not enfeebled, and giant minds laid low? How many lawful pursuits and healthful occupations has it not checked, or caused altogether to cease? How many social bonds has it not burst, and endearing ties rent asunder? How many relationships has it not severed, and unlawful companionships formed? How many illegal claims has it not set up, and lawful rights denied? How many amiable qualities has it not extinguished, dark passions kindled, and foul deeds brought to light? How many horrid oaths, profane songs, and unhallowed sentiments has it not given vent to? How many atrocities, rapines, and murders has it not caused? How many comfortless homes, cheerless firesides, and wretched habitations has it not occasioned? How many widows and orphans, lunatics and paupers, has it not thrown a burden on the sober and the industrious? How many gaols has it not filled, prisons crowded, and graves tenanted? How many lands has it not rendered worse than fruitless, villages depopulated, and cities laid waste? How many churches has it not robbed of some of their brightest ornaments, parents of their fondest hopes, and nations of their richest treasures? Time would fail me to tell of all that Intemperance has done, and ever will do, where it is not put down and banished. Enough has been said, to shew that it is an evil, a great and a wide-spread evil,—entering almost every family, and visiting almost every nation under heaven,—an evil that, trumpet-tongued, calls upon man to use every lawful means in his power to remove it. What, let us ask, is it that causes this evil? Intoxicating drink! a poisonous beverage, destructive to human life and happiness, which has been produced from wholesome food, which God gave man to sustain his life and promote his happiness; a deadly draught, that impoverishes a country, drains the resources of a nation, paralyzes the industry of man, checks the virtuous efforts of the good, destroys morals, retards the spread of religion, weakens parental instruction, undermines the human constitution, and encourages every vicious indulgence and demoralizing habit; a soul and body destroying fluid, which would have long since been dashed from the lips of man and been with one voice condemned, did not custom, which is second nature, support it, the carnal appetite of man crave it, selfish regard for one's worldly interest approve of it, and the love of money commend it. Is it right for us, or for any body of people who know any thing at all of the amount of evil which intoxicating drink produces, to continue the use of that which, in nine cases out of ten, has been found to produce the most sad and distressing consequences? Does the health of a sound body require it? Does the stability of the social fabric cry out for it? Does the real interest of families demand it? Does the welfare of the community depend upon it? Does the strength of nations rest on it? Does the vigor of a man's intellectual powers need it? or does the safety of the soul say, "give me strong drink"? If man, then, does not need its use, to invigorate his body in a state of health, or to save his immortal soul in a time of danger, what ought a community to do where the evil of such a custom exists as the almost indiscriminate use of ardent spirits,—ought it not use those remedies which lie in its power for its suppression? Various means have been tried in our community. Temperance and Total Abstinence Societies have been formed; the Order of the Sons of Temperance has been organized; Temperance Tracts and publications have been, to some extent at least, circulated; Temperance lectures and addresses have been delivered; Temperance petitions have been signed, and sent into the House of Assembly; and yet intemperance still prevails, and the fatal use of ardent spirits is still continued. Some advocate the *right* of the Legislature to interfere, and put a stop to the Liquor Traffic; some declare that a Government has the *power*, and therefore ought to use it, to correct so great and extensive an evil as Intemperance, which is produced by the use of ardent spirits; some assert that it is the *sound policy* of those who are entrusted with power, to protect the innocent from the violence of the guilty,—and therefore that they should absolutely prohibit the importation of spirituous liquor, and restrict its distillation for the purpose of the arts, manufactures and medicine;—and in all this they claim a British House of Commons as their precedent. It remains for me, Sir, to recommend the continuation of the adoption of moral means ing a qualified Lecturer into the country, who would point out to the people the evils of Intemperance, and endeavour to induce them to abandon a habit demoralizing and ruinous, as well as destructive to their temporal and eternal interests. This, Mr. Chairman, I do, as in duty bound,—knowing that it is right and praiseworthy, both in the sight of God and man, to do all that lies in one's power to improve the condition of the people, to reform their habits, and to lead them by every moral means, to that throne of grace where, for the sake of Him who shed his blood for them, they will be heard when they supplicate Him who sitteth thereon for that grace and strength which will enable them, resisting every sin and evil, to live here below to the glory of God, and look forward at the last to the obtaining of that crown of glory which fadeth not away. You have agreed that Intemperance is an evil; you have agreed that intoxicating drink is the cause of it; you have agreed that legal and moral remedies ought to be used and continued, to put a stop to it. I now ask you to agree to the adoption of the Resolution, and to aid in carrying it out—for it contemplates sending a competent Lecturer into every bay and creek in the Island, who shall enlighten those that are in ignorance on the subject of Temperance, and evoke a spirit among the thousands in our Isle which will not be easily allayed. With these observations, I have much pleasure, Sir, in moving the adoption of this Resolution.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

House of Assembly, Tuesday, April 5.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

The Bill for appropriating the supplies granted to Her Majesty, this session, was gone through in a Committee of the whole House. The Bill was then reported agreed to without any amendment, and ordered to be engrossed.

CHARLOTTETOWN AND COMMON IMPROVEMENTS BILL.

Hon. Mr. Palmer introduced a Bill relating to Charlottetown and Common, and to authorize the Inhabitants thereof to assess themselves for objects of local improvement within the same, and to repeal certain Acts therein mentioned, which was read the first time.

Hon. Mr. Palmer then moved that the said Bill be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Coles moved, in amendment to the motion, to leave out all after the word "Bill," and insert the following, "be printed and lie over until the next Session."

The House divided on the motion of amendment:

Yeas—Hon. Mr. Coles, Hon. Mr. Jardine, Mr. Laird, Hon. Mr. Warburton, Mr. Davies, and Mr. Campion,—6

Nays—Hon. Mr. Palmer, Hon. Mr. Lord, Mr. M'Neill, Mr. Clark, Mr. Haviland, Hon. Mr. Pope, Mr. Longworth, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Mooney, Mr. Macaulay, and Mr. Montgomery,—11.

So it passed in the negative.

The question being then put on the main motion, it was agreed to by the House, and ordered accordingly.

BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

By Message from the Council, by Mr. Desbrisay, it was communicated to the House that the Council had passed, the Bills intituled, "An Act relating to the appointment of Constables and Fence Viewers for Queen's County," without any amendment.

"An Act to amend the Act regulating the Public wharf at Georgetown and other wharfs."

"An Act to secure Compensation to Tenants in Prince Edward Island, and thereby to promote the improvement of the soil," with certain amendments, to which they desire the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

BANKRUPTCY BILL.

The Bill intituled "An Act to regulate the Bankruptcy and relief of honest but unfortunate Debtors," was read a third time, and passed.

Wednesday, April 6.

Report on the Petition of divers of the Tenants on the Estates of the Earl of Selkirk.

Your Committee to whom was referred the Petition of the Tenantry of Townships Nos. 57, and 58, the Estate of the late Right Honorable Thomas Earl of Selkirk, beg respectfully to report your Committee have examined the duplicate of one of the Leases, or Deeds, accompanying the Petition; and that from the evidence obtained, they believe this document is a correct copy of many of the Leases, or Deeds, under which the tenantry hold their lands. It appears to your Committee, the statements put forward, by Petitioners, as to the expiration of many of the leases, is also correct, and they are of opinion, at this moment, these people are liable, at any time, at the dictation of the landlord, to be ejected from their farms, and that being poor, old, and infirm, worn out with hard labour, in clearing the wilderness, they must be thrown on the bounty of the public for an existence.

Your Committee have been informed by the Hon. the Register, of the terms on which these Townships were obtained from the crown, viz: "Granted in the 9th year of the reign of his late Majesty, George III.—Lot 57, on 31st Dec., Lot, 58, on the 19th August, subject alike to a quit rent of Six shillings sterling per 100 acres, the first payment in each case to become due at the 1st March, falling five years after the date of the grants, as respects the moiety, and ten years after such date as respects the whole," as appears by the Registers letter attached hereto.

Grantees names—of Lot 57, Messrs. Smith—of Lot 58, Joshua Mangel.

Your Committee have to state that no part of the foregoing rents appear to have been paid from *these Lots*, inasmuch, as no return to the Colonial Government, of any amount of Quit Rent being paid in London, as the law allows, appears to have been complied with, in which they conceive this opinion is borne out in a reply to an Address of enquiry from this House on the subject, to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, dated 9th March, 1852, to which his Excellency replies 16th March, stating "There is no record or source of information from which he can obtain the return sought for by the Assembly in the Colony," and a similar reply was received by his Excellency to a similiar question put by him to the Imperial Government, as was made known by his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to this House, and dated Downing Street, 17th Feb., 1853.

Your Committee are therefore of opinion, the Crown Rents, on these Townships are still due, that these arrears have been ceded by the Crown to the Colonial Interests of this Island, in the contract entered into between the Imperial Government and the Colonial Legislature, which is defined in the IX Section of an Act to commute the Crown revenues of Prince Edward Island, &c., &c.

Your Committee; with the foregoing fact before them, have drawn up an account shewing the amounts of arrears of Quit Rent, due from Township Number 57, together with interest thereon to March, 1852, due from that Lot amounting to Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Eigh[illegible] No. 58, is indebted to an equal amount, and as this yearly rent was intended by the Crown to have defrayed the expenses of the Colonial Government, towards which the Grantees mentioned, contributed no part, previous to the year 1832; but, that this burthen was born by the public. It appears to your Committee, the Crown never rescinded any part of the foregoing debt, but on the contrary, held it over the Grantees, to be enforced at any time, as well as a means of protection to enforce a due regard to the interest and welfare of the under-tenants, as a just debt, which power is now ceded to the Colonial Government as a means of protection to be used by them against any unjust measures that may be practised by Grantees, the Tenants of the Crown, to those to whom they may have sub-let it to.

Your Committee therefore recommend an Address be presented to His Excellency, the Lieut. Governor, requesting his Excellency may be pleased to cause the Proprietors of Townships Number 57, and Number 58, to be informed, that if the following conditions towards their tenantry be complied with, the Government will absolve them from the amount of debts due from their Estates for rent, together with the interest thereon. The conditions of this liberation to be as follows, viz.:—To forgive all arrears of rent to the present time, and grant new leases for not less than (900) Nine hundred years, at one shilling currency, per acre, to the present occupiers of land on these Townships; with further instructions to the effect, that if this arrangement is not complied with, the Government will immediately proceed against them for the amount of arrears of rent before herein named.

BENJ. DAVIES, Chairman.
ROBERT MOONEY,
R. MACAULAY.

Committee Room, 31st March, 1853.

Mr. Davies, on rising to present the above Report, said—As Chairman of a special committee appointed to enquire into a Petition from divers of the Tenantry on Townships, Nos. 57, and 58, in the Belfast district which he had the honor to represent, the property of the late Right Honorable Thomas Earl of Selkirk, he would beg to say a few explanatory words, before submitting the Report to the Committee, as to the views under which the Committee had drawn up the Report. The hon. member then proceeded to say—Your Committee first laboured under the impression that no effort could be made, at least of such a nature as would be likely to lead to an amelioration of the hard terms under which the Petitioners are bound down; but, on enquiring at the Register Office, as to the terms under which these Townships were granted—we were pleased when informed that the holders of these lands are no more than tenants of the Crown—that these Lots were let, subject to certain conditions, one of which has never been complied with, and on which I, therefore, wish particularly to remark:—that is, Mr. Speaker, the yearly rent or consideration under which they were given. It appears a yearly rental to the crown of six shillings sterling per Hundred acres was the annual rent promised to be paid, by the Grantees of these Lots, no part of which rental appears to have been paid, either in this or the old Country, and that these arrears with interest thereon up to Michalemas, 1852, on Township No. 57, alone amount to about £8,500 sterling. This Report, Mr. Speaker, has been drawn up on this foundation. That the debt is one beyond dispute, it cannot be contradicted: it is a lawful and a just one, ceded to the colonial interests by the Crown in the arrangements between the two governments which took place on the introduction of the present system which we have the satisfaction to live under. This Report recommends that the arrears of rent due from these Townships be enforced, or commuted in this way: that the Lt. Governor be authorised to inform the proprietors of Lots 57 and 58, as to the terms which they conceive the under-tenantry are entitled to. It offers to the Proprietor the choice, either to remit to the under-tenants the amount of the arrears of rent due to their Landlord, to cancel the present, and grant new leases, of not less than 900 years duration, at the yearly rent of one shilling per acre. If such terms are fully complied with the report recommends the debt for arrears of Quit-rent, together with interest thereon, be forgiven. At the same time it recommends that the Lieutenant Governor be instructed, if this offer is not complied with, to enforce the amount of principal of the debt forthwith—The Hon. member then concluded by saying: I conceive, Mr. Speaker, this House has a right to step in and cause such steps to be taken, as will lead these oppressors to a sense of their duty to humanity, by which I feel assured they will themselves, in the long run, be the gainers. I think this House ought not to allow any class in society, by means of such abject conditions, to continue to lord it over any oppressed or unfortunate victims who may have come within the power of the grasping selfishness of an overbearing and tyrannical landlord.

The Committee, to whom the Petition was referred, consisted of 7 members. Mr. Davies, Hon. Mr. Pope, Mr. Wightman, Mr. M'Aulay, Hon. Mr. Lord, Mr. Mooney, and Hon. Mr. Palmer; but as the Report was signed by only *three* of them (a minority,) the Hon. the Speaker, declared, that it could not be received. It was consequently, withdrawn; and, as, therefore, it was not *properly* before the House, the hon. members who had declined to sign it were, according to parliamentary usage, precluded from all opportunity of assigning their reasons for dissenting from it.

NEW ROADS.

The House went into Committee of the whole on the Report of the Committee to whom were referred the several Petitions, praying for the opening of New Roads; and, the Committee having gone through the same, the House was resumed, and the Hon. Mr. Jardine, Chairman of the Committee, reported that the Committee had gone into consideration of the said Report, and and had adopted the same without making any amendment thereto.

The Report was agreed to by the House, and is as follows:

"The Committee to whom was refered &c &c. beg to submit—

1. With reference to the Petition of the Inhabitants of Townships No. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 65, praying that the New Central or South Western Road be extended until it intersects the County Line, a distance of 7 or 8 miles, in order to open a short and good line of Road to Charlottetown.—that they recommend a Survey and Estimate be made, with a view of ascertaining the probable expense, and the utility of the contemplated Road.

2. The Petition of the Inhabitants of West River, praying to have a Road opened, from the Tryon Road, to the shore, on the line between Donald M'Phee and Dougald M'Phee,—that they recommend an Inquisiton be held, with the view of opening the Road prayed for, under the sixteenth clause of the Road Compensation Act, between the said M'Phees, or in any other place there-[illegible] that a sum sufficient be appropriated out of the money for that District in aid of completing the contemplated Road, after the Inquisition is taken thereon.

3. The Petition of the Inhabitants of Oyster Cove and its vicinity, Lot 18, praying that a Road be opened from the shore at Oyster Cove, in the boundary line between Lands formerly belonging to the late R Stewart, Esq. and Lands belonging to the late Dugald Stewart, Esquire's Shipyard, until this said line strike the side boundary of the farm of Mr. Alexander Stewart, and thence across said farm, or thereabouts, until it strikes the Indian River Road,—That they recommend the said Road to be opened under the 16th Clause of the Road Compensation Act, and that the sum of £6 appropriated in the Road scale division of that District, for the continuation of said Road to Wm. Taylor's shore, be applied towards defraying the expenses of the Inquisition to be held upon the Road in question.

4. The Petition of the Inhabitants of Murray Harbour Road, and the rear settlement of Lot 57, praying that the centre of the line of road between the said rear settlement and Orwell Head, and which is the line between Lots 50 and 57, be opened—That they recommend the prayer of the Petition be complied with, and that an Inquisition be held upon the part of the said road which is not opened, under the 16th Clause of the Road Compensation Act, with the understanding that a sufficient sum of money be appropriated out of the moneys granted for that district, and as has been provided in the Road Scale, to complete the said Road after the party concerned are satisfied.

5. The Petition of the Inhabitants of Georgetown, praying that the road leading to Charlottetown from the head of Victoria Street, be completed—Your Committee submit that, as there is no obstruction in the right of way—and recommended that, if the members of the District deem it expedient to have the same Road opened, they may be allowed to set a sum aside for that purpose out of the Moneys appropriated for that District.

6. With respect to the Petition of the Inhabitants of Lot 15, praying to have a Road opened from Fifteen Point to Muscouche Harbor, in Lot 17, your Committee will remark that, from the statement set forth in Petition, the Road prayed for will extend to about the distance of Three Miles long. But as there is no authenticated Plan, and the right of way does not appear to have been given up in full, your Committee do not think it advisable, until further information be received, that any action should be taken on this Road; but they recommend that the Road Commissioners for that District do examine the land through which the Road prayed for will pass, and ascertain the utility thereof, the amount of compensation, if any, that may be required, and the probable expense that may attend the completion thereof, and report thereon by next session.

7. Your Committee would recommend that the Road on the County Line, from the Prince Town Road to Margate Creek, be opened in a direct line on the *new* County Line under the Inquisition held on the same Road, in the year 1851.

8. Respecting the Petition for a Road from China Point to the south Gallows Point, to pass up the line between John Nelson jun. and Charles Welsh to China Creek, thence across the farms of John MacPherson, Richard Grant, and Patrick Mooney, until it joins the Gallows Point Road: your Committee recommend that the sum of £15 be paid to John Nelson and the like sum of £15 to Charles Welsh, as provided for in the Road Scale of their District, for a right of way through their farms for the contemplated Road, on the Government's first being satisfied that the other parties through whose Land the Road in question will pass through, will give up in writing, under their respective hands, the right of way, free of any charge to the public."

Resolved, That an Address be presented to His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor, praying that he will be pleased to give effect to the recommendations contained in the foregoing Report.

Ordered, That the Hon. Mr. Lord, Mr. Fraser, and Mr. Laird do compose the said Committee.

TAX ON ABSENTEE PROPRIETORS.

Mr. Mooney. Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the whole, on the further consideration of *Ways and Means*; and I do so that I may have an opportunity of submitting this Resolution;

"*Resolved*, That the sum of £— per cent, be imposed, as an export duty or tax on all Moneys, sent out of this Island, in the shape of Rents to Absentee Proprietors"

Hon. members, sir, may laugh at this proposition; but those very gentlemen who appear to be so much amused by it think nothing of imposing an export duty on Juniper Knees—a duty amounting to a prohibition; and yet they would allow Absentee Proprietors who have continually, year after year, been dragging money from this Colony, without having ever contributed one shilling towards the burthens of the Civil List, or, in any other way, for the qublic benefit—still to go *scot-free*. Sir, absenteeism has always been allowed to be a curse to any country which it affects; and I am persuaded that the only way in which Prince Edward Island can obtain any sort of compensation for its evils, is for the Legislature to step in, and cause the delinquent absentees, as proposed by the Resolution which I have just read, to contribute, by means of an export duty, or tax, on the rents sent out of the country to them, to contribute something, in aid of the different institutions which have been established to advance the interests of the Colony; but which, by their cruel exactions, they are continually retarding; and, for the promotion of which, they will never contribute one shilling, unless they be compelled.

As it appeared that the Committee of the whole House on Ways and Means was finally closed, at its last rising, Mr. Mooney's motion for its being resumed could not be put; and consequently the question was dropped.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

ADELAIDE.

The London *Times'* correspondent writes, dating Jan. 8th, "For clerks and deskmen there is really no room whatever; and, if such will, in spite of warning, still come out, they must either endure the hardships, and take the chances of the diggings, or spread themselves over the country as farm-servnts and other labourers. There is nothing else for them, unless, indeed, menial labour in Melbourne itself, for which, certainly, at present high wages are freely given. If a man leaving England, where he has been filling a respectable situation as clerk or book-keeper, has no objection to come out here and become a 'hewer of wood and a drawer of water,' by all means let him come, and he is pretty sure to do well, for all kinds of mechanical and common labour are paid for highly, but let him thoroughly understand this, and not delude himself with the idea that his knowledge of accounts and good penmanship will get him [illegible] equivalent to the great expense of living here. There is a certain limited demand for this latter kind of employment, and good salaries are obtained for a small number in the banks and merhants' offices as well as in government situations, but they form so small a proportion of the great numbers that I would strongly advise no further emigration of that class. The bay is crowded with shipping, and contains at this time, as I was assured by a captain of one of them, some of the finest ships to be found in any harbour in the world. The number of emigrants and the quantity of merchandise weekly poured into this place from the vessels which arrive daily are truly wonderful. As yet there seems no excess of the one over the other. Goods fetched remunerating prices, and the vast multitude, in some way or other, find the means of living, but it is evident that the hinge upon which the stability of the whole turns is the continuance of the gold wealth. There is a great demand for labour here, and wages are very high. Mechanics are receiving from 16s. to20s. per day, and unskilled labourers from 10s. to 15s. Domestic servants command 9s. per week readily, and even the rubbish and refuse that we get under the name of needle women are eagerly sought after. It is, however, only to supply a temporary emergency, and great permanent mischief is being entailed upon this colony by directing upon it a stream from the sewers of your large towns and workhouses. Depend upon it, it is a popular error, and a serious one too, that the people who are inherently useless at home can be made valuable here. Burra shares have experienced a slight decline. They have been up to £158; the stand now at £150. Gold dust sells readily at 72s. Flour is selling at £19 and £20 per ton. The rate of interest varies from 8 to 20 per cent., according to the security offered and amount required."

Australian Labour Marlet Jan. 1.—The labour market continues well supdlied, and there is also a brisk demand for all classes of servants.

The Real Gold Field.—A market gardener upon a small scale, residing at the Merri Creek, has, within the last eight months, cleared upwards of £4000 sterling by fruit and vegetables. Considering the enormous price realised for these articles, it is a matter of astonishment that they are not more extensively cultivated.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor has completely recovered his health. The exasperation against England and the English still rages at Vienna, and some of the journals threaten us with fire and sword to chastise us for all our political iniquities in harbouring Kossuth and Mazzini. This feeling seems studiously kept up.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Governor had left Graham's Town with a view of making arrangements with the friendly chiefs, to end in a declaration of peace. Some of the hill countries seem to be still infested by the Kaffirs, but Moshesh has capitally punished seven of his people for having plundered some of the colonial farmers. If this example were followed we should hear no more of Kaffir wars. The news by the Teviot, from Australia, has been anticipated by the overland mail from India.

INDIA.

The news from India is, we trust, the prelude to some satisfactory termination of the Burmese war. All we know at present is, that a revolution has taken place in Ava; the king has been assassinated; the succession to the throne disputed by several parties who have abandoned the defence of the country; and General Godwin has opened negotiations with one of the contending chiefs, and a formal embassy was about to proceed to Ava. Captain Nuthall, of the Arracan battalion, by a splendid exploit, has carried the stockade at the Aeng Pass, and made himself master of that important position. The other military operations are of a subordinate character, and cannot have much influence upon the issue of the negotiations at Ava. But in the general struggle for the ensigns of supreme power, the British will most likely retain the reality themselves. It would appear, by the news from China, that the rebels are really making progress in subduing the great southern cities, but they do not molest the people. The imperial authority is in a most disorganised state. The Chinese, just at the moment when the English Government is about to reduce the import duty on tea, have established an additional impost of 1 mace 5 candareens per pecul, in addition to the 2 mace laid on in 1850.

FRANCE.

Paris, March 11.

It is now decided that the Pope is to come to Paris to crown the Emperor and Empress. His Holiness will leave Rome soon after Easter, and the coronation will take place on the 10th of May. The Holy See will obtain many important advantages by this concession of the Pope to the wishes of Napoleon, not the least of which will be the loan of ten or twelve millions of francs to recruit the exhausted treasury of the Eternal City.

The Legitimists are positively wild with chagrin at this abandonment of the principle of "Divine right," on the part of the head of *the* Church, and many prophetic warnings are held out that the College of Cardinals, in permitting the act, are blindly, but deliberately, sealing the doom of the Papacy.

The Public Libraries in Paris.—During the recent cold weather the public libraries have been crowded to such an excess as to render reading nearly impossible. Some of the best known literary frequenters of the Bibilotheque Royale have been reduced to the necessity of standing all day in the window recesses, for want of any other place. The authorities, struck with this practical instance of the evils of unlimited gratuitous admission, are considering whether it may not be possible, without restricting studious pursuits, to keep out of the libraries people who merely come to warm themselves.

The French Funds were marked by a heavy fall to-day, owing, it was supposed, to the unsettled aspect of the Continent.

Confinement of an Heiress in Germany.—About twenty years ago there died at Minden, in the principality of Lippe Schamburg, a very rich land owner, who left two sons and a daughter, between whom he equally divided his property. Shortly after the girl disappeared, and it could not be ascertained what had become of her. After the customary legal delay, her share of the property was awarded to her two brothers, and nothing further was thought of the matter. But recently the girl was discovered in a cellar, and it turned out that she had been confined there ever since her disappearance. She was set at liberty and her brothers were arrested. They it appears, kept her well supplied with food and clothing during the whole of her confinement.

ENGLAND.

Wreck of the Queen Victoria.—The plate in the Queen Victoria's cabin has been saved by a diver; but the man protests that nothing in the world should induce him to go down a second time, as the scene in the cabin was the most horrible he had ever witnessed. He thought he had entered a wax-work exhibition, the corpses never having moved from their positions since the vessel went down. There were some eighteen or twenty persons in the cabin, one and all of whom seemed to be holding conversation with each other; and the general appearance of the whole scene was so life-like, that he was almost inclined to believe that some were yet living.

In the House of Commons, Lord J. Russell, in answer to Mr. Hume, said that the Government was quite ready to co-operate with America in carrying out the scheme for a canal across the Isthmus of Darien.

It appears from an official report that the directors of the East India Company have spent £53,000 in the house dinners during the last eighteen years.

An immense order for handcuffs and leg-irons is now in course of execution in Birmingham. A large quantity has already been shipped for Melbourne.

Singular Invention.—Mr. John O'Leary, of this town, has invented a new piece of furniture, which is likely to come into great demand amongst Australian emigrants, comprising, in one package, a box, table, tent, bedstead, waterproof coat, and wheelbarrow. The box is three feet long, and the tent, when fixed, six feet long. The framework only occupies twenty inches by eight, thus affording ample room for emigrants to pack in the box, exclusive of the necessary apparatus, sufficient necessaies for the diggings. The invention has been patented.

Effects of the Australian Fever.—In two months the prices of leather, cheese, bacon, &c., in London, have risen fully fifty per cent.? Several Jew slopsellers have realised £200,000 in ventures to that colony within a year. A member of Parliament has made upwards of £90,000, by some old Australian Agricultural Company's shares, which he believed to be nearly worthless.

The *Manchester Examiner* states that there will shortly be exhibited in Manchester models of a new mode of screw propulsion, calculated to sail at a very high speed, and a new description of boat for the preservation of life in cases of shipwreck or fire. The inventor is a Manchester manufacturer.

There are 11,000 husbands in Australia whose wives have been left behind.

The requisite capital has been subscribed by English houses for the construction of a railway from Duren to Treves, in communication with the French and Prussian lines.

China expends $40,000,000 for opium.

SOCIAL CONDITION OF AUSTRALIA.

We have not sufficient data for determining exactly the permanent increase in the population during the past year, but it may be fairly assumed that more than 80,000 souls from all quarters of the world have landed on our shores. A great number from the adjacent colonies have come for the purpose of trying their fortunes at the diggings, and intending to return, whether successful or not; but the great majority of those who arrive are actual immigrants. The entire population of the colony at the present moment may be stated at more than 200,000 souls. This immense influx, while it has given an impulse to our progress unprecedented in colonial history has been attended with much inconvenience to the entire community, and especially to persons newly arrived. The appliances of social life have not kept pace with the rapidly increasing population; nor was it possible. In a young colony, and in circumstances of such unexampled emergency,