Mr. T. Page and Mr. W. Maycock; Lower Winchendon, Mr. R. Paxton and Mr. Jonathan Clarke; Westcott, Mr. J. Treadwell and Mr. H. Biggs.

CONSTABLES.—The following persons were also appointed to act as constables for the like period:—Grandborough, H. Norman and Alfred Dancer; Middle Claydon, W. Mason and G. Lester; East Claydon, William Norman and J. Webb; Grendon, William George and Thomas Head; Fleet Marston, John Ridgway; North Marston, R. Gurney and James Watkins; Pitchcott, T. S. Curtis; Quarrendon, J. R. Simons; Hogshaw, Robert Curtis; Quainton, E. Read and Thomas Curtis; Shipton Lee, Richard Fairbrother; Waddesdon, John Crook and Thomas Crook; Upper Winchendon, John Bulford and William Cooper; Lower Winchendon, Thomas Mew and R. Smith; Westcott, Thomas Tack and Thomas Cannon.

RATES.—Several rates were allowed.

LONG CRENDON.

VESTRY MEETING.—The annual parish vestry for the election of officers for the ensuing year, was held on the 25th ult., at the Eight Bells Inn. Joseph Dodwell, Esq., was unanimously called to preside. The several accounts of the surveyors and overseers for the past year were passed, being considered satisfactory. The election of new officers was next discussed, when Mr. T. Barry proposed, and Mr. West seconded, that Messrs. J. C. Crook and J. W. Shrimpton, do act as surveyors another year. Mr. James Dodwell enquired if Mr. Crook would pledge himself to open a stone-pit instead of buying stones, which he considered would cause more labour to be employed, and be more beneficial to the parish. Mr. Crook, in answer, stated that merely opening the stone-pit was not the object of Mr. Dodwells's opposition, he would therefore pledge himself to do nothing more than fulfil his duties to the best of his ability for the interest of the parish. Mr. James Dodwell then said he should propose as an amendment "that Mr. Robert Dodwell and Mr. David Dodwell be surveyors for the ensuing year," which was seconded by the Rev. William Briscoe. A long discussion ensued, after which the original motion and the amendment were put, when it appeared the numbers were even, but the chairman having given his casting vote in favour of the re-election of the old overseers, they were nominated accordingly, Messrs. James Dodwell and William Hanson having consented again to act as overseers, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

BRILL.

PETTY SESSIONS.—MARCH 26.

STEALING A WHIP.—*Henry White*, alias *Wallatt*, a well-known character of Brill, pleaded guilty of stealing a whip, value 2s. 6d., the property of Mr. Henry Crook, of Oakley, and was committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions.

POUND BREACH.—Mr. James Crook, surveyor, charged *Valinda Bradbury*, of Shabbington, with releasing a pony on its way to the pound. She was liberated with a reprimand, on paying the police expenses.

The surveyors' accounts were passed, and the new overseers appointed.

BUCKINGHAM.

CRICKET CLUB.—The members of this club held a meeting last week for the purpose of making arrangements for the ensuing season. A field situate up the Tingewick-road, and belonging to Mr. Blackwell, has been engaged for the members to play in. The Rev. T. Walters is chosen president, Mr. Eeles, secretary, and Captain Wells has undertaken to be superintendent of the ground. The last year's accounts are all discharged, and a balance remains in the hands of the treasurer.

UNION CONTRIBUTIONS.—The following amounts levied on the respective parishes are to meet the expenses for the maintenance of the poor for the ensuing half year, and are payable by four equal instalments on or before the following dates—8th May, 12th June, 17th July, and 21st August:—Buckingham, £688; Steeple Claydon, £264; Padbury, £260; Adstock, £80; Addington, £44; Middle Claydon, £40; Thornborough, £272; Thornton, £44; Beachampton, £92; Hillesden, £148; Tingewick, £244; Barton, £36; Chetwode, £20; Preston, £188; Radclive, £108; Stowe, £152; Shalstone, £100; Water Stratford, £60; Twyford, £136; Poundon, £48; Marsh Gibbon, £224; Edgcott, £56; Charndon, £84; Morton, £212; Foxcott, £32; Leckhampstead, £272; Akely, £68; Lillingstone Dayrell, £124; Lillingstone Lovell, £36; total, £4,132.

THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE BOARD.—Mr. J. Walker, the respected chairman of the board of guardians, having intimated it to be his intention to decline again serving the office of guardian for the parish of Buckingham, the chairmanship of the board becomes vacant. Mr. Walker has been a guardian since the union has been established, and during the eight or ten years of his presidency has conducted the business of the board with tact and consideration, both to the ratepayer and the poor. His services will be much missed, but his retirement is forced upon him by the increased infirmities of a ripe and honoured old age. Mr. Thomas Painter, of Tingewick, the present very efficient vice-chairman, will no doubt be elected to the vacant chair, and as he has long sat at the board and is a man of business habits, the guardians cannot well find a more competent successor to Mr. Walker. Mr. P. Box, of Radclive, being returned guardian for that parish, it is probable he will be elected to the vice-chair, there to graduate for higher honours on a future occasion.

MAGISTRATES' CHAMBER.—MARCH 27.

(Before the Rev. A. Baynes, the Rev. W. Uthwatt, the Rev. W. Bell, and Major Dewes.)

SNARING GAME.—*Charles Dickens*, of Tingewick, was charged by Matthew Neal with using snares on land belonging to Mr. J. Arnatt. Convicted and fined £5 and costs, or to be imprisoned for three months,

WYCOMBE.

MAGISTRATES' CHAMBER.—MARCH 27.

(Before A. Lane, Esq., mayor; W. H. Hayden, Esq.; W. J. Gregory, Esq.; and W. Rose, Esq.

A DISHONEST SERVANT.

William Putman, who was charged on the 25th ult. with embezzling the monies of his employer, Mr. G. H. Hunt, was again brought up charged with stealing three half-sacks of coal, the property of his employer; and *John Woodbridge*, cabinet-maker, with receiving the same knowing it to have been stolen.

Elizabeth Woodbridge, daughter-in-law and housekeeper to the prisoner Woodbridge, and Millicent Newel, who said she was a cousin of Elizabeth and staying with her on a visit, proved that the prisoner Putman delivered the coals at the house of Woodbridge and, on their asking him where they came from, he said he had paid for them out of his wages. When they named it to Woodbridge, he said he had ordered no coals and did not know the reason of their being delivered.

The case was further remanded till Tuesday, when the prisoners were again brought up before the

Mr. G. Hunt said the prisoner Putman had been in his employment for seventeen months. He paid him 10s. per week and 2d. per hour for overtime. After the prisoner Putnam was in custody he went down to Woodbridge's house in company with Superintendent Davis, and in his presence he asked Woodbridge what coals he owed him for. Woodbridge said he had ordered none, neither had he paid for any, but he believed some had been brought to his house and had been burnt. He then said to Woodbridge's housekeeper "My man Putman is in custody on suspicion of robbing me." She replied, "I expected that for some time, for he brought coals here and we have never paid for them."

Some further evidence having been adduced, both the prisoners were fully committed for trial.

CHESHAM.

ACCIDENT.—A little boy of the name of Jesse Hawes was driving a cart down White-hill, in company with his brother, on Monday night, at about eleven o'clock, when the horse took fright and ran up the bank, throwing the cart over, which fell upon the poor lads thigh, causing a fracture. The services of Mr. Dewsnap, surgeon, were promptly procured, and the boy was removed to his home. The little fellow was very much frightened, being only seven years old. We understand he is now doing well.

LONDON CITY MISSION.—On Thursday evening the annual meeting on behalf of the above society was held in the Town-hall, on which occasion the Rev. A. F. Aylward presided. Mr. J. R. Phillips, the travelling agent for the society, delivered a very able and interesting address, showing the need of the efforts made in London on behalf of the outcasts who were living in the most abject degradation and vice; and evidencing the great success which had already attended the efforts which had been made. He appealed to his audience to assist in carrying out the plans of the society by their prayers and pecuniary assistance. A collection was made at the conclusion, in aid of the funds of the society.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—A lecture was delivered on Tuesday last, in connection with the above society, by the Rev. William Payne, of Chesham, on "General Havelock: a Sketch of his Life and Character." The subject was treated in the lecturer's popular and pleasing manner, eliciting frequent applause. The details of the lamented General's life were very interesting, and rendered very practical by the apposite remarks so well introduced by Mr. Payne. In the concluding part of the lecture the rev. gentleman remarked upon those special characteristics which had made Sir Henry's name a household word throughout our dominions—first, his military genius; second, his literary character; third, his deep and earnest piety; and lastly, his domestic virtues. The lecturer hoped we might learn a lesson from the subject, and that was that no outward circumstances could prevent a man from becoming eminently religious. The Rev. J. W. Bain proposed, and Mr. Freeman seconded, that the best thanks of the meeting should be tendered to the lecturer for the very interesting and instructive lecture.

MAGISTRATES' CHAMBER.—MARCH 30.

(Before William Lowndes, Esq.)

DAMAGING A FENCE.—*Frederick Kingham* and *James Barnes* were convicted, upon the evidence of James Tompkins, of wilfully damaging a live fence, on the 24th of March, the property of Mr. Henry Lazenby, of Chesham. A previous conviction having been proved, they were ordered to stand committed for two months.

AMERSHAM.

VESTRY MEETING.—A vestry meeting was held on the 26th ult., the Rev. T. T. Drake, in the chair, for the purpose of auditing the surveyors' accounts for the past year, appointing surveyors, and nominating overseers for the present year. The following statement of accounts having been handed in was approved and passed. The receipts were—Money in hand last year, £14 6s.; receipts for a rate at 6d. in the pound, £226 2s. 8d.; received of the police for impounding cattle, 15s.; total, £241 3s. 8d. The disbursements were—For labour, £100 5s. 5d.; materials and team work, £88 1s.; tradesmen's bills, £22 7s. 2½d.; incidental expenses, collecting rate and making same out, £6 14s. 4d.; rates on empty houses, £3 9s. 2d.; balance in surveyors' hands, £20 6s. 6½d.; total, £241 3s. 8d. £1 12s. 6d. on account of Mr. Thompson's bill, for work done to the engine-house, and £1 19s. 7d. to Mr. Keen, were ordered to be paid. On the motion of Mr. Goddard, seconded by Mr. J. Birch, Mr. Williams was again appointed surveyor; and Mr. T. H. Morten, on the motion of Mr. Cortis, seconded by Mr. T. Gurney, was also elected to fill a like office. Mr. Joseph Dolling, Mr. James Rogers, Mr. Thomas Winfield, and Mr. John Jones were nominated as overseers. Mr. Isaacson handed in a cheque for £6 4s. 9d. from the Chenies charity, which was paid by Mr. Hemings for four years charge on Moze Farm, Chesham, up to 1856. This charity is distributed amongst certain of the poor of Amersham, in sums of two shillings and sixpence each, by the churchwardens and overseers of the parish. A vote of thanks having been given to the chairman, the proceedings terminated.

ETON.

CONFIRMATION.—On the 25th instant, the Lord Bishop of Oxford proceeded from the Provost's Lodge to the College Chapel, attended by the provost, the vice-provost, and fellows, the head and lower masters and the clergy of Eton, for the purpose of performing the holy rite of confirmation on the students. About 120 of the Etonians, besides several young persons of the college, were confirmed.

THE NEWCASTLE SCHOLARSHIP.—The examinations for this honorable and important distinction at Eton School commenced on the 19th inst., when the following entered as competitors:—Ainger, K.S., Balls, K.S., Bridger, K.S., Bosanquet, K.S., Broadrick, Campion, Carter, K.S., Churton, K.S., Mr. Duncan, Dyne, K.S., Gibbs, K.S., Gladstone, ma., Grove, Heathcote, James, K.S., Austen Leigh, K.S., Marindin, K.S., Mozley, ma., K.S., Mozley, mi., K.S., Nixon, K.S., Puller, ma., Stone, K.S., Stopford, Van de Weyer, Willis, K.S., Wilson, ma., K.S., Wilson, mi., K.S., Young, max., Young, ma., K.S., and Phillpotts, mi., K.S. The examinations terminated on Friday evening last, and the result was given out by the head master, the Rev. Dr. Goodford, in school on Saturday as follows:—Scholar, Wilson, mi., K.S.; medalist, Mozley, ma., K.S. Select in alphabetical order of merit:—Dyne, K.S., Gladstone, ma., Austen Leigh, K.S., Puller, ma., Stone, K.S., Willis, K.S., Wilson, ma., K.S., Young, max. Wilson, mi., has distinguished himself by being sent up for "good" twenty times; he obtained the Theme prize, Christmas, 1856, first and second divisions' task prize 1857, Richard's Latin essay prize, election 1857. Mozley, ma., has been sent up for good nineteen times, and gained the assistant master's mathematical prize, 1854; the assistant master's task prize, Christmas, 1855; first and second divisions' task prize, Christmas, 1856. The examiners were the Venerable Archdeacon Abraham and Mr. G. C. Brodrik.

WINDSOR.

THE COURT.—The Queen and the Prince Concert with the Prince of Wales, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, the Princesses Alice, Helena, Louisa, and Beatrice, attended by the ladies and gentlemen in waiting arrived at the castle on Saturday evening last. Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, attended by Lady Fanny Howard dined with her Majesty. The Dean of Windsor and the Hon. Mrs. Wellesley had the honour of being invited.

CONSECRATION OF THE NEW CEMETERY.—An eligible site of ground having been selected for the new cemetery in a picturesque and retired situation adjoining the Great Park, and about one mile distant from Windsor, and the necessary buildings thereon having been completed, the consecration of that portion of it appropriated for the burial of the members of the Established Church took place on Friday last. At eleven o'clock in the forenoon the Bishop of Oxford was received at the entrance of the cemetery by the Rev. H. I. Ellison, vicar of Windsor, and a large assembly of the surrounding neighbourhood, also by the members for the borough, the mayor and corporation in their robes, and the churchwardens. Amongst those present were the Venerable the Archdeacon of Berks; the Rev. J. E. Austen Leigh, rural dean; the Rev. T. T. Carter; the Rev. C. J. Elliot; the Rev. T. Tooke; the Rev. H. Hawtry; Rev. W. C. Bromehead; Rev. A. Douglas; Rev. J. A. Miller, &c., &c. After the mayor had read the petition praying the bishop would consecrate the church and burial-ground, the bishop replied, "I am ready to consecrate the cemetery according to the prayer of the corporation." The procession formed as follows, then proceeded round the boundary, Mr. Barnby, with the choir of St. George's Chapel, chanting the usual psalms:—

The Borough Police.
Dr. Elvey and the Choir of St. George's Chapel.
The Clergy of Windsor, Holy Trinity, Datchet, Clewer, and various other parts of the neighbourhood.
Mr. C. S. Cantrell, the Mayor. Mr. Darvill, Town Clerk.
Mr. Vansittart and Mr. Grenfell, the Members for the Borough.
The Aldermen and Members of the Town Council.
Children of the various schools.

Before entering the church the bishop delivered an impressive and eloquent address to the numerous assemblage of the gentry and inhabitants of Windsor and the neighbourhood, after which the bishop and the clergy and as many of the corporation as could obtain a standing entered the building, where the remaining portion of the ceremony of consecration was gone through. The mayor and corporation afterwards gave an elegant luncheon to the bishop at the Town-hall, at which the members for the borough and many of the clergy of Windsor and Eton were present.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD.

PETTY SESSIONS.—MARCH 29.

(Before Major W. E. Hanmer, the Rev. W. B. Wroth, and the Rev. G. E. Whyley.)

ASSAULTING THE POLICE.—*James Church*, a labourer, of Leighton, was charged by Superintendent Clough and Police-constable Hartup with assaulting Hartup on the 21st of March; and, in default of paying the fine and costs, £2, was committed for one month.

ANOTHER ASSAULT.—*Ann Guess*, wife of a labourer of Heath and Reach, was charged by George Knight with assaulting him, at Heath and Reach, on the 23rd of March. It appeared defendant had some wood in her possession when met by Knight, who, giving her to understand that she would be summoned to account for the possession of the same, assaulted him. Case dismissed with a reprimand.

NEGLECTING WORK.—*William Samuel*, a servant in husbandry to Mr. Samuel Hopkins, was charged with neglecting his work on the 24th March. Information withdrawn on payment of 10s. costs

There were some other cases of assault, which were settled out of court.

Superintendent Clough was appointed Inspector of Weights and Measures for the division. The following parish officers were also appointed for Leighton Buzzard:—Overseers, Mr. W. H. Ridgway, Mr. John White, and Mr. William Doggett: Surveyors, Mr. T. King, Mr. John Price, and Mr. Richard Harris: Constables, Mr. William Brown, Mr. William Major, and Mr. William Milton.

LINSLADE.

PETTY SESSIONS.—MARCH 29.

(Before the Rev. W. B. Wroth, the Rev. P. T. Ouvry, and the Rev. A. P. Cust.)

The following parochial appointments were made for the Linslede division for the ensuing year:—

OVERSEERS.

Aston Abbotts—Joseph Druce and Nathan Elliott.
Cheddington—John Williamson, jun., and Samuel Punter.
Cublington—Richard Stonbill and Edward Biggs.
Eddlesborough—Samuel Hawkins, John Grey, and William Gurney.
Grove—George Draper.
Ivinghoe—William Tompkins.
Ivinghoe Aston—George Archer.
St. Margaret's—E. A. Meacher.
Nettleden—W. Gash and William Newman.
Linslade—James Hadley and William Hensman.
Marsworth—Rosaman Chappin and James Chappin.
Mentmore—Thomas Attwood.
Ledburn—William Verney.
Pitstone—John Hawkins and Thomas Jellis.
Slapton—No appointment.
Soulbury—Thomas Chew and Joseph S. Faulkner.
Stewkley—Benjamin Dawkes and Richard Hedges.
Wing—James Paine and Richard Hedges.
Wingrave—William Griffin and W. S. Payne.
Rowsham—Alfred Roads.

SURVEYORS.

Aston Abbotts—W. Elliott and W. Denchfield.
Cheddington—John Archer.
Cublington—John Biggs.
Eddlesborough—No appointment.
Northall—No appointment.
Dagnall—No appointment.
Grove—George Draper.
Horton—W. Woodman and Henry Rogers.
Ivinghoe—Charles Meacher.
Ivihghoe Aston—Thomas Proctor.
St. Margaret's—E. A. Meacher.
Linslade—John Cotching and Thomas Ginger.
Marsworth—John Hall and Joseph Chapman.
Mentmore—William Bonest and James Roads.
Pitstone—James Proctor and Moses Blinco.
Slapton—No appointment.
Soulbury—John Deverell and Frederick Stonhill.
Stewkley—Robert Rand and Joseph Hedges.
Wing—William Heley, sen., and R. Williamson.
Wingrave—William Griffin and Alfred Roads.

SPECIAL LOCAL CONSTABLES.

Aston Abbotts—Augustus Brandon.
Cheddington—William White.
Cublington—Edward Biggs.
Edlesborough—William Hawkins.
Northall—William Holmes.
Linslade—John Forster.
Ivinghoe—Richard Price.
Ivinghoe Aston—Charles Saunders.
Mentmore—George Woodwards.
Marsworth—George Chappin.
Pitstone—William Uff.
Slapton—William Seabrook.
Soulbury—Obadiah Bowden.
Stewkley—William Grace.
Wing—Thomas Capp.
Wingrave—George Griffin.

CONSTABLES.

Aston Abbotts—Daniel Elliott and Nathan Elliott.
Cheddington—John Archer and Samuel Bird.
Cublington—John Biggs and Thomas S. Paine.
Eddlesborough—Edward Bates.
Northall—Jonathan James.
Dagnall—James James.
Grove—James Biggs.
Hudnall—William Clarke.
Horton—John Dickins.
Ivinghoe—George Dollimore.
Ivinghoe Aston—James Horn.
Linslade—John Smith and Thomas Owen.
Nettleden—William Gash.
Marsworth—William Boddington and George Chappin.
Mentmore—William Bonest.
Ledburn—William Spratley.
Pitstone—Humphrey Williamson and Moses Blinco.
Ringshall—Jesse Spicer.
Slapton—No appointment.
Soulbury—John Deverell, Daniel Deverell, and Joseph Turney.
Stewkley—William Coles, David Bliss, and Thos. Kibble.
Wing—William Dimmock, Thomas Stevens, Joseph Collins, and Thomas Forster.
Wingrave—William Eustace and Alfred Roads.

CHARGE OF ASSAULT AGAINST A POLICEMAN.

George Fry, 72, of the Bucks Constabulary, was summoned by George Hedges, labourer, of Cheddington, for assaulting him on the 20th of March, at Cheddington.

The Rev. A. P. Cust retired from the bench during the hearing of this case.

Complainant stated that he was drinking at a public-house kept by Mrs. Archer, at Cheddington, during the whole of the afternoon and evening in question, with several other men who were present. He was not quite sober, but he was not drunk, as he knew what he was about. Did not know how many pints of beer he had that night. William Goodeer left the house with him; and walking along the road, he was trying to teach Goodeer the military exercise, and was drilling him when the constable came up to him, and took hold of him and threw him on the ground, and knocked out one of his teeth.

Complainant, on cross-examination, admitted that the constable asked him two or three times to go quietly home, but he thought he would not do so till it suited him. After the constable had thrown him down, he swore at him.

Sarah Bilby, the complainant's sister, was called, but did not throw much light on the affair.

Fry, on being called on for his defence, said—Being on duty at Cheddington on the evening in question, and hearing a noise he went to see what was the matter, and found Hedges staggering about the road, and using very bad language. He wished him to go quietly home, when Hedges began to abuse him; and on coming towards him, he, complainant, fell down owing to his being drunk.

Sarah Ann Merton and William Goodeer were called, and corroborated the evidence of the policeman.

The bench dismissed the case, considering Hedges was much more to blame than the constable, and ordered him to pay the expenses, amounting to £1 3s. 6d. Allowed a fortnight to pay.

THAME.

PETTY SESSIONS.—MARCH 30.

(Before the Hon. and Rev. F. Bertie; A. H. C. Brown, Esq.; the Rev. C. V. Spencer; and J. A. Fane, Esq.)

GAME TRESPASS.—*B. Chester*, *John Taylor*, *John Hurst*, and *Alfred Price* were convicted of trespassing in search of game, at Moreton, on the information of George Berry, policeman. B. Chester was fined 9s. and the others 7s. 6d. each.

STEALING FOWLS.—*Thomas Bryer* was convicted of stealing two fowls, the property of Mr. Thomas Newett. Committed for three weeks' hard labour.

THEFT.—A tramp was brought before the bench for stealing a print, of the value of 22s., the property of Messrs. Pearce and Ives, drapers. Committed for trial at the next Oxford sessions.

SAVINGS' BANK.—Manager next Tuesday, the Rev. T. Hayton.

BICESTER.

UNION CONTRACTS.—On Friday last the following contracts were accepted by the board:—Bread—third district, W. Morris, 5¼d.; fifth, Thomas Greaves, Piddington, 4¾d.; sixth, W. Bradbury, 5d.; workhouse—bread—W. Bennett, 4¾d.; ale, Shillingford and Co., 1s. per gallon; porter, G. S. Waters, Fringford, 1s. 3d. per gallon.

POLICE OFFICE.—MARCH 23.

(Before Captain Style, R.N.)

DRUNKENNESS.—*Henry Parrott*, of Launton, was charged by police-constable Cooke with being drunk and creating a disturbance at Launton on the 22nd inst. Bound in his own recognizances in the sum of £5 to appear and answer the charge on Friday next.

MARCH 29.

(Before Captain Style, R.N.)

AN INCORRIGIBLE.—*John Scott*, of London, tramp, was charged by Mr. J. H. Mansell, governor of the Bicester Union, with breaking fifty panes of glass and damaging a handsaw at the union-house, on the 29th ult. Committed for twenty-one days hard labour.

PETTY SESSIONS.—MARCH 25.

(Before the Rev. R. Pretyman, chairman; Sir H. Peyton, Bart., Captain Style, R.N., and R. B. Marsham, Esq., D.C.L.)

Special Sessions for highways adjourned till April 9.

ASSAULT.—*William Stroudley*, of Charlton-on-Otmoor was charged by Eliza Neale, of Charlton, with having assaulted her on the 21st of March instant; at the parish of Oddington. Neale deposed, that as she was going along the footpath to Noke, in company with other girls, he struck her six or seven blows with a stick. Susannah Gulliver, for the defence, stated she was walking with the defendant to Islip, to hear a lecture; they passed the complainant and other girls in Charlton, who followed laughing and annoying them till they got to the Oddington-road. Stroudly asked them very civilly to go on; they were saucy to him, and he then struck Neale. Convicted, fine 2s. 6d., costs 11s. 6d. Paid.

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT.—*George Cooper*, of Lower Heyford, was charged with having embezzled certain sums of money obtained by him of George Cheeseman, of the same parish. Case dismissed.

WATFORD.

PETTY SESSIONS.—MARCH 30.

(Before Serjeant Woolrych, and H. H. B. Herne, Esq.)

BEERHOUSE INFORMATIONS.

Mrs. Dollamore, a keeper of a beerhouse at Gander's Ash, in the parish of Watford, was summoned for selling beer on Sunday the 21st, during prohibited hours.

Police-constable Dunn said—On Sunday the 21st inst., about nine o'clock in the morning, I went to Mrs. Dollamore's house in plain clothes, where I observed a number of people standing outside the door, which I opened and went in. On entering I saw Mrs. Dollimore at the cask in the cellar. She was stooping down as if in the act of drawing beer, and as soon as she saw me she discontinued drawing the beer. I went into the taproom where I saw five persons, three Kimptons, Dollamore, and another person whose name I do not know. One of the men was Dollamore the parish constable. They were smoking. I went to the other room where I found a pint measure with half a quartern of beer in it. There was a young man in the room whom I did not know.

Cross-examined by Mr. Simpson, jun., who appeared for Mrs. Dollamore—I was not in sight for two minutes before I went in. I saw a pint pot, but I could not find the quart pot. I am positive I saw the three Kimptons and David Dollamore, and a man whose name I do not know.

Mr. Simpson then said he would call evidence who would disprove what the policeman had said, and called

Benjamin Kimpton, who said he and Walker went to the house to see Sweeting, who is a lodger, but had nothing to drink. Dunn followed him in and he followed Dunn. No other person was in the house but Walker, himself, David Dollamore, and Dunn. John Kimpton was not there. No person of the name of Kimpton but myself was in the house when Dunn came in. I went there to pay a score I owed Mrs. Dollamore; but I did not do so, as Dunn came in in disguise.

David Dollamore said he was in the house. He had gone there to see his son, who lodged at the house. He had no beer. Never asked for any. Was reading the paper when Dunn came in. Was not smoking, and never smoked a pipe in his life before dinner.

James Sweeting, a lodger in the house, corroborated the above.

The Chairman said it had been admitted that the house was open, and fined the defendant 10s. and 23s. 6d. costs.

Henry Winfield, keeper of a beerhouse at Watford, pleaded guilty of having his house open, contrary to law, on the same day. Fined 10s. and 13s. 6d. costs.

Thomas Bates, an elderly man, keeper of a beerhouse on Watford-heath, was charged with keeping his house open on Sunday, March 21.

Police-constable Dunn said—On Sunday, the 21st inst., I went to the defendant's house on Watford-heath, about eleven o'clock in the morning. —Cocksedge, jun., was with me. We knocked at the door and called out "police." A person came to the window, whom I asked to open the door; but that not being done, and hearing a noise inside, I told Cocksedge to jump over the hedge into the back garden. He did so, and as soon as he was gone he called to me, as there were four men going away from the house, across the meadow, and the fifth man came to where I was. I am sure the men came out of the house.

Mr. W. H. Cocksedge, jun., said—I went round to the back door. I saw one of the men put his beer into the coal-cupboard. When I went in I found it there. I found two pints, one quart, and one half-pint which had had beer in them. The woman that was in the house swore at us.

Fined 10s. and 15s. 6d. costs.

There was another charge against Bates for refusing to allow the police to enter his house; but, at the request of the chairman, when the case was partly gone through, Superintendent Cocksedge withdrew it.

Mary Warne, of Cashio-bridge, was charged with a similar offence, on the same day.

Police-constable Dunn said he went to the defendant's house, at half-past three, and found two men sitting on the form outside, and two pints were by their side, in one of which there was some beer. Three men were in the house.

Mrs. Warne said the two persons sitting outside had no beer at her house. They had offered to sell her a shovel, as they had no money. They had come to look for some work. As for the three persons who were in the house, it was her son-in-law, who had come from Two Waters to see her, with a friend, and the third person was a lodger. It was true she had drawn a drop of beer for her son-in-law, who said he was thirsty, having walked seven miles. She knew the policeman well, although he had a great stick in his hand and was dressed as a drover.

Fined 5s. and 13s. 6d. costs.

Rufus Bezant was charged with having his house, which is a licensed house, open for the sale of beer, on Sunday the 21st ult., at twenty minutes past four o'clock.

Police-constable Dunn again appeared in the witness-box, when

Mr. H. H. B. Herne said to him—How did you travel; you seem to have been to a great many places on this day.

Witness—I walked all the way.

The charge was that the house was open at the time stated. Five men were in the house, and the landlord had taken a pot of beer to them.

Mr. Bezant, in defence, said four of the men were lodgers in his house, and the fifth was a friend who was in the habit of coming to spend the Sunday and take tea with him.

The Bench—Tell your friend not to come till after five o'clock.

Fined 5s. and 13s. 6d. costs.

ROBBING THE UNION.—*William Ashby* and *William Hitchcock* were convicted of running away with the clothing belonging to the guardians of the Watford union. The prisoners were apprehended in London. Ashby was committed for one month, and Hitchcock, an old offender, for two months.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—FRIDAY.

BARRACK ACCOMMODATION.

Lord PANMURE, in moving for returns of the sums expended on barracks, by the estimates of 1856-57-58, detailed the various improvements that had been made in the condition of the soldier in the last twenty-five years to show that, so far from having been neglected, his well-being had been better cared for than that of any other class. He would not say that everything had been done that should be accomplished to improve his moral and physical condition, for much remained to be done to make the military profession attractive to the youth of the country, but he hoped the time would come when dismissal from the army would be considered as great a misfortune by the private as it now was by the officers. As to the lodgings of the soldier, he said the barracks generally were in good order.

The Duke of CAMBRIDGE said he rejoiced that the subject had excited public notice, as it was only by the public becoming convinced that improvement was necessary that additional expenditure for improvements could be obtained.

After some further discussion the returns were agreed to, and their lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—FRIDAY.

CHURCH LEASES.

Mr. WALPOLE, in reply to Mr. Hutt, stated that the Church Leases Bill introduced last year was referred to a select committee, and after examination by that tribunal was passed with amendments through that house, and was prevented being passed into law only by the lateness of the session. Under these circumstances he thought it advisable that the bill should be brought this session into the other House of Parliament, the House of Commons having already assented to its principle, with a view to its passing in the present year. (Hear, hear.)

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, who, on rising, was received with loud cheers, said he rose to move for leave to introduce a bill to transfer the Government of the East India Company to her Majesty. When the late Government proposed to abolish the Company, he and those with whom he had acted thought that, owing to the troubles in India, it was unwise to disparage the authority of the Company; but, after the decision at which the house had arrived, it was impossible to avoid grappling with the difficulty. It was in deference to that conviction, and for no other reason, that he was now asking for leave to introduce the bill. Nor did he think that they were liable to the imputations which had been lavished upon them. Circumstances had occurred before in which Ministers had been bound to treat questions not in reference to their own opinions, but in respect to the position in which they found them. Such had been the case with Lord Palmerston in relation to the Crimean Inquiry Committee; but no one taunted him with his conduct on the occasion. As to the East India Company, it had fallen from no inefficiency on the part of its chief ministers; it had fallen from no want of talent, spirit, and devotion. But it went down before the circumstances of time, of change, and of progress; and they had now to consider what would be the most fitting substitute for a body which, in its day, had done great service. The Company had fallen very much like that Italian republic which it rivalled and resembled. It had fallen with all the semblance of authority, and it had met its end in the august performance of its duty. When Venice fell it was found that whatever was its outward show of splendour its foundations were sapped. Like Venice the Company had left a glorious legacy to mankind. He hoped the house would allow him to say that he wished to speak of the East India Company with that respect which he hoped Englishmen would always extend to its memory. (Hear, hear.) He would now proceed to describe that form of government which they proposed to substitute for the Government that was to be abolished. (Hear, hear.) They proposed that there should be a high officer of State—a Minister of the Crown who should fulfil the duties of a Secretary of State. Remembering the discussion last night one ought to pause before proposing the creation of another Secretary of State—(laughter)—but he might be permitted to say that he never heard a satisfactory reason why there should not be an additional Secretary of State. The Secretary of State was to be, by their plan, the President of the Council of India, and was to have the power of appointing a viceroy. It was proposed that the Council of India should consist of eighteen persons. (Loud cries of "Hear, hear.") One half of that Council should be nominated by a warrant under the Royal sign manual, and the remaining nine should be elected. (Cheers.) He would now speak of those who should be nominated by her Majesty. They were of opinion that each of those members should have specified qualifications, that each of them should represent some great interest in India. (Hear, hear.) They would be, in fact, though nominated by the Crown, what were called in the phrase of the day "representative men." (Hear, hear.) Those nine members would be appointed thus: Each of the civil services of the four presidencies would be represented. One would be a member of the civil service who had served ten years at least in the Upper Province, or in the country, immediately under the authority of the Governor-General. Another would be a member of the civil service of the lower province of Bengal, who had served ten years. There would be a member of Council for the civil service of Madras, and for that of Bombay, who would have the same qualification of ten years' service. The five members of this division would have specified but rather peculiar qualifications. They thought it of great importance that there should be one who had experience of the courts, the character, and the feelings of the native princes. (Hear, hear.) It appeared to him that one of the faults of their administration in India had been the great disregard for the feelings of the native princes, the little acquaintance shown with the nature of their territories, and the character of their populations. It seemed to him, therefore, that there should be some man to represent that eminent class. Here the area of selection was of course limited, and therefore they required in this case as a qualification ten years' civil service under the Government of India, five years to have been passed at the courts of native princes. He had now detailed the qualifications that would be required for five of those members who would be nominated. Of the four other members, one was to represent the Queen's army, and the other three the military services of Bombay, Bengal, and Madras. The first should have served five years in the Queen's service; the others ten years each in their respective presidencies. Their object was, as far as these nine members were concerned, that the Secretary of State in Council should be able to command the special and particular knowledge which was requisite for the government of India. But though those nine members would be nominated by the Royal warrant, and though they should be succeeded only by those who possessed special qualifications for office, it was intended to introduce in the bill itself the names of the nominated members. (Loud cheers.) Thus, in the first instance, those members would have not only Royal, but Parliamentary sanction, and they would enter upon their duties supported by the favour of the Sovereign and the representatives of the people. (Loud cheers.) The names would be offered to that house on the responsibility of the Government, and with the assurance that they had taken every pains to obtain the best men. If the house should find that they had not exercised a wise discretion in the selection which they had made, it could not be said that they had not applied to Parliament on the subject. (Hear, hear.) With regard to those who were to be chosen by popular election they should be men who had served her Majesty or the Government of India in any branch of service whatever for the space of ten years. They may have been in the army, the navy, the civil service, or engaged in law. Those posts were open also to any man who had resided in India for fifteen years, and who might have been employed in agriculture or commerce. They should be elected by those possessing a certain amount of India stock. The other five members would be elected by those engaged in trade and industry. They proposed that one member should be elected by London, another by Manchester, the third by Liverpool, the fourth by the city of Glasgow, and the fifth by the town of Belfast. ("Hear," and laughter.) The election would be entrusted to the Parliamentary constituencies of these places. He would now read the names of the first nine members so far as the list had been filled up. They were, Sir F. Currie, now deputy-chairman of the East India Company; Mr. Dorin, senior member of Council in Calcutta; Sir H. Montgomery, now in the revenue and judicial service of Madras; Mr. Pringle, who succeeded Sir Charles Napier as Governor of Scinde. These four gentlemen would represent the four Presidencies so far as the civil service was concerned. The next was Sir Claude Wade, a name well known to the house in connexion with Affghanistan. He would represent what he might call the diplomatic service of India. In the next place, the army of India would be represented by General Sir J. Pennefather, Col. Burgoyne, and Sir R. Vivian. The name of the gentleman to represent the Bombay army was not yet on the list. He would now mention the names they proposed to place on the bill, and whose successors would be elected by what he might call an Indian constituency. They were—Mr. R. D. Mangles, M.P.; Captain Shepherd, Sir James Hogg, and Mr. Prinsep. The right hon. gentleman then explained the form of procedure which would be adopted by the Council. For example—that the Minister for India would have the power of dividing the Council into committees, and that he would exercise over them a power of superintendence.

Lord J. RUSSELL—For how long are the members of Council to be elected?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER—In the beginning the period of retirement will be at the end of the first two, four, and six years, but the permanent term of tenure will be six years.

Mr. J. B. SMITH—Will they be re-eligible?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that the members would be re-eligible in terms of two, four, or six years, who would not be capable of sitting in Parliament, but would have a salary of £1,000 each, payable out of Indian revenue. The result of the arrangement was, generally speaking, the distribution of patronage would not be in the least degree altered. By this bill her Majesty would do directly that which she now did indirectly. The naval and military appointments would be distributed in the Council as it has been now by the Board of Directors, and virtually the patronage that was exercised by the East India Company would, in the same way, be exercised by the Council of India. There were only two points to which it was necessary for him to allude, first, as to the army and the finance. The bill provided for facilities in making such changes as circumstances might ultimately require. There remained only the financial question, and the Government had taken care to introduce clauses which would fix all the expenses of India on the revenues of India. Provision was also made that the accounts should annually be laid before Parliament, and it was intended so soon as the bill passed to issue a Royal commission to proceed to India to inquire into her finances. For with all the great men India had produced, she had never produced a Chancellor of the Exchequer. (Laughter.) By these means it was hoped to restore India to a state of perfect health. Such was the measure he asked to introduce, and he trusted the house would not refuse its sanction. Believing that the measure would tend to the welfare of this country and to the renovation of India, he now moved for leave to bring in the bill. (Cheers.)

After a few words from Mr. ELLIOT,

Lord PALMERSTON gave his cordial support to the motion for leave to introduce the bill.

A debate, or rather conversation, ensued regarding the main features of the bill, in the course of which

Sir H. VERNEY denied that India had been misgoverned. Both the noble lord the member for Tiverton and the right hon. gentleman opposite had paid a high tribute to the efficiency and ability of the public servants of India, and he was convinced that no Government which had ever existed had produced more able or more illustrious men.

Leave was then given to introduce the bill, and it was subsequently brought in and read a first time.

Some further business was disposed of, and the house adjourned, during the Easter recess, till the 12th of April.

THE HORRORS OF A CHINESE GAOL.

The following harrowing account of the horrors of a Chinese gaol is from the pen of the correspondent of the *Times* at Canton:—

A Chinese gaol is a group of small yards enclosed by no general outer wall (except in one instance). Around this yard are dens like the dens in which we confine wild beasts. The bars are not of iron, but of double rows of very thick bamboo, so close together that the interior is too dark to be readily seen into from without. The ordinary prisoners are allowed to remain in the yard during the day. Their ankles are fettered together by heavy rings of iron and a short chain, and they generally also wear similar fetters on their wrists. The low-roofed dens are so easily climbed that when the prisoners are let out into the yard the gaolers must trust to their fetters alone for security. The places all stank like the monkey-house of a menagerie.

We were examining one of the yards of the second prison, and Lord Elgin, who is seldom absent when any work is doing, was one of the spectators. As it was broad daylight the dens were supposed to be empty. Some one thought he heard a low moan in one of them, and advanced to the bars to listen. He recoiled as if a blast from a furnace had rushed out upon him. Never were human senses assailed by a more horrible stream of pestilence. The gaolers were ordered to open that place, and refusing, as a Chinaman always at first refuses, were given over to the rough handling of the soldiers, who were told to make them. No sooner were hands laid upon the gaolers than the stifled moan became a wail, and the wail became a concourse of low weakly muttered groans. So soon as the double doors could be opened several of us went into the place. The thick stench could only be endured for a moment, but the spectacle was not one to look long at. A corpse at the bottom of the den, the breasts, the only fleshy parts, gnawed and eaten away by rats. Around it and upon it was a festering mass of humanity still alive. The mandarin gaoler, who seemed to wonder what all the excitement was about, was compelled to have the poor creatures drawn forth, and no man who saw that sight will ever forget it. They were skeletons, not men. You could only believe that there was blood in their bodies by seeing it clotted upon their undressed wounds. As they were borne out one after the other, and laid upon the pavement of the yard, each seemed more horrible than the last. They were too far gone to shriek, although the agony must have been great, the heavy irons pressing upon their raw, lank shins as the gaolers lugged them not too tenderly along. They had been beaten into this state, perhaps long ago, by the heavy bamboo, and had been thrown into this den to rot. Their crime was that they had attempted to escape. Hideous and loathsome, however, as was the sight of their foul wounds, their filthy rags, and their emaciated bodies, it was not so distressing as the indescribable expression of their eyes; the horror of that look of fierce agony fixed us like a fascination. As the dislocated wretches writhed upon the ground tears rolled down the cheeks of the soldiers of the escort, who stood in rank near them. A gigantic French sergeant, who had the little mandarin in custody, gesticulated with his bayonet so fiercely that we were afraid he would kill him. We did not then know that the single word which the poor creatures were trying to utter was "hunger," or that that dreadful starting of the eyeball was the look of famine. Some of them had been without food for four days. Water they had, for there is a well in the yard, and their fellow-prisoners had supplied them, but cries for food were answered only by the bamboo. Alas! it was not till the next morning that we found this out; for although we took some away, we left others there that night. Since the commencement of this year fifteen men have died in that cell. Some of those who were standing by me asked "How will you ever be able to tell this to the English people?" I believe that no description could lead the imagination to a full conception of what we saw in that Canton prison. I have not attempted to do more than dot a faint outline of the truth, and when I have read what I have written feel how feeble and forceless is the image upon paper when compared with the scene upon my memory. The hardest and most malignant face I ever saw is that of the chief gaoler of this prison. The prisoners could not be brought to look upon him, and when he was present could not be induced to say that he was a gaoler at all, or that they had ever seen him before. But when he was removed they always reiterated their first story, "The other gaolers only starve and ill-treat us, but that man eats our flesh."

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