

TV ON LEFT

 SHOP TO LET, opposite the Royal Hotel.
JOHN GLASSOP, 310, George-street. 2511a


[100] paid, water laid on. **WHITTELL'S** Wherry, 4899a
 Bathurst-street.
 [100] **TO LET**, in Woolloomooloo-street, a House, 4899a
 containing 5 rooms and kitchen. Apply to **J.**
MCNOVAN, 163, Woolloomooloo-street. 4899a
 [100] **TO LET**, Lyon's-terrace, the centre House, 4899a
 lately in the occupation of J. T. Armitage, Esq.
 immediate possession. Apply to **Mr. BILLYARD**,
 100, George-street. 4899a


560 **GENTLE FAMILY RESIDENCE TO LET**, containing six rooms, detached kitchen, and servants' rooms, and other offices; excellent water in abundance, lately occupied by J. C. Rositter, and situated at St. Germaine, on the borders of Twentieth Park. Apply to **ROSSITER AND LAZARUS**. **3504a**

560 **TO LET**, in Fort-street, opposite Mr. E. Campbell's, a first-class Family Residence, containing

ROBERTSON, 254, Pitt-street South. 2446

TO LET, a Dwelling-house, situated in Elizabeth-street, three doors from Liverpool-street, containing 13 apartments, stable and gig-house; water laid on; with double verandahs; at the corner of Hyde-park. Rent, last, £240; now, £2 per week. For reference, see Mr. BOWLER, Grocer, 3 doors lower down. 2450a



TO LET, two comfortable Residence, repainted
 with every convenience, occupied by the Rev. Mr.
 and Mr. Hoag; for session on the 1st April.
 Apply, **MR. HOGG, No. 13, Macquarie-street,** near
 the Consulate. Some fixtures and furniture at
 valuation. 2457


TO BE SOLD OR LET, Greyfriars, that beau-
 tifully situated and elegant dwelling-house,
 furnished with every convenience, by **G. J. Beeve, Esq.,** corner
 of the Exchange and Pitt-street. Apply to
 the Auctioneer, **MR. HOGG, No. 13, Macquarie-street,**
 near the Consulate. 2458


 SHOPS OR STUNES TO LET, in the immediate vicinity of the Australasian Steam Navigation Company's and the Sydney Flour Wharves. Fourteen newly-erected buildings suitable for shops or produce stores, with accommodation for dwellings, situated above in one of the best business localities in Sydney. Apply to JAMES PATTERSON, Manager, A. S. N. Co. 3999


WINDSOR—To LET, on Lease, York Lodge, containing nine rooms, together with coach-house, stable, outbuildings, kitchen-garden, and three paddocks; admirably adapted for a large family, a ladies' boarding-school, or suburban hotel. There is an abundant supply of wood and water. Rent, 50 guineas per annum. Apply to Mr. GLUE, Agent, Pitt-street, Sydney; to Mr.

LAVERACK, Auctioneer; or J. KENNEDY, Windsor.
4398

 **TO LET, a good Cottage Residence in Elizabeth-street, containing six rooms, kitchen, shed, well of water, small paddocks. Also, that Family Residence, No. 901, York-street, opposite the Police Office, and adjoining the residence of Mr. Rodman. Apply to R. P. F. RICHARDSON, 828, George-street, fourth door South of the EMPIRE OFFICE.**
4391

TO LET, Two Family Residences, in Mon-
teroc, Russett's Bay, near the Darling Point
 each containing six rooms, kitchen, servants'
 room, and stable; neat garden in front; and yard, with
 good water, at the rear. Also, a commodious House, in
 Smart's buildings, No. 142, William-street, containing
 seven apartments. Apply to R. P. RICHARDSON, 328,
 George-street, fourth door South of the Emman Office.

NEW TOWN.—TO LET, a handsome Cottage Residence, Enmore, near the Newtown Railway Station, containing verandah, hall, kitchen, and five rooms; also, kitchen, servant's room, coach-house, stables, &c., detached, and flower garden, orchard, paddock. Also, a newly-erected Dwelling-house, a few yards from the station, containing verandah, balcony, four rooms, kitchen, and servant's room. Apply to R. P. RICHARDSON, 348, George-street, fourth door South of the EMPIRE OFFICE. 4390

 TO LET, in the Town of Liverpool, a House containing 13 good rooms, 2 kitchens, pantries and other conveniences, also stabling, &c.; together with paddocks of two or more acres, well fenced and closely mowed. One paddock has h-o-n treenched, and has various fruit trees, grape vines, &c.; is well supplied with good water, and is in every respect suitable for a large family or boarding-school, or any other occupation that may require a roomy establishment. For particulars, apply to

OAK LODGE.—TO LET, to a lady and gentleman, one-half of Oak Lodge, Hired-road, Glebe, with a scab-house, kitchen, garden, and every requisite for a genteel family. Apply to Mr. JOHN GARSED, on the premises. 3735

TO LET, a large Wharf, adjoining the Union wharf, Apply on the Wharf, or to **ROOKE AND REID,** 425 Broadway, street East.

boys and particulars of rent, apply to LEWIS E. MURPHY, No. 353, Liverpool-street, Darlinghurst; or Exchange Corner, Bridge-street.

3021

SINGLE FEMALES PER ESCORT.—The unmarried females by the above vessel for engagement, about the 19th in number, can be hired on THURSDAY next, the 18th instant, between the hours of one and four o'clock p.m., at Hyde Park Barracks. They consist of general females, and also of housemaids, and dairymaids.

N.B. - In order to prevent inconvenience, the usual orders for admission into the hiring-room must be procured during office hours, on or before 12 o'clock on the day of hiring.

Persons not known at the Immigration Department applying for female servants, will be required to produce letters of introduction from a Clergyman or Magistrate.

H. H. BROWNE, Agent for Immigration, Government Buildings, 15, Queen's Road, 12th March, 1898.

DISTRICT SURVEYORS.
Town Clerk's Office,
Sydney, 15th March, 1898.
No. 58-24.

APPPLICATIONS will be received at this Office, until **MONDAY**, the 20th instant, at 12 o'clock noon from parties desirous of filling the offices of Surveyors in Districts Nos. 2, 3, and 4, in this city. Particulars as to the salaries and duties of the office, can be

obtained upon application at the Office of the City Engineer.
4418 CHARLES H. WOLCOTT, Town Clerk.

CONTRACT FOR BREAD, &c., &c., DISTRICT OF SYDNEY.
The Treasury, New South Wales,
16th March, 1858.

WITH reference to the Treasury Notice, dated 7th January, 1858, it is hereby notified, that

Bread,	1st Quality	per lb
	2nd Quality	ditto
	3rd Quality	ditto
Ship Biscuit		ditto

No. 1.	1st Quality	ditto
{	2nd Quality	ditto
	3rd Quality	ditto
Maize Meal		ditto
Oatmeal		ditto

HENRY LANE,
Secretary to the Treasury.

4386

TENDERS REQUIRED, for Sheathing the Decks of the steamer ORAFON. For particulars, apply to the Agent.

to KIRCHNER AND CO., Agents, 1, Wynyard-street
March 10, 1898, 4408

HOME AFFAIRS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, JANUARY 16, 1886.

At the last assizes at Exeter a man named Jonathan Bole was put on his trial for attempting to murder Jane Stone, at Torquay. The prosecutrix appeared in court, a frightful spectacle, her head having been literally smashed, and her face so bruised that the whole of the flesh might have been removed with a sponge. The doctor on seeing her pronounced her case hopeless; to his great surprise, however, she recovered. The prisoner lived in the house of his uncle, Mr. Mitchellmore, and the prosecutrix became his uncle's servant in the early part of last year, shortly after which a criminal intimacy was commenced between Bole and the girl, which resulted in her becoming in the family way. On her telling the prisoner that this was so, he urged her to fatigue it upon his uncle, or some other man; this she refused to do; he then gave her medicine which failed of its intended effect. The prosecutrix left Mr. Mitchellmore's service in August and entered the service of a lady, also living in Torquay. In November she told the prisoner she wished to talk to him "about the baby that was coming," and on the night of the 11th they met in her mistress's garden, and he was seen to put his arm round her waist and lead her towards a dark place in the garden; angry words were then said, and the prisoner, who appeared to feel the disgrace much more keenly than the girl, laid her down on the ground and placing his knees upon her side, he thrust his hand down her throat and held her nose so as to prevent her breathing. She struggled with all her might, and before becoming insensible, succeeded in uttering one scream, which was heard by a little dog in the house, which thereupon commenced barking so furiously and displayed so much agitation that the ladies called in a neighbour, who took a lantern and went into the garden, where she found the girl lying motionless on the ground. Nobly could recognise her, her appearance was so frightful. Beside her head there lay the stone with which the injuries had been inflicted; it measured 12 inches in length, and weighed over 9 pounds. The girl was taken to the dispensary, where, after awhile, she was able to tell the name of the person who had done it. The counsel for the prisoner urged that it was an act committed under the influence of sudden and violent passion. The jury found him guilty of intent to do grievous bodily harm, and the judge sentenced him to penal servitude for life. A few days later the unfortunate young woman gave birth to a child. A subscription is opened in Torquay and Exeter for her benefit.

As long ago as April last the body of a young woman was found in the Bradley arm of the Birmingham canal at Bilston, which was speedily recognised as the body of a young woman named Elizabeth Hopley, only 18 years of age. The last person who saw her alive, as far as is known, was her aunt, whose house she left about 10 o'clock on the night she disappeared without bonnet or shawl on, and without saying where she was going. Some short time previous she had been working for a miner named Philip Clare, a bank's girl, whom, after a quarrel, she left, and summoned for wages due to her. She then entered the service of a Mr. Moon, and at the time of her death she was keeping company with a young man in the same employment. The extraordinary circumstances of the case are these:—Three weeks after the finding of the body, a Samuel Wall, employed as a watchman, stated certain circumstances which led to his being summoned before the magistrate where he deposed, in substance, as follows:—He was at the foot of a bridge which crossed the canal on the night of the 29th April, at 12 o'clock. There was a man and a woman on the bridge, and he heard the woman say, "Philip don't kill me; you said you would kill me before, but don't." The man raised his hand and struck her on the head, and she fell to the ground, and uttered no sound afterwards. The man then threw her over his shoulder, and at that moment Wall stepped up, and said, "Philip, you'll have to suffer for this." The man he saw was Philip Clare, and he threatened that if Wall spoke a word of what he had seen he would serve him the same. Clare then carried the body of his victim to the canal and put her in. He then raised his threats of what he would do to Wall if he betrayed him, and the latter was so frightened that he shut himself up in an engine-house. In consequence of these threats being repeated, he absconded, and it was some time before he could be got to give his evidence. He swore, in the most positive manner, that it was Philip Clare whom he saw on the bridge; and it was not shown that he had any enmity against him, nor that the latter was suspected by any person of having murdered the girl until this statement was made. His statement was, to a certain extent, borne out by a railway watchman, who deposed that he was on duty, and fell asleep, when he was awake by hearing "a loud screaming noise," and the latter was so frightened that he shut himself up in an engine-house. He heard nothing more. He said this was shortly after 11 o'clock. The surgeon who examined the body deposed that the woman died from suffocation by drowning, and that there were no marks of violence on her person. He was of opinion that the woman fell over the wall, which was only two feet high, into the canal, by accident. Philip Clare was taken into custody, and tried at the last assizes, when the following evidence was given in his defence:—Edward Lloyd stated that he kept a public-house, and that the prisoner was in his house at half-past six o'clock till eleven on the night in question, and that he left in company of a man named William Wolliscroft, who in his turn deposed that the prisoner walked with him to within a quarter of a mile from Moxley, where he (the prisoner) lived. At about 12 o'clock a policeman saw the prisoner very near his house. A woman deposed that she saw the prisoner pass the house of the witness, John Plant, a little before 1. The latter swore that the prisoner passed his house about 12, he believed, and that he stopped talking with him until near 9.

The prisoner when apprehended asserted his innocence, and the jury after a few minutes' deliberation returned a verdict of not guilty. The only explanation that occurs to one of Wall's evidence, is, supposing him to have sworn truly, that he really saw a man strike the deceased, that he was mistaken in supposing him to be Philip Clare, and that the murderer, on hearing himself addressed by that name, took care not to deceive him. This explanation is, at least, more probable than that the horrible tale was hatched by his own brain.

A very shocking murder was perpetrated at Owen Darwan, near Blackburn, last Wednesday afternoon. The victim was Robert Kershaw, a man 60 years of age, and the suspected murderer is his own son, a young man of 20. Mrs. Kershaw has long been of rather weak intellect, and which is a very common thing with women so afflicted, had an idea that her husband ill-used her; which is denied by her children. Thomas Kershaw was seen to go in-doors about 8 o'clock, and it is supposed that he then committed the murder. The weapon he made use of was a spade, with which the old man's head was cut and shattered in a frightful manner. The discovery was made in this way: The prisoner's brother Robert, was persuaded by Thomas to go to bed, and after he had slept a short time he was roused by his brother, who said:—"I've something horrible to tell thee; but thee mustn't tell nobody about it. When I came home I found father dead in the house. Mother did it, but we'll all get taken up for it. I took the body down stairs and buried it in the coals. Don't you think, about 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning, we could bury him in some place where he won't be discovered?" Robert jumped out of bed and ran down to the coal cellar; and finding that the body really was there, he ran off to his uncle's and told him what had happened, and asked him to send for the police. The police came and got the body out from among the coals; after which they took Thomas Kershaw and his mother into custody. Inspector McDonald caused a search to be made, and it was found that though the floor had been washed, it showed traces of large patches of blood, also a shirt belonging to Thomas Kershaw was found which had been washed, but the sleeves were still stained with blood. So that there can be no doubt that the wife of the murdered man was an accessory, if nothing more. The son bore an exceedingly good character, was a member of the Mechanics' Institute, and fond of reading.

IRELAND.

[FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.]

JANUARY 15, 1886.

Commercial affairs in Ireland are slightly improved since the date of my last letter, though prices of agricultural produce have not revived to any great extent.

There is still great distress among certain classes of workpeople.

Notwithstanding the decreased production of linen, there is still a large stock of Irish linen on hand which cannot be disposed of except at very reduced prices.

The accounts of the condition of the banks are encouraging enough. The dividend of the Bank of Ireland for the half-year was 6 per cent., free of income tax. In the preceding half-year it was 6½ per cent. On the 26th ultimo, this bank followed the example of the Bank of England, and reduced its rate of discount 2 per cent. At that date the Bank of Ireland had only 17 sovereigns in its coffers for every £100 of notes in circulation; while the private banks in Dublin averaged together 64 sovereigns to the same amount of notes. A large quantity of this gold has been since sent to England.

It seems impossible to satisfy everybody. One of the gravest charges against banks generally is that they advance money on paper with too great facility. The Belfast Bank acted in quite a different manner. They raised their rate of discount as fast as the Bank of England, while they gave only 4½ interest on deposits. So as that bank cannot be charged with having encouraged speculations, the directors are said to have been liberal. The best proof of their having managed their business well, is the fact that they have paid the shareholders from 18 to 25 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital.

A woman named Mrs. Kelly has been confined within the last week, which occupied the Court more days than I can remember. The case was that of Stevens v. Campion, and arose out of the murder of Mrs. Kelly, the facts of which may have been forgotten by your readers.—On the 8th April, 1856, Mrs. Kelly was staying for a few days at a farm she possessed at Ballinderry, the care of which was entrusted to the plaintiff, George Stevens. On the morning when she was murdered, she had gone out with Stevens, who was her nephew, to look at a wall, after which they went on to a field; when two men came up, dressed in black and with crapes over their faces. They both had guns and rushed upon Mrs. Kelly and fired at her. Stevens ran away, until he came to a man named Grady, whom he told of the occurrence, and desired him to give an alarm, which he refused to do. Stevens ran on to Ballinderry, and told Mr. Campion of what had happened, upon which the latter proceeded to the scene of the murder, followed, about five minutes afterwards, by Stevens, who upon reaching the spot, was arrested by Mr. Campion in this wise:—"Well, Mr. Stevens, how was this job done?" He told him, upon which Mr. Campion, who appeared deeply affected by the occurrence, went on to remark, "It was well arranged; it was well planned; she had a pretty protector." Stevens said one of the men pursued him, upon which Mr. Campion said, "When they saw you they did not pursue you any more—you are not the man they wanted to shoot." "By which words," said Stevens, "and by his manner and tone, I understood that he meant to convey the impression that I was implicated in the murder of my aunt." This was said in the presence of several persons; and Mr. Stevens sought by this action to recover damages from Mr. Campion for having given utterance to the above expressions. He, however, had much better have let the matter rest, for the jury gave him but 6d. damages and 6d. costs. The expense of the trial must have been considerable from the standing of the counsel engaged, and from the length of time it lasted. Of course the perpetrators of the murder have never been discovered.

Considerable indignation was expressed both here and in Ireland at the conduct of certain Irishmen putting forth placards approving the conduct of the Sepoys. Recently, three Irishmen, named Thomas Lynas, Hugh Kennedy, and Andrew McMaster, have been initiators of their atrocities, though they did not proceed to the extent of chopping the women to pieces after violating her. The circumstances of the case were as follows:—The first-named individual was a ticket-clerk at the Dundonald railway station, county Down; the second a porter, and the third a sailor, who had recently returned from a voyage. A young woman, named Sarah McKenna, daughter of a widow living at Ballykeel, had written to Mr. Park, of Belfast, to ask him to

send a parcel of work, she employing herself in the same millinery work. About 8 o'clock on the evening of the day the offence was committed, she went to the Dundonald station to get this parcel; Lynas asked her to take a seat in the waiting-room, which she did, and engaged in a "flirting conversation" with the three men. She was told that there was no parcel for her, and that there were no more trains due that night, but she still remained chatting with the men. She went on to say that after jostling some time with Lynas, he thrust her into a room leading from the office, and shut the door. The first man who went in to her was Kennedy, who made improper overtures to her. She screamed and struggled, but he threw her on the floor and violated her person. He then opened the door, and she tried to go out, but he pushed her back and left the room. After a little while the sailor went in and treated her in the same manner as Kennedy. She was then so exhausted, that on Lynas going in, she states she was scarcely able to offer any resistance to him. She, however, begged him to protect her from the other men, and to spare her, but in vain. In the meantime one of the men had gone to a neighbouring public-house and bought some whiskey, after which they stripped themselves naked, and danced about the station like savages. Kennedy was again violated by McMaster, and McMaster by Lynas, and they then proceeded to their brutal outrages until 3 o'clock the next morning, when they succeeded in getting away, and went immediately to the Newtownards station, and informed the station-master of what had occurred, who lost no time in causing Lynas and McMaster to be apprehended, but Kennedy has hitherto succeeded in keeping out of the way. The two prisoners are committed to take their trial at the spring assizes. The prosecutrix is to remain under the protection of the police until the trial, a sum of money being allowed for her maintenance.

SUMMARY OF CONTINENTAL NEWS.

[FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.]

JANUARY 16, 1886.

The following summary of the more important occurrences which have taken place on the Continent during the month, since the departure of the last Australasian mail, is translated from the various foreign newspapers.

Another attempt to assassinate the Emperor of France has been made, which was nearly successful. I translate the following from *Le Moniteur*, Paris, 14th January:—This evening at half-past eight o'clock, at the moment when their majesties the Emperor and Empress arrived at the opera, three explosions, arising from hollow projectiles, were heard.

A considerable number of persons who were standing round the entrance to the theatre, some soldiers of the escort and of the Paris Guard have been wounded, two mortally.

Neither the Emperor nor the Empress were injured. The hat of the Emperor was perforated by a projectile, and General Roquet, aide-de-camp of His Majesty, who was seated in the fore part of the carriage, has been slightly wounded in the nape of the neck.

Two footmen have been wounded.

One of His Majesty's horses has been killed, and the carriage broken by the projectiles.

The Emperor and the Empress were received at their entrance to the Opera with the warmest enthusiasm. The representation was not interrupted.

On learning this event their Imperial Highnesses, Prince Jerome Napoleon, Prince Napoleon, and the Princess Matilde, the Princes Murat, the ministers, several marshals, the Marshal commanding the army of Paris, several high functionaries, members of the corps diplomatique, the prefects of the Seine, the police, the Attorney-General, and the Imperial Attorney waited on their Majesties.

An examination was commenced immediately, and several arrests have taken place.

Their Majesties quitted the Opera at midnight. The boulevards had been spontaneously illuminated, and a considerable crowd gave utterance, on the passing of the Emperor and Empress, to the most enthusiastic and touching acclamations.

On their arrival at the Tuileries, their Majesties found a large number of persons waiting, among whom were the English Ambassador, the President of the Senate, some members of the corps diplomatique, and several senators.

The force of the explosion was so great that the rows of gaslights which ran along the outside of the theatre were extinguished, and the windows of the adjacent houses shaken to pieces. The soldiers were put under arms immediately, but few beside the ordinary guards showed themselves in the street. The number of wounded is estimated at sixty persons, some of whom are not expected to survive. It is rumoured in Paris that at the moment of the explosion a man, armed with a revolver and a dagger, rushed into the carriage, but was stopped by a policeman, by whom he was taken into custody. Another was arrested who had got a bag in his hand, in which pistols and a dagger were found. Another man, wearing white kid gloves, was observed to raise his hat and wave it an instant before the explosion, who has also been arrested, on the supposition that this was meant for the signal. Many others have been arrested; they are mostly Italians. Yesterday (15th) the Emperor and Empress drove out in an open carriage, without any escort whatever.

The extreme mildness of the weather for the time of year has been a good deal of surprise, not only in France, but over the whole continent, and farmers begin to get alarmed. *Le Pays* remarks, that in 1684 the frost did not set in until the end of January, and then with such intensity that during several weeks carriages could be driven on the Seine, and that not only was there a sort of fair held upon it, but public-houses were established where dancing was carried on. The cold weather was as late in arriving in the year when the French army invaded Holland, and the ships of the line belonging to the Netherlands were taken by the republican cavalry. In 1785 the frost did not set in at Antwerp until the 24th February, but on the other hand, so late as the 15th March both horse and foot passengers circulated freely upon the river Escant, as is attested by the following lines engraved over the gates of Antwerp:—"On St. Thomas' day there was neither snow nor ice; at the middle of March the Escant was traversed on foot and horseback."

Commercial affairs in France are less embarrassed than they were, although French

merchants have suffered far less than the merchants of any other country, Russia excepted. This arises in part from the comparative smallness of their transactions, and partly, no doubt, from their not having abused the system of credit in the manner which has unfortunately been the case here. French securities deteriorated greatly in price for a time. The shares of the Credit Mobilier fell more than 30 francs, and other securities in proportion. They have now nearly recovered their former value.

There is no political news of any importance with the exception of a formal statement in *L'Union*, a paper which is only less under the influence of the priests than *L'Univers*, which, as you are aware, is a violent supporter of the Ultramontanists. This statement is to the effect that, after the attack upon and taking of Canton by the combined English, French, and American forces, acting together, but without previous concert, the French fleet, after receiving the reinforcements which are about to be despatched from Toulon, will sail for the Gulf of Cochinchina, take possession of the town of Taurane, one of the most important of the empire of Annam, and will there proclaim the protectorate of France over this empire.

The rights of France to this protectorate are, according to the priests, incontestable, and the necessity for it not less so, in consequence of the cruel persecutions to which the native Christians have been subjected. Rear-Admiral Genouilly has received formal orders to act with vigour. It is also said that Spain, who is interested in the matter in consequence of the murder of Monsiegnor Diaz, vicar-apostolic in that country, will place a portion of the troops she maintains at the Philippines at the disposal of the French commander.

The *Spectator* for several days been carrying on a ship controversy with the *Continent*, and other ministerial papers on the subject of a treaty between England and Austria, which the former journal affirms was signed in July last, and which the other journals as positively deny having been made at all. The *Spectator* replies to its opponents in a final article, which is written with considerable ability, in which it asserts in the most positive manner that such treaty does not exist, and that it is content to wait for the meeting of the English Parliament when, no doubt, Mr. Disraeli—"who has proved himself to be well up in continental affairs"—will obtain such an avowal from our Government as will prove the truth of its (*Spectator's*) statement.

I cannot say whether there is, or is not, any truth in the assertions of the *Spectator*; as in such matters it is unsafe to place any reliance on private information. I have found by experience that what is termed "the best authority" is not so much to be relied on as a statement made under the heavy sense of responsibility which attaches to the writings of a French journalist.

The manner in which the French have recently extended their conquests in Algeria, leaves little doubt that the Government has in view the future subjugation of Morocco. Perhaps nothing that the French have done in Algeria has tended so much to confirm their authority over the wandering half-savage tribes of that country as the supplying them with water by means of artesian wells. No sooner have they conquered a tribe than they bore through the sand and rock until the water gushes up in abundance. The want of water is one of the greatest privations the Arab has to encounter, and the enthusiasm of the natives on seeing an abundant supply of pure water springing up in the desert is indescribable. By means of these wells nomadic tribes have been induced to give up their migrations and establish a village on the spot—a proceeding which brings them under the direct control of the French.

Great complaints are made by the Protestants in France of the oppressions to which they are subjected by the authorities in the rural districts. The law does not prevent them from establishing churches and schools, but the abuse of the law does; as no person is allowed to open a school without the sanction of the authorities, who refuse this sanction on the ground that it would be detrimental to public morals, inasmuch as it would excite the bad passions of the Roman Catholics, who are in most villages the majority.

An amusing incident has been brought before the magistrate at Besons, near Paris. An architect was residing in a villa at that place, with his wife and daughter, and a friend of his, who had been employed by him in sculpturing the busts of the architect's wife and daughter. When the busts were finished she demanded a sum of 500 francs: the lady objected to this, on the ground that she had never ordered the busts, and that it was a voluntary performance. The lady sculptor then adopted a singular method of enforcing payment. She put a chain round the necks of the busts, and caused them to be exhibited in a shop-window, with the following inscription in large letters on a card:—"Mother, where are we? In prison for debt, my child, laces are so dear." This soon reached the ears of the architect, who applied to the magistrate, who directed it to be removed from the gaze of the public; the question of the rights of the parties to be reserved for ulterior consideration. This reminds one of the story of the painter, who, after he had finished a portrait, being unable to obtain payment for it, painted bars across it; and put beneath the inscription "In prison for debt."

The four prisoners, Lemaire, Villet, Bourse, and Hugot, who had been condemned to death for several assassinations and burglaries which had made them the terror of the district in which they lived, were, with the exception of Hugot, whose punishment was commuted to hard labour for life, executed on the last day of the past year. No day had been previously fixed, and it was not until they were summoned to the scaffold that the condemned knew that their last hour had arrived. Villet and Bourse had been unable to sleep, but Lemaire required considerable shaking before he could be woken. He knew what this early rising meant, for he sat up immediately and said, "Ah! it is to go to Rosieres (the place of execution), I was expecting it." The other prisoners who were confined in the same apartment with them gave up what money they possessed, part to their families and part to pay for masses for the repose of their souls. At one o'clock in the morning, all the preparations being completed, the three criminals were placed in a cellular vehicle, and commenced their journey towards the scaffold, which was at some distance, under the escort of a party of gendarmes and a detachment of cavalry; a strong body of whom were posted round the scaffold, together with a large number of infantry. All along the road crowds of people from the surrounding country were assembled to see the procession pass. The

prisoners had been described as of the most impressive description. They bore frost glittering under the rays of a bright moon, and scarcely a sound being heard but the ringing of the harness shoes upon the hard ground as they passed along at a sharp trot. At Morel a short stoppage was made, and the three convicts expressed a wish to have some wine, which was given them. On reaching Rosieres, where they had formerly resided, Lemaire looked out through one of the openings made to admit air and light, and said aloud, "There is the mill at Rosieres!" and immediately the two other prisoners became violently affected. Bourse, especially, who almost fainted, and it was some time before he recovered himself. At this place they were removed from the vehicle and placed in a couple of cells in the police station, where they were attended by the chaplain and other priests, and after three-quarters of an hour spent in prayer and confession, they received absolution, and were led to the scaffold. Villet seemed deeply dejected, but the distance was too great to see how they behaved on the scaffold. The sun was shining brightly as they mounted, and the steel blade reflected the rays so vividly that the instrument of death could be seen at a great distance. Three times it descended, and each fall was followed by an indescribable sound from the multitudes assembled to witness the execution. The scaffold was erected on a vast plain, and it was estimated that there were 50,000 persons of every age and sex. Half-penny loaves were sold in large quantities among the crowd, as were also cigars and other articles. The bodies of the criminals were interred in the cemetery, in a grave quite close to a hole they had made in the wall for the purpose of committing a burglary.

It is not in London only that the mob sides with the offender, and against the police. At Digoin, a gendarme observed a zouave of the Imperial Guard drinking in a wine-shop, and knowing that the detachment to which he belonged had left that morning on its way to Africa, he asked the zouave how he came to be there; what the latter replied he was not stated, but he showed fight, and a battle ensued between the gendarme on the one side, and the zouave and his friend on the other, which was only terminated by the arrival of a brigade, which carried off the recalcitrant zouave and his friend to the lock-up. Although, says *L'Union*, there were about a hundred and fifty persons present, they none of them offered assistance to the gendarme, but, on the contrary, encouraged the zouave and his friend, "as is, unfortunately, but too frequently the case."

Everybody is familiar with the tale of the rats who emptied the oil from the flasks by dipping their tails in and then sucking them, as well as many other ingenious tricks for which they are famous; but it was reserved for a Frenchman to show they have also an ear for music. The owner of a house at Solesmes which was literally swarming with rats, instead of trying to destroy them, took it into his head to try an experiment. Three times a day, morning, noon, and night, he beat a tune upon the drum; after a time the rats at the first stroke of the drum came tumbling into the room and began a kind of dance of the most comical description. To add to the happiness of the proprietor all the marmots of the neighbourhood gradually joined the rats in these moments of relaxation.

A Frenchman has made a calculation as to the highest value which can be given to a material by labour. He says, with a pound of iron, scarcely worth 25 centimes, converted into steel, may be made about 80,000 mainsprings for watches, which are sold at prices ranging up to 18 francs. So that that which originally cost 25 centimes, or two-pence halfpenny, fetches by the labour bestowed upon it nearly a million and a-half of francs, or nearly £60,000. I am inclined to think the Frenchman's calculation is not an original one.

Another piece of statistical information interesting to snuff takers has been published in the *Siecle*. A snuff-taker ordinarily has recourse to his snuff-box once in ten minutes. The taking of the pinch with its incidental operations occupies a minute and a-half. Now a minute and a-half every ten minutes is two hours twenty-four minutes in a day of 16 hours, or in one year no less than 364 days are consumed in the indulgence of this amusement. If then one supposes that the habit is indulged in for 40 years, no less than 4 years are entirely absorbed by attention to the nose.

Most of the English Assurance Companies have agencies in the principal towns of France. One of these has just had a narrow escape of being threatened with extinction. A Frenchman insured for 20,000 francs, for which he had to pay a premium of 30 francs a month. After three months it occurred to him that it would be much pleasanter to spend the 20,000 francs himself than to leave it to others; he accordingly took measures to obtain it, and by sundry artful contrivances he succeeded in getting a certificate of his own death and burial, which he sent over here in his wife's name, with a claim for the amount of the assurance. As everything was perfectly regular the company could not refuse to pay it; they, however, did not like the idea of paying so large a sum after receiving only 90 francs, so they sent a clerk over to try to effect a compromise. The man went in the first place to the address of the widow, but not finding her, he went to the house of her father-in-law, where, to his great surprise, the first person he saw was the supposed defunct, whom he hastened to hand over to the care of the police.

Marie Beraill was tried the other day at Agen on a charge of having murdered her three children. The first two having died within a few days of their birth, although very healthy looking children, the suspicions of the woman who prepared them for burial were excited, especially as there were marks of bruises upon the bodies; consequently, when a third child was born, although remarkably strong and healthy, followed the two others, information was given to the police, and the woman was apprehended. She speedily confessed that she had murdered them all by putting her fingers in their throat and choking them. Evidence was given which proved her conduct to have constantly been of the most immoral character. Although married and living with her husband, with whom she worked in a very extensive factory, it is said that there is scarcely a man in the district with whom she has not been on the most intimate terms. One would think that there was a case for enforcing the law to its utmost severity; yet no, the jury found there were extenuating circumstances in her favour, and instead of being guillotined, she is sentenced to confinement for life. French juries do sometimes perform their duty. They had to give a verdict in the case of a woman who was charged with having murdered her husband, and whom they found guilty, without admitting extenuat-

ing circumstances, and on the 28th ultimo, she was taken out to execution, almost in an insensible state. The fresh morning air revived her, but at the sight of the knife (as Frenchmen term the instrument which cuts off the heads of animals) she fainted away, and remained insensible, and in this condition the executioner placed her in the necessary position, and released the blade which decapitated her without her being in any way conscious of it. I have remarked that French juries do their duty more frequently in cases where a woman is charged with murdering her husband than in any other; as the following instance will show:—A man, named Vergnault, had for years past ill-treated his wife in the most brutal manner. His ferocious character made him so dreaded by their neighbours, that none dared to receive her into the house on these occasions; she was therefore obliged to submit to it. Worn at last, and fearing every hour that he would murder her, she instituted a suit to obtain a separation, and the case was just about to be heard, when one day the husband entered the room where she was at work, with a hatchet in his hand, and quietly said "Your last hour is come." She rose to fly, when he struck her a fearful blow on the neck which, but for the many folds of her neckerchief, would have severed her head from her body. She fell to the ground. He then struck her one blow on the head, and the hatchet crashed completely through her skull, into the brain. He then walked away as if nothing had happened; and meeting a man whom he knew, quietly told him, as if it were a matter of no importance, that he had just killed his wife, and was taking himself out of the way. He went in to a village at no great distance where he entered a public-house, the landlord of which asked him how his wife was, when he replied, "Ah! she is dead, thank God!" He was soon arrested, and was himself so ignorant of the existence of any "extrajudicial circumstances," that he remained to the man who took him:—"I know very well the fate that awaits me; but I have a fat neck, and it will require a famous knife to cut my head off;" nevertheless the jury found the extenuating circumstance of which he was not himself aware, consequently his life is spared.

Mademoiselle Rachel, the celebrated French actress, who in her youthful days used to accompany her sister, who was an itinerant singer, to collect the money, died at the end of last month. Her remains were embalmed at Caen, and were brought to her residence at Paris on the 7th instant. Her funeral took place on the 8th. She was buried in the family vault in the cemetery of Pere Lachaise.

The *Moniteur de la Flotte* publishes a letter from Madagascar, which describes the condition of the people of that country as most deplorable. The peaceable portion of the population, tired of the odious yoke of a set of rascals who govern in the name of Ranaval, formed themselves into a kind of society, the members of which called themselves Catholics; not that they were all Catholics, for many Protestants, converted by the English missionaries, as well as idolaters, were included in the association. But the morality preached by our missionaries, and their practice, being to a large extent opposed to that of the Government, the association thought they could not distinguish themselves more completely than by terming themselves Catholics.

Unfortunately the existence of the association was discovered, owing to a letter addressed to one of the conspirators by an English missionary; hence the immediate expulsion of all foreigners from the island, and the frightful massacre of the natives suspected of being members of the association. The number of victims who have perished is estimated at 2000, without counting the women and children, who, despoiled of everything they possessed, have died of misery and starvation.

The statements of the salubrity of the climate of Madagascar are confirmed by the appearance of the French who were expelled from the island, their appearance presenting a striking contrast to that of other residents in the tropics.

The result of the recent elections in Belgium has given considerable satisfaction here. Having some months ago informed you of the nature of the bill which the Ministers introduced, and which led to rioting in all the principal towns in consequence of the favourable reception it met with in the Chamber, I need only mention that the bill would have given considerable benefits out of the hands of the societies who have hitherto had the distribution of them, and placed them in the hands of the priests. It also proposed to repeal the law of mortmain, which renders all bequests to religious congregations null and void. The riots led to the prorogation of the Chambers, and the result of the communal elections to the resignation of Ministers. M. Rogier was then entrusted with the formation of a Liberal Cabinet, and it being impossible for him to carry on a Government with a majority of the Chamber against him, they dissolved the Chamber and appealed to the country. Every exertion was made by the priests to prevent members of their order, and in towns like Antwerp and Ghent, where the monkish element is so very strong, they almost succeeded, and were only beaten by a small majority. The change in the Chamber in the relative numbers of two parties is a majority of 25 on the side of the liberals, who were previous to the dissolution in a minority of 16. One of the greatest blessings to Belgium would be the sweeping away of monastic institutions, which abound to an incredible extent in the Flemish towns. I cannot at this moment remember the exact number of priests in Ghent, but they amount to many hundreds; and a more unintelligent looking set of men than a great portion of them, never appeared at the bar of the Old Bailey. Their manners too are on a par with their appearance. I remember seeing in the court-yard of an hotel at Brussels two priests in conversation with a party of ladies, when one of them turned round, and sacrificing to decency to the extent of moving about a yard from the ladies, deliberately committed a filthy nuisance in their sight and hearing; and this, too, without the ladies appearing to take any notice of the action, proving that they are accustomed to such things. Indeed a few days travelling in Belgium convinced me that in such matters the sense of decency among Belgian women is even less than among French women; not that I directed my observation to their manners in that particular, but, unfortunately, it took place only too frequently under my nose.

Austria has lost her greatest soldier. Field-Marshal Radetzky died on the 5th instant at the great age of ninety-two. He entered the army in 1787, two years later he distinguished himself at the taking of Belgrade. Shortly afterwards the French revolution broke out.

