District News.

SYMONDSBURY.—THE PRIZE BOAR "Sam," the property of Mr J. Pitfield, from some cause met its death in the trunk between Hereford and Swindon, on its return from the Bath and West of England Show. All appeared well when the animal left Hereford at ten o'clock on Friday evening, but on arriving at Swindon at three it was found to be dead. It was of the improved Dorset breed, and valued at £18.

WEDDING FESTIVITIES.

CHIDEOCK.—On Thursday last, the village of Chideock presented an unusually gay appearance in celebration of the marriage of Constance Henrietta, only daughter of the Rev. R. H. Walworth, with the Rev. J. H. Bourjay of Northfield. The bells of the Parish Church rang out merry peals at intervals, and guns were fired in honour of the happy event. The floral decorations, both within and without the Church, were arranged with much taste, those in the chancel exhibiting motives indicating the sincere wishes of the parishioners for the happiness of the young lady, who had so much contributed to the efficiency of the Church choir, and who, by her disinterestedness on every occasion, has endeared herself to all classes in the neighbourhood. That such has been duly appreciated may be inferred from the numerous presents left her on this occasion (more than fifty in number), thirty of which were from the parishioners, and included a very handsome silver fish slice and fork, in case, from the members of the choir; also, in the mediæval style of caddy, from the children of the school; a handsome egg-stand, Mr Jerrard, of North Chideock; a chased silver from Capt. Hay; and various souvenirs kindly and feelingly given by other members of the parish. An elegant tea and coffee service, given by the brother of the bride, was much admired. The bride left the parsonage, attended by four bridesmaids, the Misses Rogers, Lyddon, Lawson, and Hereford, at 11 o'clock. The ceremony was announced by a discharge of guns from the tower of the church. The bride was attired in a rich white glacé silk dress, tulle veil, surmounted by a wreath of orange myrtle, and jessamine, the bridesmaids were attired in white tarlatan dresses, tulle veils, and wreaths of lys and geranium. When the cortege entered the church, the whole of the seats were already occupied. The service was performed by the father of the bride, assisted by the Rev. J. Drew. The bride was given away by the Rev. Prebendy Dayman, of Salisbury. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the bells rang out a merry peal, and another discharge of cannon followed. The school children lined the way from the church to the carriage, and strewed the path with flowers. The happy pair then repaired to the parsonage, where they met a select company of friends at a most sumptuous breakfast prepared by the worthy townsman, Mr Howse, of West-street, which certainly reflected great credit upon his skill and taste. At three o'clock, the happy couple left our north for Lymouth in the north of Devon, amid the cordial greetings of friends. A tea was provided for the choir and school children, and other refreshments for the parishioners generally. Mr R. H. Tucker kindly lent a field, and provided for a series of rural sports, dancing, &c., and altogether an enjoyment seemed the order of the day. The parishioners will have this solace at the loss of one so valuable—that she is allied to one who will, by his devotion, make her happiness the study of his life.

CHARMOUTH.—CRICKET.—A meeting of the Cricket Club, was held at the National school room, on Friday evening last, 6th inst., when Messrs J. B. and G. L. Hawkshaw, J. R. Symes, C. Brown, H. Cocks, J. Pearce, and J. Hodges jun., were proposed and elected.

PICNIC.—The Coronation Pic-nic Committee have announced their annual pic-nic, which this state will be more than usually attractive. Full particulars will be advertised in this (Bridport News) and other local papers.

We have to record the discovery in the neighbourhood of Charmouth of another plesiosaurus. This fossil, though not so perfect as the magnificent one acquired by the British Museum last year, is yet a remarkably fine specimen, and being in a state of good preservation. Portions of the skeleton have been submitted to Professor Owen, who has pronounced them to belong to an undescribed and un-named species. Thus this makes the second new species of this most remarkable family found by H. H. Day, Esq., F.G.S., of Charmouth, has been the medium of bringing under the notice of the scientific world. It is to be hoped that this wonderful relic of a bygone age of life will be secured for the national collection, but at present, as we are informed, circumstances seem likely to prevent its acquisition.

OATS FESTIVAL.—On Wednesday last the Charmouth branch of the Manchester Rational Sick and Burial Association held their annual festival. The village on the occasion presented a gay appearance, floated in many places, and triumphal arches spanned the street at various places, some of them of them of very pretty design. On one, we observed V.R. and two hands joined, (the emblem of unity,) made of flowers. A procession was formed, about one o'clock, consisting of the members and several friends, headed by the Colyton Rifle Band. A number of flags were carried in the procession. They paraded through the village and plaid Captain Grant, at Longmore, and Captain Munroe, at Northhill, a visit, and then returned to dinner, which was provided by Mr Holly, of the Cosch and Horses Inn, under a marquee, in a field. After dinner several speeches followed. The company then adjourned to the field, where various amusements, of which dancing formed a prominent part, commenced and continued until late in the evening. We have much pleasure in saying that this branch of the society is in a prosperous condition, it consists of 63 members. In the afternoon a public tea was provided at 4s each, of which a great number partook. Mr and Mrs Holly's catering gave the greatest satisfaction. Everything passed off in the most friendly manner.

NEW WATERWORKS.—On Monday afternoon last, this place was unusually gay, in consequence of the turning of the first sod of the New Waterworks, about to be constructed here. The ceremony took place soon after four o'clock, and was performed by Mrs Norris, the lady of H. R. Norris Esq., The proceedings commenced by Mr C. Brown (contractor) presenting to Mrs Norris the spade (a silver one provided expressly for the purpose), and desiring her to honour him by turning the first sod which she did, after this ceremony she was most enthusiastically cheered; then followed a speech by H. R. Norris, Esq., who said that it would be a great benefit to Charmouth to have a good supply of water, and much praise was due to Mr Hewlett shaw for his kindness in conferring such a benefit on the place. Cheers again followed, and the proceedings terminated by the band playing the national anthem. The whole party then left the field, and returned to another field further down the village, where two marquees were erected, where wine and beer were then distributed amongst the company, to drink success to the undertaking; this was followed by dancing, which continued some time, when all departed, much pleased with the day's proceedings. The company comprised a large number of gentry, tradespeople, farmers, &c., of Charmouth and Lyme Regis, some of the most distinguished of which led off the first quadrille. The greatest order prevailed from beginning to end, and much praise is due to John Hawkshaw, Esq., for acting forward in the liberal manner he has done. We committed to state that the village is illuminated with flags at several places. The contractors for the works are Messrs Brown, Brother, of Lyme Regis.

LYME.—WATER SUPPLY.—Several vestries have been held in this town for the purpose of devising some plan for supplying Church-street and other parts of Lyme with water. Many of the inhabitants experience great difficulties in providing themselves with this indispensable element. We have good authority for stating that this difficulty is now about to be removed. J. Treeby, Esq., the representative of the very interest in this borough, has undertaken, at his own expense, the task of supplying Lyme with water. Mr Hawkshaw has already done the same thing for Charmouth, as will be seen by our Charmouth intelligence.

SHIPPING.—*Arrivals.*—Two Friends, Ward, Exeter; Eling, Gibbs, Exeter; Morwinna, Harris, Bridport; Waterwitch, Loscoe, Plymouth; Old Tiff, Underdowne, Plymouth; Ann and Elizabeth, Young, Plymouth; Woodpark, Lanson, Plymouth; Elizabeth Ann, Rose, Newcastle; Julia, Rudd, Portsmouth; Challenge, Wood, Newcastle; Freedom, Knight, Plymouth; William, Phillips, Plymouth. *Sailings.* — Two Friends, Ward, Newcastle; Eling, Gibbs, Hull; Challenge, Wood, Plymouth; Ann and Emily, Hoskin, Hull; Morwinna, Harris, Plymouth; Waterwitch, Loscoe, Plymouth; Old Tiff, Underdowne, Plymouth; Ann and Elizabeth, Young, Plymouth; Woodpark, Lanson, Plymouth; Julia, Rudd, Plymouth; Freedom, Knight, Plymouth; William, Phillips, Plymouth.

BROADWINSOR.—On Friday June the ninth, the rent audit dinner of Colonel Pinney was held at the George Hotel. Colonel Pinney, who is Lord of the Manor resides at Somerton Erleigh, and was not present, but was ably represented by his steward, J. Edwards Esq., of Weston-super-Mare. An excellent dinner was provided by the host.

BROADWINSOR FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

On Tuesday last was held the festival of the Broadwinsor Friendly Society. The members of the club met at an early hour, and proceeded to the chapel where the Rev. R. S. Malan, called over the list of name. The procession then reformed, and marched to Church. Service, which service was read by the Rev R. S. Malan—the curate being absent. The anthem was taken from the 1,3,5,6,7,11,13,14,and 19 verses of the 65th psalm, and the appropriate hymn was selected for the occasion. Mr Coren the able secretary, presiding at the harmonium. The sermon—taken from Philipians iv, and the 5th verse—was founded upon the words, "Let your moderation be known unto all men, The Lord is at hand." From these words, the wise built up a sermon that must have reached the hearts of all present. He exhorted them not to live for this world, but for that which is to come; and impressed upon their minds that if they did so they would let their moderation be known unto all men. This, he said, would not detract from their pleasure, but rather enhance it. He trusted that throughout the day he should always act as remembering his Lord was nearing at hand, and that they would enjoy himself as much, if not more, than any of them.

At the conclusion of the service, the ranks were re-formed, and the procession was again proceeded to the village, proceeded to the tent erected in a field in the higher part of the town. The dinner was provided by Mrs Warren, at the Cross Keys.

The chair was occupied by the president of the association, the Rev. vicar Malan, the vice-chair being ably filled by J. S Studley, Esq. Among the company present were, Messrs Spooner; Wright, Chidlay; Warren, Bunyard Gregory, and Rev. Fowler; White (jun.); Henry Smith; Dummett (2); Dunning (3); Capt. Malan; Symes (2); F. J. Wallis, Crewkerne; Fowler; &c., &c. The club numbers 130, and, we believe nearly all were present.

The dinner having been duly discussed, the cloth was drawn, and the business of the toasts was begun.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing "The Queen," said, we Englishmen should afford to be loyal, because the Queen not only deserved respect as a sovereign, but as a constitutional head, so to speak, she did not personally govern, but knew her place, and kept it.

The next toast was that of "Church and State;" that toast in the country of Dissenting Churches was convertible with "The Constitution." By the union of church and state, the government, said Mr Malan, acknowledged the necessity of religion, and that, in his opinion, accounted for the prosperity of England. He had visited in many lands, and he could tell those who had not, that go where they would they could find no country better than their own. Being on the eve of a general election, he gave the members some advice on the course of action he considered they should pursue. The Conservatives wished to keep England as she was. Supposing England to be a rich purple—a colour all admired—France, yellow—America, green; Germany, brown; Liberals wished to take a little of each another, and apply to England. In his opinion that would never do, because the result could not be harmony, only a dauh.

THE CHAIRMAN, in proposing the next toast, the Army and Navy, said he was proud to be one of their thanks. Captain Malan had received, he did not know how many wounds in the service of his country (Captain Malan here spoke to his father.) His son had received five or six bullet wounds at Sebastopol, quite enough to last a man during the rest of his life. He had behaved capitally.

Captain MALAN returned thanks for the British army, of which he could afford to be loyal, because there might think they would not like to have soldiers quartered in Broadwinsor, but he could undertake to have his company stationed there, and the people should regret when they marched away. Captain Malan having spoken of the question of soldier possessed, said he was stationed at Weymouth, and should the French invade them, they had only to drop him a line or his company a regiment, and they would walk twenty miles, and thrash them with them the next morning. He subsequently proposed the "Militia and Volunteers," coupling with the latter the name of Mr Spooner. By the way, when the Rev. R. S. Malan wrote a note to him, in case of invasion, he should have referred them to Mr Spooner, who lived nearer to them than he did. He should upon the event Volunteer for it, and had watched them narrowly. Now he knew something of soldiering, and he must say Lord Elcho well. Discipline was the most essential part of soldiering. They were all as plucky as possible, and supposing the Frenchmen were to land, on Monday they would all make a rush at them. But if they were not disciplined, they would only be in the way.

Mr. SPOONER, in returning thanks for the kind sympathy always shown to the volunteer cause, and especially on that occasion, said there was no end to his gratitude, but he so frequently returned thanks for the kind manners that the limits of his words grew smaller every time. He felt a difficulty in saying much about the volunteers, in the presence of an officer of the regular army (Captain Malan: No, No.) From the glimmering he had, as a volunteer, of the glorious light of discipline possessed by the regulars, he could not fail to appreciate the benefit conferred upon the community by the establishment of the glorious army of soldiers. Before that was originated, John Bull appeared to him like a gentleman who had gone to bed, and left his front door open, and who, on coming down next and turning, expecting every moment that some one would walk in, found he who was either too lazy, or frightened, to go down and shut the door. Before the inauguration of the volunteer movement, panics were always occurring; there were none now. As he rode through the country that morning, he could not but feel grateful to Providence for all the bounties so liberally bestowed upon them. Of course, we ought always to be grateful, but we must specially be so at such a season as this. As he came along, he could not but feel that we did not deserve all those bounties, unless we were strong and brave enough to hold them. He was sure the volunteer movement would always be well supported, for it would speedily make a man of the wicked hand of neglect, or the biting tongue of satire.

Captain Malan now had to retire, and as he left the room, he said if any young fellows were desirous of a berth, let them join his company. He would always extend their friend.

The CHAIRMAN said he would next propose the toast of farming—or, as they sometimes had it in a long word, agriculture—which was only another name for good farming. The farmers of that, and the neighbouring parishes, always received him in the most open-hearted manner, and the Rev. R. S. Warren resided a little out side his parish, he was the senior curate, and he would therefore couple his name with the toast.

Mr WARREN wished some younger man had been called upon, who was more capable than he of doing justice to the response to the toasts of Agriculture He thanked them most heartily and sincerely for the kind way in which they had drunk to drink all their good healths in return. Having resumed his seat, Mr Warren soon after rose, and proposed "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese."

The CHAIRMAN replied, and said after an acquaintance of thirty years with the Bishop, he could speak most highly of him. He did all he could for the good of the Church of England. In regard to his own health, he knew they would receive that well before it was proposed. They should all exhibit their love for him, and will, and learn to agree to differ.

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure they must have had enough of him, but there was one toast he was sure they would all receive with acclamation. He wished them to drink "Prosperity to the Broadwinsor Friendly Society," coupling with the toast, the health of the treasurer and secretary.

Mr J. S. STUDLEY returned thanks. He was glad to tell them the funds were in a prosperous state, and that they had a good sum in the bank. The secretary was the principal man, and did all the work, and he would tell them how they stood as regarded money matter better than he (Mr Studley) could. He begged to thank them for the kind manner in which the toast had been proposed and received.

"The Press" was the last toast given, to which our Representatives responded.

The procession was then reformed and having perambulated the village, marched to the vicarage, a most charming spot, and memorable among other things, as having been one the residence of Archdeacon Dunham.

In the front of the house three tables were set out, and decorated with choice flowers, and were laden with cakes and wines. The club having drawn up in the form of a semi-circle, the vicar—a minister truly for the time,—carried round wine to each person—Mrs and Miss Malan bearing baskets of cake and biscuits. No one was forgotten, but each received what he appreciated more than the creature comforts—a kindly smile of recognition, and pleasant words of greeting. Everyone being served, Mr Warren proposed three cheers for the vicar, which were given with hearty feeling. Mr Malan returned thanks, and the club moved off to Mr Studley's pretty villa, where Mr and Mrs Studley performed similar kind offices to those that had been discharged at the vicarage. Mr Spooner here proposed the health of the entertainers, to which Mr Justice was done. The next business place was at the residence of Mr Dauncey —the well-known auctioneer. Here, not only good wine, beer, ale, &c., in profusion, but also a capital tea was provided. Mr Spooner's services were again called into requisition; and he proposed the health of Mr and Mrs Dauncey in an admirable and hearty manner. Mr Dauncey returned thanks, and hoped they would all come once next year and drink twice as much as they had then. He was exceedingly glad to see them, and hoped to have the same pleasure for many years to come. The last place at which the procession halted was Mr Dommett's, after which, the members returned to the field, and were entirely addressed by the vicar. After that, we believe, the evening was spent in a happy and sensible manner. Drunkenness was "conspicuous by its absence." During the whole day, we did not see one person at all affected by strong drink.

CERNE ABBAS.—MAGISTERIAL.—On Wednesday last James Durrant, carpenter, of Buckland Newton was brought up in custody on a charge of feloniously stealing a 25 Bank Note the property of Mr George Curtis on the 6th instant. It appears that the prisoner, who was employed with other persons were at the New Inn, Buckland Newton, on the night in question and that some distribution of money took place. The prosecutor was challenged by another man to fight, which he declined, but in the course of having a bad arm but said he would fight his antagonist as soon as he was better for £5 and took out his purse containing one sovereign and a £5 note and put it on the table. The prisoner took up the purse and the money and apparently put the latter in his pocket. He then left the New Inn with Curtis and told him "to take care of it." The latter on getting home counted the note, and information was given to Supt. Brown, who traced the note back to the prisoner's possession. The defence was that he found the note in the room after the parties had left. The magistrate after hearing the evidence, committed the prisoner for trial at the next Quarter Sessions.—Reuben Galton, a labourer in the employ of Mr William Symes, of Piddletrenthide, was also brought up in custody charged with unlawfully leaving his master's service without leave and without notice, and pleading guilty, was committed for 14 days' hard labour.

DORCHESTER.—COMMITTED TO THE DORSET COUNTY PRISON.—James Gould, Thomas Bascombe, assault at Winfrith; William Lewis vagrancy at Swanage; Roland Hill, leaving family to which he brought up in another parish at Swanage. Richard Guppy (sum.), stealing flour at Bridport and 14 days' hard labour. Matthew Heald (sum.), stealing a pipe at Weymouth—two months' hard labour. William Galton (sum.), stealing wood at Buckland; William Lewis (sum.), stealing leather at Fowerstock—seven days hard labour.

DORCHESTER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the members of this well conducted this society took place last Saturday in Mr Evans's new Repository. There were eleven competitors for the prizes offered for sheep were kindly supplied by Mr Flower, of West Stafford. The judges were Mr A. L. Goodyer, Mr Hussey, Mr Levi Grucse, of West Knighton, and Mr J.G. Homer, of Martinstown, who awarded the prizes as follows:—

First, Henry Lock, servant to Mr T. Dowden, of Poke.

Second, John Watts, servant to Mr J. Chick, Compton.

Third, Henry Steel, servant to Mr H. Mayo, Frome.

WEYMOUTH.—TESTIMONIAL.—A chaste scarf pin, with a suitable testimonial, was on Tuesday presented to Sergeant Major Jeffery [*sic*] by his services as scribe to the "Sanctuary Plume of Peacock," No. 2152, of the Ancient Order of Shepherds.

PETTY SESSIONS, Tuesday.—Before the Mayor, Mr Bastard, and Colonel Pinney.—Mr Brine's case was summoned by Eliza Rick for £10 each, and himself bound in 20*l*, to keep the peace for six months.—Mr Brine consented to the arrangement.

PORTLAND.—SHIPS IN PORT.—H.M.S. Edgar, Prince Consort, Hector, Defence, Salamis, Lucifer, Foam, Trincolo, Hind, Defence (cutter), and Wasp (steamer).—Mr Brine's case was withdrawn, as the complainants had declared any desire to prosecute the case vindictively, or desired any sentence beyond that already passed on Mr Guerits that he was not justified in his refusal, and that it was his duty to perform the burial service, he thought his ends of justice would be satisfied by his exercising the power which, under the statute, he possessed of fining the defendant, and after announcing his judgment, that Mr Guerits was not legally justified in refusing to bury the deceased against the rules of the church, that he had admonished not to offend in like manner again, and that he be adjudged to pay all the cost of the proceedings.

ILMINS TER.—Coronation day falling on Market day, the tradesmen have agreed to close their shops on the following day, Monday.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday afternoon, as Walter Hall, second son of Mrs Hall, of this place, was bathing in the river Parrett, near the canal, at the bottom of the town, he accidentally fell in, and no assistance being at hand he was drowned. He lay in the water about twenty minutes, when he was pulled out by two men. Doctors Wales and Brown, of this town, were applied for restoratives but life was found to be extinct. He was about 12 years of age.

Court and Fashion.

The Princess of Wales and the Royal infant were progressing so favourably that on Monday it was announced that no further bulletins would be issued.

Her Majesty will visit Germany in August next and on the 14th of that month will meet the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Prince and Princess Royal of Prussia, the Prince and Princess of Hesse and all the members of the Royal Family at Coburg who intend to be present at the inauguration of the statue of the late Prince Consort. The Queen is to return to town about the 16th.—*Court Journal.*

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

June 8, at Combe Down, Beaminster, the wife of Mr Edward Legg, a daughter.

June 9, at Charmouth, the wife of Mr George Perry, of a daughter.

June 19, at Sherborne Lane, Lyme, the wife of Mr George Pitfield, of a son.

June 11, at South Street, Bridport, the wife of Mr Charles Hart, of a daughter.

June 10, at Branscombe, the wife of Mr H. Curtis of a son.

MARRIAGES.

June 8, at St. Mary's Church, Wareham, by the Rev. S. R. Capel, vicar, George, only son of Mr Meades, builder, Poole, to Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr Thomas Bascombe.

June 13, at the parish church, Burton Bradstock, by the Rev. W. Templer, M.A., Rural Dean, Eyes, of Burton Bradstock, to Eliza, daughter of Mr Abbott, Chidcock, Dorset.

June 13, at St Mary's Church, Weymouth, by the Rev Talbot Greaves, Sergeant G. Purser, drill instructor 7th Dorset Volunteers, to Miss Elizabeth Kennedy, youngest daughter of Mr Thomas Bascombe, of Sherborne.

On the 15th instant, at Chidcock, by the father of the bride, Henrietta, only daughter of the Rev N. H. Whitworth, to the Rev J. H. Bourjy, of Northfield.

June 7, at Wareham, by the Rev. S. R. Capel, Rector, James Meaden, of Bingger near Wareham, to Fanny Clark, daughter of Mr Clark, of Winchester.

June 11, at the Unitarian Chapel, Poole, by the Rev M. Rounton, Mr Henry Sparks to Miss Isabella Hewlett, both of Poole.

June 8, at 42, Eccleston-square, by the Rev. Eyan Nepean, canon of Westminster, Colonel William Parke, C.B., second son of the late Rev. Charles Parke, Rector of Newbury House, Dorset, to Anna Maria, daughter of the late Major-General William Nepean.

DEATHS.

June 15, at Charmouth Rectory, Dorset, Mary, eldest daughter of the Rev. Edward R. Bruton, aged 19.

May 31, at Broadwinsor, Mr Edward Slade, carpenter, aged 30 years.

June 4, at Northfield Farm, Beaminster, at the residence of her uncle, Frances Alderman, eldest daughter of Mr James Alderman, aged 17.

June 10, at Ilminster, after a long illness, V. T. Langworthy, Esq., solicitor, aged 62 years.

June 9, at 3, Union-place, Radipole, Mr George Slade, formerly of Dorchester, in the 67th year of his age, highly respected and deeply lamented by his relatives and friends.

June 9, at Dorchester, after a brief illness, Mary, widow of the late Mr John Chapman, of West Lulworth, aged 48.

June 9, at Dorchester, after a short illness, Mary relict of Mr Thomas Andrew Chapman, late of West Lulworth, aged 47.

Breadalbane ob'ained the Prince of Wales' prize at the Ascot Races.

The statement that Lord Palmerston was about to retire from public life has been contradicted.

The Viscount Cranborne, eldest son of the Marquis of Salisbury, died on Tuesday.

Hughes has been committed for trial on the charge of wilfully murdering a woman at Portsmouth.

The military authorities at Naples contradict the report of the murder of an Italian deputy by brigands. It is even denied that the unfortunate man has been maltreated.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MONDAY.—Lord Derby called attention to the recent proclamation of President Johnson, declaring the peculties of piracy against those who trade with the expelled American ports. Earl Russell said that Sir F. Bruce had sought for an explanation of this curious proclamation, but had not received any answer. Earl Granville moved the second reading of the Union Chargeability Bill. The Duke of Rutland moved that it be referred to a Select Committe. A long debate ensued, and upon a division the numbers were—For the second reading 86, against 24.

TUESDAY.—Lord St Leonards presented a bill to prohibit railway companies from locking both doors of their carriages in passenger trains. In a short conversation among their lordships, the practice of locking in was generally condemned, and the bill was read a first time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY.—The Prisons Bill was passed through committee. Lord Elcho, in going into committee of supply Sir L. Palk drew attention to a late fatal accident on the Great Western Railway, and animadverted on the fact that in that case the injury done was rendered much more serious in consequence of the passengers being locked in the carriages. The committee which sat in 1858 recommended that it should be imperative upon every railway company to established means of communication between guards and engine drivers, the erection of telegraphic communication along the line, and the telegraphing of all express and special trains. The hon. baronet made some very severe remarks upon the mismanagement of the Great Western Company, and declared his belief that if the above recommendations had been carried out the second accident would have been prevented. Mr Gibson stated that an inspector had been sent down to inquire into this particular case; he did not see, however, in what way legislation could have prevented the accident. The most effective mode of ensuring safety was to make the railway companies responsible for the acts of their servants, and this was at present done by the law, and by nothing else. Many of the best systems of communication established between guards and drivers, and that there were no mechanical difficulties in the way, and information might be should, therefore, impress these points upon the inspectors in order that they might urge them upon the companies. Mr Gurney complained of the law having gone into committee of supply, Mr Peel moved the resolution of £93,164 to complete the sum required for the British Museum for the present year, 'which, after some discussion, was agreed to. Mr Peel also moved the vote for the Customs, Inland Revenue, and Post-office departments, and the non-effective civil service. Mr Bass's disclaiming bill was read a first time. Packet service the house was counted out at a quarter to nine o'clock.

MONDAY.—In committee on the Roman Catholic Oaths Bill, Sir H. Cairns moved the restoration of the oaths which referred to the settlement of property, the Established Church, and the Protestant religion and government. Mr Disraeli supported the amendment in a long speech, practically advocating the retention of the whole of the oaths, but on a division the amendment was negatived by a majority of 147, and the bill was reported to the House without alteration. This, probably, is the end of the obstructions which have been cast in the way of the Bill in its progress through the Lower House.

Sir L. Palk gave notice of his intention to ask whether the navy department of the Board of Trade had any power to enforce precautions for the safety of the public, in special reference to the late accident at Redhal. Mr O'Reilly directed attention to the evidence taken by the commissioners appointed to inquire into the Sutton disaster. Sir R. Peel thought it hardly necessary to re-open the question after the discussion which had taken place upon it. A division took place and it was defeated by a large majority. Mr H. Berkeley postponed his motion for altering the necessity at the ensuing general election of protecting the "machine" the ballot, on the ground that he should not be doing justice to the late hour (12.30) he was compelled to bring it on.

WEDNESDAY.—Mr Goschen moved the second reading of the Universities Tests Abolition Bill, the object of which is to admit Dissenters to the advantages of an Oxford University education without being compelled to sign the 39 articles or submit tests on ecclesiastical matters. Lord Robert Cecil moved that the Bill be read that day three months. The second reading was carried by a majority of 16 in a house of nearly 400 members.

THURSDAY.—Mr Gibson gave some explanation to the House on the subject of the late accident on the Great Western Railway, but