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OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

words did read rather synical, and there

...the Fund has given to it the air of a political demonstration. Men are subscribing for many cases, not because they pity Boycott, but because they dislike the Premier, or because they think that coercive measures should be applied at once. The Earl of Derby is to be marked as a subscriber of £50—a sum which is equivalent to the Tories. The political aspect of the subscription renders it the best comment in the threatening letter which the treasurers have received. . . . The Land League terrorism is extended itself across the Channel. Perhaps in matters political the encounter between Lord Carnarvon and Mr. Bright has created most sensation. . . . Mr. Bright's answer to his Lordship's challenge . . .

Birmingham Bruser," as the sturdy John is called, is not likely to accept even at Christmas-tide

Since the Christmas "sadly fell," when everywhere that the English language was spoken the death of Thackeray was mourned as a personal loss, I have known no event create a sadder impression on the reading ears of the English nation.

filled so conspicuous a place in the foremost rank

the great writers of the century, of whom Dickens, Thackeray, and Lytton were the center. The blow comes, too, so suddenly that it is even on that account more sorely felt.

need ill spare such a pen as that which has added the last line to the imperishable records.

The action of Her Majesty in providing the Empress of the French with a charming residence in the Isle of Wight will be generally approved of in this country and in France, with the possible exception of a few political fanatics.

Rothchild is to be the new tenant of the house.

Persons unversed in the laws of Patent Rights will have been somewhat puzzled by the contradictory advertisements in the London papers of the Post Office authorities and the United Telephone

proposal made to the public by a member of the
Ministry on behalf of a Department of State.

followed by a warning from a private company that any one who avails himself of the Government offer will be immediately proceeded against in the courts of law. Technically, no doubt, Mr. Lawcett has committed a mistake. The Cro-

power to assign the right of using it to the parties.

but the saddest case of insolvency which is now being met is that of the spirited agriculturist of Fiptree Farm. Mr. Mechi, who stood bravely against a succession of bad seasons, has at last had to file his petition: but he does not

He has stated that his business went down and

I do not remember a year when Londoners seem

With the Guards now and the Scots Greys hurr-
off to Dublin, as if Ireland were already in mass-

Question absorbing all other interests, it is easy to see why it is so. Besides, our Christmas holidays this year are brought to the briefest span. Christmas Day is to see us launched into the open sea of political strife, and we shall have to

to-day; water to-morrow," must be our rule, and

The Reverend Ezekiel Woodward was a very popular, serious, and "painful" London preacher.

pamphlet of his the other day, of which the following is the title: "Christmas Day: The Old Heath-

Feasting Day : The Papias Massing Day :
 Profane man's ranting day : the superstitious man's
 Idol day : Satan's working day : the true Chistian
 man's fasting day ; Taking to heart the heathen
 customs, Popish superstitions, ranting fashions

...ing days." Poor Hezekial! Puritanism can

have been so entirely prevalent during the Commonwealth as to put such a complete stop to merry-making, as has generally been believed, if severe a diatribe was necessary against Christmas festivities. In fact, men were Englishmen first and Puritans afterwards, and precious few of the

Christian men though they were, made Christ

their fasting day. In the olden days, however, word or two of caution and rebuke from the pulpit would not have been altogether out of place. Christmas-time without going the length of Mr. Woodward's fiery invective against merriment in sentimental moods one may sigh for the boisterous

of all classes, the general carnival of romp and sports and in truth the thing was picturesque.

ough. And yet withal it was a little coarse a
brutal. It meant a great deal of over-eating and
great deal more of over-drinking. Command
father to our quieter and every-year-more-qu
Christmas-keeping, with its measured festivity

and unselfish enjoyment.

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