

THE GUARDIAN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1876

QUACKERY AND THE DOCTORS

It is impossible to blame the medical profession for taking up the cudgels on its own behalf. A society was started some time in the beginning of the present year for suppressing the practice of surgery and medicine by unqualified persons, as well as for putting down quackery; and if little good has as yet been done in mitigating the evils complained of, it is not without some satisfaction that the parties interested in the movement meet occasionally together for the ventilation of their peculiar grievance. Doctors think themselves the worst served of all practitioners; they believe that no other profession is so beset with dissemblers and quacks. The Chairman of a meeting recently held—Dr. RICHARDSON—declared that neither anatomy, astronomy, nor the other sciences were subject to such evil influences, and that quackery was more rife now than at any former period. No doubt the medical profession is a much enduring one; its members having to hold their own against charlatans of every possible kind. There is the herbalist, the mesmerist, and the thousand and one practitioners who by styling their places of business "Medical Halls," and putting "Dr." before their names, are able to gull the public, and take the bread out of the mouths of genuine medical men. These are hardships which are everywhere being endured. But perhaps the medical enthusiasts go a little too far in imagining that they alone are subject to quack annoyances. Is there no quackery in the legal profession? Despite the celebrated saying that "every man who is his own lawyer has a fool for his client," we apprehend that there are numbers of persons only too willing to entrust difficult matters to advisers who have never passed a degree or been "admitted" as duly qualified practitioners. Evidently law as well as physic is afflicted with quacks. How is it, we wonder, with divinity? Shall we discover nothing but the genuine article here? We are afraid there is evidence enough to the contrary; at all events there are few persons belonging to either of the innumerable sects comprising our religious bodies who would not complain, if appealed to, of the presence of quackery, though, perhaps, the evil would be seen in others rather than in themselves. It may be unpleasant to think upon, but quackery is more general than doctors imagine, though we will admit that in no profession does it work greater evils than in that of medicine. How insidious and persistent is the quack, and how readily is he believed in? Pills or ointment advertised to cure all complaints, without regard to cause or constitution, are bought and used, not by scores or hundreds, but by thousands of persons. We do not know what comfort is to be offered to our medical friends but the suggestion that they should persevere in their propaganda against the great foe to their interests, not simply by establishing parliamentary prohibitions, but by constantly bringing before the notice of the public the absurdity of the professions in which a credulous—because thoughtless public are too prone to put their trust.

EXCHANGE PANICS

No doubt there was something which had the appearance of being very smart in all the circumstances under which we became possessed of the Suez Canal shares. There was a glamour thrown over the whole transaction which JOHN BULL liked, and he enjoyed the discomfiture of France and other Continental Powers which beguaded us the solid advantages which it was at the first sight thought the purchase had so cheaply secured. The surprise came upon us during a dull season when any sensation would at least be welcomed by newspaper-readers; and there was something so bold and so sudden in a stroke which changed the aspect of the Eastern Question, so far as this country was concerned, that those persons were noted prigs and bores who in any spirit of cavil entered upon a criticism of what we had really been about. It was said to have laid for ever the Indian bogey which frightened us in the days of PALMERSTON into a war with Russia which has had no better result than to keep the Ottoman Empire on its tottering legs for twenty years. If within a week after the first announcement of this famous purchase MR. DISRAELI had called Parliament together to endorse his policy and vote the money, advanced doubtless for a consideration, by his accommodating friends, the ROTHSCHILDS, the Purchase-money would have been voted with acclamation, and MR. DISRAELI met with a peean of applause which has seldom been accorded to any Minister in latter-day Parliaments. The Premier had most astutely prepared the minds of the people for a surprise. 'Had he not only a few days before at the Mansion House Banquet

minously shaken his head, declaring that the Eastern Question was upon us, and not concealing the ugly fact that if the Great Powers quarrelled over Turkey, a deadly war would become inevitable. This was a fine prologue for such a denouement as Mr. DISRAELI had probably prepared for us, at the time when we dwell upon the more than Egyptian darkness which pervaded prospects in the East. He was talking, too, to a number of large holders of Turkish bonds whose minds were in just the condition to receive with due apprehension his ominous forebodings. The surprise, therefore, was carefully led up to by which in a single morning, we awoke to find with what ease a DISRAELI could cut the gordian knot which we have so many years been taught to see in the Eastern Question. By this splendid purchase it was inferred that the Government had somehow destroyed forever the chance of our being drawn into a position in which even a partition of Turkey as of Poland would make us move a finger in the support of the Ottoman Empire. We were no more concerned by its preservation than by its spoliation, and indeed we were assured the time was not an inconvenient one to blot out Turkey from the map of Europe. Gradually, however, upon the completion of the purchase the condition of sale underwent which we take possession afforded poor grounds for congratulation. We have it appears some time to wait before we can realize the advantages of the Purchase; and certain events which have made themselves felt on the London Stock Exchange incline us to believe that our acquisitions in Egypt are not altogether unmixt blessings. In leaving Turkey

to founder and sending out Mr. Cave to feel the pulse of the Khedive it is clear that we have only exchanged one sick *protège* for another. It was only the other day Turkish Bondholders in England and France declared it was impossible for their governments to quietly stand by and see their mis-placed confidence destroyed, and no doubt it is in the mind of those who have so suddenly become interested in Egyptian affairs that the Suez-share purchase is a guarantee of our Government to keep the Khedive on his legs. If this be so, we think the sooner such a notion be discouraged the better. We are certainly not reduced to the position of being compelled to maintain Egypt in profligate extravagance any more than Turkey for the sake of keeping clear the Suez water-way to India. The panic of last week detracts from the glories of Mr. DIBRAILLI's well-earned triumphs before even Parliament has had an opportunity to express an opinion. Judging by the bearing and lulling of Egyptian stock last week, it is clear that capital is being diverted from legitimate channels by misleading reports concerning the land of the Pyramids. Small investors will do well to think twice before joining in the discreditable scrambles of the Stock Exchange. It is said that one wary wire-puller of the bogus telegrams from Cairo has just netted no less a sum than £70,000. This certainly means mischief to some unsuspecting victim, and will awaken the suspicion that if Egypt, by every nod of its capricious Khedive is to throw the Bourse of Paris and of London into a panic, we shall have considerably to modify our views of the satisfaction with which we first regarded the transaction under which Turkish interests were totally eclipsed by the new relations which we have formed with Egypt.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT

Not a pleasant subject of contemplation is the report of Trade returns for December. Our exports have declined 3 per cent as compared with the same month in 1874, and 9 per cent as compared with December 1873; and our imports have fallen off to the extent of 3 per cent as contrasted with the last month of 1873, though they happily show an increase of 10 per cent as compared with December 1872. In the whole this is far from satisfactory. Adding to this the facts, I am afraid Sir Stafford Northcote will have rather a sorry tale to tell when he brings forward his next Budget.

Mr. Milbolland, the Conservative Member for Down Patrick, has been asked by Mr. Disraeli to conduct the address at the opening of Parliament; and the lines trade is looking up and Ireland is fairly responsive to make it as a recognition of those

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their views and practices; and if the decision is entirely adverse to him, it will certainly be a heavy blow and sore discouragement to that section of the Church generally. But to go beyond this—supposing this judgment is altogether adverse to Mr. Ridsdale, this decision will govern others; and then *what* be *apert*? Will not this lead to a movement for the establishment of a Free Church of England? In any case, it is not easy to overrate the importance of these trials.

The curious high price of meat in this country gives great importance to an experiment which is now being made in bringing over quarters of fresh beef from America. There seems to be every probability that this experiment will prove a great success, and indeed 40 tons of it have been imported from the States, and is now being sold at a price which is the price now quoted for "inferior beef," as it is called in the market, but which is nevertheless good. Vessels have been planned and fitted for this new trade, and the meat is wrapped in cloth, placed in boxes, and sent with ice, so that it will keep for a long time. It is not, however, so good as the best, but for keeping months in power, so that there is in each receptacle as continued current of fresh cold meat. It of course remains to be seen how this plan will work in the summer time, but there is no reason to hope it will be successful if not so successful as the present method of obtaining meat from South America, or even Australia.

The municipality of Birmingham and the population of that busy town may alike be congratulated on the fact that the corporation has just concluded the purchase of the Birmingham and Staffordshire (Gas Company and the Birmingham Waterworks Company, so that the supply of gas and water to the town is now in the hands of the municipality. This of course gives the ratepayers a considerable control over these important matters. This fact should serve as a lesson to other towns. Neither the supply of gas nor of water should be in the hands of a private company. The town should be in both respects at the head of its companies. Next season, however, an effort will be made to bring both under the control of the Metropolitan Board of Works. It is highly probable that in both respects we were freed from the tyranny of directors.

Still another new club has just been opened in London—the Hanover Square Club, the title of which indicates its locality. The place was for many years known to lovers of music as the Hanover Square Rooms, and the principal hall was said to have been the finest room for sound in the world. But "the harp that once," &c., and the Rooms have been transformed into a splendid ball-room. Located on the handsome corner of the Strand, the new club is a handsome room 70 feet long, 55 feet wide (a perfect parallel-logarithm) and 20 feet high, where there are billiard and smoking rooms and all the appurtenances of a first-class club. It starts, at all events, under influential auspices—Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, Prince Bathyani, Count Gleichen, the German and Turkish Ambassadors, and the Duke of Devonshire, are becoming members of the club. Although we are becoming very luxurious in regard to our clubs; which are not only more numerous but more splendidly appointed than ever.

The Crystal Palace Company—making the year with at least one valuable reform—begin the Saturday shilling, instead of a half-crown, day. As Saturday is in London a half-holiday, this will be a great boon. And I expect that this will become the popular day, although on Mondays the price of admission will now be practically only sixpence. But I think it is not wise entirely to abolish the half-crown admission on Saturday with the view of giving the Crystal Palace a one to-morrow Friday for good and all this. There ought to be one dear and fashionable day. The upper classes like it, and they should have one day to themselves, if five days are given to the people. It may have been the highest order, and Crystal Palace has been largely patronised by the season-ticket holders; but such music is not popular or adapted for the great mass of shilling visitors. Why not have these classical concerts on Friday, and the popular music on Saturday? The shilling Saturday has been a success. The admissions to season-ticket were 2,778; by payment 2,666; total, 5,444. I should say that this was at least four times as many shilling as the company had before. It is not many shillings they can gain by the change. It of course remains to be seen how these changes work, but at present they appear likely to work well.

Another addition to our places of amusement will

be shortly met by the Duke of Edinburgh, who will be warmly welcomed by the Mayor and the Corporation. The Duke of Edinburgh presiding at the ceremony. That the place will have great attractions I do not doubt, but I do not see anything particularly novel in it, and in fact this new resource will be a kind of Crystal Palace or Alexandra Palace over again. Some such a place actually in London is much wanted. In one respect I think the directors of all these places make a mistake in handing over the entire replacement department to the contractors, and this on such terms that the latter are obliged to recoup themselves, must make heavy charges. It would be far better to have the replacement department under the management of the directors, who should be responsible to the ratepayers, and thus supply the public on fair and reasonable terms instead of charging the exorbitant prices at present wrung from visitors. Moreover, at the Crystal Palace and Alexandra Palace, the refreshment department will be just the same at the Aquarium, the refreshment department will be just the same at the London Aquarium. The whole subject is worthy of serious consideration.

Those who have read that extraordinary book Thomas Cooper's "Purgatory of Suicide"—a volume, I suppose, now out of print, and which I will not have reprinted, as he very considerably changed his religious opinions—will be struck by two things—the number of celebrated men and women who have committed suicide, and the variety of modes considered. I doubt, however, whether, all things considered, much stranger mode of killing oneself by electricity has not been adopted than that which was employed by Ellen George, a married woman, and too early for me wearing a corset, who, in the year 1840, at the age of 30, hanged herself to the railings of St. Paul's Square. It seems that she must have taken some trouble to destroy herself, and that she died lingeringly. And yet, though her body was hanging on the railings of a square in a densely populated neighbourhood for hours after the act of self-destruction. This is one of my mysteries of London.

FISHING BOAT RUN DOWN

The Belgian fishing boat Clara, of Ostend, was blown down and sunk on Sunday night, 30 miles off Lowestoft, by the fishing boat Lily, of Lamerston. Five of the crew were drowned. The master's son, Peter Grookboom, was the only person saved. He was taken aboard the boat of the Lily, and thence forwarded to the Yarmouth Bailors' House.

DR. KENEALY AND THE GLAY'S INN BENCHERS.

The justices and benchers of Gray's Inn having first twice in Chancery to eject Dr. Kenealy from rooms at No. 2, Gray's Inn Square, and compel him to occupy the trust property of the society to new trusts, application was made recently, before Vice-Chancellor Hall to compel the benchers under the new Judicature Act. No one appeared for Dr. Kenealy, and an order was made accordingly.

DR. KENEALY AND THE GRAY'S INN

BENEFICIERS.
The justices and benefactors of Gray's Inn having first taken into consideration the petition of the two suits in Chancery to eject J. Kennedy from rooms at No. 2, Gray's Inn Square, and compel him to convey the trust property of the society to new trustees, an order was made on the 10th inst. that the application was made recently, before Vice-Chancellor Hall to consolidate the suits under the new judicial Act. No one appeared for Dr. Kennedy, and an order was made accordingly.

CARDINAL LIEBOWITZSKI.
The B-rin correspondent of the *Pall Mall* (Gazette) has:-Cardinal Liebowitzski will not be either a member of the Government or a member of the staff of its arms of imperialism. The Government is determined to liberate him unconditionally. He was, however, be closely watched, and if he should in any way infringe the new *Police Laws* by exercising any special rights or otherwise he will be brought to justice at once.

CARDINAL LEDOCHOWSKI

The British correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* telegraphs:—Cardinal Ledochowski will not be either exiled or expelled from the country at the expiration of his term of imprisonment. The Government has determined to liberate him unconditionally. He will, however, be closely watched, and if he should in any way infringe the new *Falko Laws* by exercising episcopal functions or otherwise he will be brought to justice at once.

EXTRAORDINARY AFFAIR IN PLYMOUTH

Some hundreds of anonymous letters and post cards containing scandalous allegations concerning several persons moving in the highest social circles of Plymouth have recently been sent to scores of gentlemen in the mouth and Devonport, including all the principal naval and military officers, clergymen, barristers, and physicians. A committee of recipients offered her rewards for the discovery of the writer, and have succeeded that they have now publicly advertised for the discovery of a Plymouth solicitor in the practice, who is challenged by name to prosecute—accuses if he denies the charge. The affair is causing immense excitement.

A HICAR AND HIS SEVENTY

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MR. COWEN, M.P., AND LICENSING

BOARDERS.

In reply to an inquiry, the secretary of the Newcastle Auxiliary of the United Kingdom Alliance received the following private letter from Mr. Jos. Cowen, M.P., which Mr. Cowen has subsequently expressed his willingness to have published:—

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ANTICIPATED GREAT STRIKE IN T

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SHIPWRECK IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL

The steamer *Frascati*, from Cardiff, struck on a sunken rock or wreck in the English Channel, on the 3rd inst., and sank in fifteen minutes. Her crew, numbering 14, were picked up by a French smack, and landed at Southampton on Tuesday morning.

MR. PLIMSOLL'S AGENT AND THE WIL

ROSE CASE.
Mr. Fyfe, the Liverpool agent of Mr. Plimssoll, who notwithstanding the recent decision of the magistrate and the survey of the Board of Trade officers, maintains that the men of the Wild Rose were justified in not proceeding to sea, received on Monday a reply to the telegram which he had forwarded to the Queen, to the effect that his message had been placed before the Board of Trade. This vessel sailed on Sunday for Calcutta, and learning this on Monday, (Mr. Fyfe sent another telegram, addressed to her Majesty, announcing the fact, and urging that the vessel might be stopped by a vessel of war before "all on board were drowned."

THE JEFFERSON BORDEN

Since the *Jefferson* Bordien was towed into Aberdeen Harbor disabled three days ago, the members of the crew have signed a statement complaining of the behavior of the state in which the ship was captured. The statement reads: "We, the undersigned, Captain Paterson and crew of the *Jefferson*, say: 'We have asked Captain Paterson to put us the money due for our services, and he refuses to do so. He very well knows that no one on board would make a second passage with him in this ill-fated ship. He has refused to let us go, and he has refused to leave what slaves never worked harder for.' From this statement as to the management of the *Jefferson* Bordien people cannot fail to recall the fact that there was a mutiny on board that vessel the previous voyage, when the captain's brother and cousin were killed. Two of the mutineers are now under sentence of death at Boston."

EXTRAORDINARY ABDUCTION CASE.

Before the county magistrates at Macclesfield, on Tuesday, the Corleby abduction case was resumed. Mr. Barclay, who appeared on behalf of the Corlebs, applied to the bench that the child might be a witness in the matter. The Mr. Miller Hutton, having been sworn by the defendant, Frederick Rutland, to her parent uninjured, the defendant also acknowledging his error and promising to defray the whole of the expenses.—Mr. Cobbett, of Manchester, concurred, and the magistrates, having consulted, consented with great reluctance.—But the Corlebs were not prepared to consent to the child's deposing to surrender the custody of his child, four years of age, to his wife.—Mr. Cobbett declined to advise his client to surrender the child till he was acquainted with the circumstances.—Mr. Barclay stated that the defendant's conduct had been such that it was impossible to advise him to do so.

THE SLAVE CIRCULAR

About one hundred years ago the Earl of Dartmouth, then Secretary of State, observed, in answer to some questions put to him by a select committee of the House of Commons, that "we cannot allow the colonies to be free traders, than in any degree a traffic so beneficial to the nation as the slave trade." The Earl's words were uttered in 1776, and it is, perhaps, hardly enough expressive of the feeling of the time. We do not propose to do more than to quote a few of the most striking and most cynical sentiments and some opinions on slavery that have been uttered by "the highest authority," the Government of 1876 to evidence once more the feeling toward the primitive institution so aptly described by the Earl of Dartmouth as "the traffic of our woe." It is hardly necessary to say that some of our woe going back a little on the subject of slavery, and that the policy which we have pursued has been to keep the feeling of the time from doing the reaction, as upon that a mere stain of moral latitude in certain cases, destined perhaps to be removed by the action of the future, but the traces of a wide regret of the times when we can man might have set his own nigger to whip. But the Earl of Dartmouth's words are not the only ones. Osprey's fervid verses about "the heathen" Britons are shown to the "barred" Britisher. The Earl of Dartmouth's words are not the only ones. Osprey's fervid verses about "the heathen" Britons are shown to the "barred" Britisher. The Earl of Dartmouth's words are not the only ones. Osprey's fervid verses about "the heathen" Britons are shown to the "barred" Britisher.

MR. BRIGHT AND HIS CONSTITUENTS

At the annual meeting of the Birmingham branch of the National Association of Colored People, held on Saturday, the 22nd instant, an amendment to the motion of confidence will be proposed. For some time past there has been growing feeling in Birmingham that the Liberal Association is not so much the character of a middle-class society, as there has been a serious recession of working men's support. The Liberal Association has been a forward committee somewhat after the model of the "Four Hundred" (the committee which decided the fate of the Liberal Government in 1905), and the late extraordinary school board election a labour candidate was run, and secured a very fair share of support. But these committees have been formed on a purely ward basis, and the Liberal Association has no confidence in Mr. Bright will be carried, and a demonstration of some strength will, it is expected, be given to the Liberal Association. The Liberal Association with the middle-class tendencies of the Liberal Association, and, while having no complaint to make against Mr. Bright, they are not prepared to follow on such remarks made by Mr. Bright at the banquet to M. Chevalier, and at his laudation of the organization of the Liberal Association on the occasion of his visit.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* writes: Considerable interest is felt in the proposed separation of political and religious meetings at Birmingham, and to what Mr. Briggs may say on the future policy of the Liberal party in connection with the proposed separation of the country does not accord with the hopes and wishes of the late Premier, and there is just a faint aroma of the old quarrel between the Liberal and the Opposition leaders themselves run some risk of being revived in the condition of jettying Whigs. The Liberal party have already been severely criticised in view of such blunders as the late circular and the Birmingham meeting, and the present proposal may be a further opportunity for the press to say that the Liberal party are not fit to be entrusted with the Government. It will be difficult to devise a platform that will suit all parties, but the leaders could not so forget that a programme of action is one thing and a platform is another. The Liberal is a party. With the Conservatives it differs, but it is not forced from it, and yields to it. Therefore, have they for a programme? The proposed separation of religious and political meetings is not a programme, it is a suggestion, and it is not one that has attracted much attention. The Liberal party have made definite declarations from the present leaders of the party, and the Liberal party have not been able to do so, especially as it does not profess to establish a religious test of Liberator. The Radicals, and more the the Liberal party, have been Mr. Briggs' ally.

Meddling with where sometimes brings us in scrapes, and thereby one of the churchwardens of certain church made "bad worse." A young fellow entered the church and took his seat, keeping his h on. The warden noting it, requested him to take off. His request not being complied with, he spoke to the young man a second time, and seeing he still hesitated, the old gentleman gently lifted his hat of wain, to his chagrin, out rolled a quart of Spanish wine, making more noise than was consistent with decorum. "Man," quietly said the youth, "see how you have done."

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WILLS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

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