, and the Earl of Clarendon—took their seats in front of the throne.

The Usher of the Black Rod was then directed to summon the members of the House of Commons to the bar of their lordship's house to hear the Royal Speech on the opening of Parliament.

Shortly after, the Speaker, attended by a large number of the members of the House of Commons, appeared at the bar, when the Lord Chancellor read the Speech, which was given in our last.

The House adjourned at four o'clock. At a few minutes past five, the Lord Chancellor took his place, and again read the Royal Speech.

Earl SPENCER rose to move the Address. His lordship, in reviewing our foreign relations, expressed his approbation of the policy that had been pursued, though at one time he feared that the rupture with France was imprudent, and might be attended with fatal consequences. He expressed his satisfaction at our being again connected with France in a great political union, for as long as England and France were united, there was little dread of war; and he had always looked upon war, not only as a great calamity, but as a great crime.

His lordship had no doubt, however, that if Britain should be forced into a war, she could carry it on better than at any former period. Her wealth had increased in a greater proportion than her debt. But in order that the wealth of the country might tell as it ought on the prosperity of the people, it was necessary that we should take into consideration the mode in which taxes were imposed. Adverting to the recommendations in the Speech from the Throne, to apply the true principles of trade in such a way as to promote the true interests of the nation, his lordship proceeded to examine successively the various parts of the Budget. He had himself first proposed, about ten years ago, the alteration of the timber duties. He next alluded to the sugar duties, and contended that the proposed alteration in them would not interfere with the noble measure for the abolition of slavery. The next point to which Her Majesty's Ministers had directed the attention of the late parliament, related to the importation of corn. Upon this subject there had been much misrepresentation employed. They had been told by one party, that the proposed alteration in the Corn laws would throw a considerable portion of land in this country out of cultivation. Now he did not, for many reasons, think that was possible; but, if any land were thrown out of cultivation, it would only be that of inferior quality. He had no hesitation in saying, that were the proposed alteration to have the effect of throwing a considerable portion of the best land out of cultivation, it would be most calamitous to the country. (Hear, hear.) He did not believe that by the abolition of the Corn laws the price of corn would be materially altered, and the price of corn in other countries would be in a great measure regulated by its price in England. The price of corn in this country depended upon the amount of the expenses of cultivation, and, during a course of years, it seldom fell below what was required in order to cultivate lands of inferior quality. Those persons who talked about land being thrown out of cultivation, seemed to overlook the fact that the worst quality of land would be first thrown out, and that lands of superior quality would still continue to be cultivated. Before they came to throw good land out of cultivation, a considerable reduction of price must occur. Taking all these matters into consideration, it was, in his opinion, utterly impossible that the price of corn in this country would be materially diminished. It might be diminished in a small degree, but it would be very trifling indeed, even by an entire repeal of the Corn-laws. Reference was sometimes made to the price of wheat in the Channel Islands; but, taking all the circumstances of the case into consideration, he did not believe it possible that any large quantity of corn could be introduced into this country so as materially to affect the present rate of prices. It might be urged by those who advocated the present system of Corn-laws, that no good would result from the change, as the price of corn would not be affected. It might be said, "Why alter the Corn laws, if the price is not at the same time to be altered?" Admitting, as he did, that no material reduction in the price of corn would follow the adoption of the change proposed, still advantages, and great advantages, would accrue, not only to the landed proprietor, but to the manufacturing interest, as well as all other classes of the community, from that alteration. It would have the effect of giving a great impetus to the manufacturing interests of the country; it would open the foreign market to the English manufacturer, and thus entirely prevent the possibility of the foreign ever competing with the English manufacturer. The natural effect of the present restrictive system was to impede the employment of capital. As long as the manufacturing interest found that the foreign markets were closed to them, so long would their energies be cramped and their speculations confined within narrow limits; but once open a new market for the reception of English manufactured goods, and then the English capitalist would find employment for his money. That great distress prevailed at this moment amongst the masses there could be no doubt; and it was his fervent hope and trust, that the time was not far distant when the measures which he had been advocating, and which he firmly believed would tend greatly to alleviate the distress of the people, would become the law of the land. (Cheers.) The noble Earl then read an Address to Her Majesty, in answer to Her Majesty's most gracious Speech. [The address was, as is usual, a mere echo of the Speech.]

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE seconded the address. In the course of his Speech he contended that the present corn-laws afforded no sufficient protection to the British farmer, inasmuch as out of the 13,000,000 quarters of corn which had been imported into this country during the time the present Corn-laws had been in existence, 10,000,000 had been admitted on payment of a duty of 2s. 10d. the quarter. In his opinion the present government could not better close their official career, than in attempting to get rid of a tax which was not only unnecessary and unproductive, but most galling in its operation; and in its place to substitute a measure which, as one of revenue, would be productive to the public exchequer, and in no respect oppressive to the public.

The Earl of RIPON, after a brief allusion to foreign affairs, and particularly to the policy that had been pursued in India, which he thought of a very questionable kind, said he would consider what was, in fact, the great question of the day, the financial crisis which had led to the introduction of the late budget. He contended that

for some years past the business of the exchequer had been grossly mismanaged. Many of their lordships would do him the honor to recollect that, for the last few years, he had called the attention of the house to the state of the revenue, and had shown that, for the last five years, the expenditure had exceeded the income; and that, for four years of that time, the government had continued to fill up that deficiency in a most objectionable manner. In the case of a single and sudden emergency the course they had adopted might not have been so objectionable, but their objectionable course was continued through a series of years, and without the sanction of parliament; in fact, it was not publicly known till last year, when it appeared in some papers which were laid before the house. The course to which he objected was the tampering with the savings' banks, and changing them for exchequer bills, which they added to the funded debt. He would admit that they had a right to do so to some extent; but to prop up a falling revenue by the application of the savings' banks, and that without the knowledge of parliament, was, he must contend, most unconstitutional. What did those savings' bank funds consist of? They were the savings of years of vast numbers of poor and industrious individuals, who deposited them with the government for greater security. But if government used them to prop a falling revenue, must it not weaken the confidence of the people in that security, and deter them from vesting them so in the future? In every point of view, this application of the savings' banks was most objectionable. The other part of the financial operations of the Government which he considered most objectionable, was that of reducing the balance in the exchequer to a very low sum. This, he would admit, might be resorted to in a case of great exigency, but when resorted to in such a case as that of propping up a deficient revenue, it was an experiment of great danger, for a great and pressing emergency might arise when no balance might be found, and then ministers would have to return "no assets." It appeared also, that in the last ten years there had been an addition to the funded debt of the country of upwards of £1,000,000 per annum, and no provision whatever made for it. For the last four years they had been going on adding to the deficiency, and by this, added to the revenue lost by the hasty adoption of the Post Office Bill, they had £2,500,000, for which parliament had to provide. He (the Earl of Ripon) therefore considered himself justified in now calling the attention of their lordships to the continued mismanagement of the revenue, as a ground of want of confidence in the government. (Hear, hear.) His Lordship concluded by moving an amendment to that effect.

LORD MELBOURNE replied to Lord Ripon, and was followed by—

The Duke of WELLINGTON, who alluded to Lord Melbourne's surprise at the amendment. It was not, the noble viscount stated, much the habit of that house to give opinions on abstract questions of policy or government. "That is perfectly true. I have considered it my duty to endeavour to prevail on the members of your lordships' house not to make motions which would induce the declaration of opinions on questions of policy when addresses to the Crown were moved by the government, or when legislative measures were introduced to your notice. On more than one occasion I have prevailed on your lordships not to vote such measures, and on others I have gone so far as even to support the government with regard to them, however much I might disapprove of parts of the conduct of that government. But, my Lords, here comes before you a question of great importance, not only in principle but in detail, and it has been introduced in the unusual manner of a Speech from the Throne. On this a noble lord moves an amendment, and in so doing shows that financial mismanagement was the cause of the evil to be remedied, that it could not be that parliament could give its confidence to the men who repealed large sums in taxes, and reduced the revenue two millions and a half while increasing the standing debt. This was a ground of distrust." In May and June last a dissolution of Parliament was intimated. He (the duke) thought the proposition ill-timed, as the country was agitated on the subject of laws which had been alluded to in the debate. Now it was a ground of want of confidence, that the noble viscount had put into her Majesty's mouth the words, "that the trade and industry of the country, and the amount of the burdens on the community, were materially involved in the question of these laws;" and that her Majesty "had no other view in dissolving her parliament but the desire of securing the rights and promoting the interests of her subjects." "I have reason to know (said the noble duke) that her Majesty herself entertains the opinion that the noble viscount did render her the greatest possible service in making her acquainted with the laws, policy, and customs connected with the government of this country as one of her Majesty's servants, and in giving her Majesty assistance towards making herself acquainted with the laws, policy and system of government of this country, over which she was by right destined to preside—and God long protect her in it. (Cheers.) But I feel that the noble viscount ought not to have embarked her Majesty in the speech which he advised her to utter in the month of June; and still less in that speech which was delivered from the throne this day. Now, on the subject of the timber duties, the claims of late purchasers from the North American colonies have been overlooked; in the sugar question, treaties with the Brazils and treaties concerning the slave-trade had been neglected, and all the means of successful negotiation were to be thrown away upon a mere measure of finance. With respect to the Corn-laws, whatever my opinions upon that subject may be, I will not argue them now, but I shall be ready to enter upon the discussion of the subject whenever it shall be brought forward by the government which has the confidence of her Majesty and of parliament.

LORD MELBOURNE explained.—The speech was that of her Majesty's Ministers, and did not in any way, as the noble duke said it would, commit the Sovereign to its sentiments. (Hear, hear.) He had been taunted with a conversion wrought by the report of a committee of the other house of parliament. "Now there is nothing I should feel more indignant at than that I should be supposed to have learned anything from that report." (Hear, hear.) and a laugh.

The Duke of RICHMOND regretted the necessity he was under of joining in a vote of want of confidence, but the corn law was a most tender point. He called upon the house to recollect the debt of gratitude due to the farmers of England: for many years, but especially during the last twenty years, they had devoted their time, their talents, and their capital to the improvement of the soil, and the moment when this had been accomplished, and when they were under leases from which they could not relieve themselves, the government to turn round upon them and to compel them to compete with the serfs of Poland. "What (exclaimed the noble duke) are the landlords to do under such circumstances? If they are honest men they must reduce their rents. (Much cheering from all sides.) I have no hesitation in saying that if, unfortunately, a bill of this sort passes through parliament, I will be the man to move that every tenant, if he think fit, may have the power to throw up his lease. (Loud and general cheers.) No similar declaration would be heard from the free traders and their friends—the farmers were to be ruined—and they were to be driven from the land which they loved, and to which they had lived from youth to age, together with their unfortunate labourers, were to be driven into the workhouse." (Cheers.) He felt most strongly upon the question. It had been said in office would themselves soon turn round upon the land interest and refuse it protection. If they did, he knew what course the landed interest would take. They would turn out the new government as they turned out the old. (Much cheering and laughter.)

The Marquis of Lansdowne denied that an unconstitutional use had been made of the Queen's name. He said—with government stated either that her Majesty was favourable to a repeal of the corn laws, or that she entertained different views from those entertained by her Ministers; but in all the speeches put into her Majesty's mouth, it had been the object of Ministers studiously to commit her Majesty to nothing in point of opinion on this question beyond

this, in which he believed every noble Lord would concur, namely, the importance and necessity of considering and inquiring into the subject."

Lord Brougham spoke to the effect that Ministers had committed an error in judgment in advising a dissolution, that their measures were good in themselves, but bad as means of finance, on which ground they were introduced; and that the elections did pronounce on the men who composed the ministry and their general policy—but not on the particular measures more immediately under discussion. His Lordship thought that Ministers should have resigned before the meeting of the House, and not have undertaken the delicate task of framing a Royal speech, while situated as they were. Respecting the elections, Lord Brougham observed:—

That they had been conducted with bribery and intimidation and actual outrage to an unprecedented extent; unless inquiries are instituted both parties in Parliament must be content to share the imputation of screening the guilty. Their Lordships had peculiar means of inquiry; if they were to inquire, with a view of course to legislation, not punishment, the character of the House would be greatly raised in the estimation of the country.

The amendment was finally carried, 166 to 96.

FRIDAY.

ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS.—The Earl of ERROL came to the table and read her Majesty's most gracious answer to their lordships' Address as follows:—"It gives me great satisfaction to find that the House of Lords is deeply sensible of the importance of those circumstances to which I drew their attention with reference to the commerce and revenue of the country, especially with regard to the laws relating to the trade in corn; and that in deciding on the course which their lordships may think it advantageous to pursue, they are actuated by a desire to promote the interests and welfare of my people. I am always desirous of attending to the advice of my parliament, and I will, therefore, take into my immediate consideration the other important matters contained in that Address."

On the motion of the LORD CHANCELLOR, her Majesty's most gracious answer was ordered to be entered on the journals of the House, and to be printed—Adjourned.

SPIRIT OF THE LONDON JOURNALS.

(From the Times.)

We rejoice that we may at last congratulate the country upon the final transference of power from the hands by which it has been so long unworthily wielded, into those of an administration which promises to be as durable as the staunchest conservative can desire. It must be admitted, by all whose judgment is not utterly warped by faction, that it would be difficult to imagine a government which should combine in its personal composition more of the elements of stability than that of Sir Robert Peel. Whether we look to the experience, the ability, the influence, or the character of its members, we find in each a certain guarantee of success. The Duke of Wellington gives to it not only the lustre of his great name—a name which, like that of royalty, is a tower of strength—but the weight of a judgment which, upon all matters relating to foreign policy, and the internal and external defences of the nation, is looked up to even by his political opponents as little less than oracular. The new premier and the new colonial secretary are men who far surpass in eloquence and intellectual power all their competitors in the House of Commons; and, in the House of Lords, there is no man who can be compared in these respects to Lord Lyndhurst (now for the third time chancellor), except one whose mercurial and erratic genius has long disqualified him for co-operation with any political party. The acceptance of office by noblemen in whom the agricultural interest places unbounded confidence is a complete answer to the insinuation, of which we have lately heard so much—that the champions of that interest are unwilling to assist in such a modification of the present corn-laws as Sir R. Peel has intimated his intention to propose, for the purpose of remedying the abuses and evils connected with the present scale of duties. We never gave them credit for being so unreasonable; and we now see, in their accession to the government, a most satisfactory security for the accomplishment of those necessary changes, without the slightest disturbance of the union existing between all branches of the conservative party.

The separation of the office of chancellor of the exchequer from the premiership is most judicious, and will form a salutary constitutional precedent for the future. Every one who considers what an important department of the public service the chancellor of the exchequer has to preside over, must perceive the fitness of this arrangement. No one would wish to see Sir Robert Peel transformed into a mere finance minister; and that there should be a finance minister, devoting his whole time and attention to the management of the public revenue, is indispensable under the present circumstances of the country. The surprising thing is, not that Sir Robert Peel should now commit the care of the exchequer to Mr. Goulburn, but that Mr. Canning, Mr. Perceval, and Mr. Pitt, when placed in a similar position, should have formerly taken it upon themselves. For our own part, we think there is always a strong presumption against the accumulation of more offices than one in the hands of the same individual.

It would be idle to hope that any Irish appointments of Sir Robert Peel will be acceptable to Mr. O'Connell; but we cannot imagine any more unexceptionable than those which he has made. It has been intimated in some quarters that the repeal faction will represent any change in the distribution of patronage in Ireland (especially if a smaller proportion of the leases and fisheries should fall to the share of the Roman Catholics under a conservative than under a whig government) as a grievance. There is one way, and only one, in which the influential Roman Catholics of Ireland may remedy, or rather prevent, this anticipated grievance—by mean by welcoming their viceroys, by placing confidence in his government, and supporting him in the impartial administration of the laws. On the other hand, it is in their power, by pursuing a contrary line of action, to compel him to adopt the very course which they affect to deprecate; for no minister can afford to bestow the patronage at his disposal upon bitter and avowed opponents, even though they may happen to profess the Roman Catholic religion.

If, as we fully expect, the government, thus constituted, remains true to its principles; if it is conducted with moderation and justice, and with a constant and practically influential regard for the religious as well as the temporal interests committed to the care of the wearer of the British crown; if it discharges with fidelity and prudence the championship of the country in church and state, and at the same time endeavours, with a large-minded and liberal view, to accommodate such subordinate institutions as are fluctuating in their nature to the progress of society; if it does its best to give all classes of the queen's subjects the benefit of equal laws, and equal access to them; if it represses all criminal and lawless tendencies in the higher classes as resolutely as in the lower; if it recues England from the reproach of having converted her poor-law from a national offering at the shrine of charity into a system of penal discipline; if it encourages, with an equal hand, commerce, manufactures, and agriculture, and does all that a wise and honest government can effect to promote prosperity at home and peace abroad—if it does these things (as it has the power, and we are convinced, the determination to do them), it will stand, and gain strength, and absorb into the ranks of its supporters even that inconsiderable portion of the respectability of the country which as yet stands aloof from it. Acting upon such principles, it may dispense any effort which can be made in any quarter to excite a war of class-interests, or to claim for any part of the population, of any part of the empire, an ascendancy which may be dangerous to the liberties of the rest, or subversive of our civil or ecclesiastical institutions. Acting upon such principles, it may calmly rely upon the justice and common sense of the nation to annihilate the pretensions of the democratic movement party, supported though that party may be by the talent and energy of such a leader as Mr. Roebuck, and by the tact of which symptoms are now for the first time making their appearance in the same quarter.