

bay. They have cut the road on the east side, and thrown up some earthworks. The position is easily defended by infantry, and it shows how little the Russians were aware of the movement of the Allied troops, and the changing of their front, that they left such an important landing-place for the siege train, the possession of Balaklava makes the Allied troops masters of the ground about Sebastopol, which slopes down gradually towards the town.

In addition to the marines, on Monday morning, the 2nd inst., the *Firebrand* steamed into Balaklava with 1000 sailors, drafts from the different sailing-vessels, under the orders of Captain Lushington, of the *Albion*. They were immediately disembarked, and began dragging up the guns of the *Diamond*, with which they are going to act during the siege. The sailors are described as having begun their hard work most merrily. Like schoolboys during play time, they seemed to be delighted at having escaped the paralysing influence afloat, which had condemned them hitherto to inactivity, and appeared elated by the idea that they would have something to do with the taking of Sebastopol—an idea which most of the crews of the sailing-vessels had nearly given up.

The French have chosen another place for landing their siege train, namely, Arrow Bay, Kannish Bay, and another close to Cape Chersonesus. As they are to form, this time, the left wing, near the sea, they thus save a march of some distance. The *Moniteur* of Thursday states that the French army will take the left in the attacks from the sea to the Southern Fort, and that the English will take theirs from the Southern Fort to Inkerman. The French army is divided into two corps. The 3rd and 4th Divisions, under General Forey, is to undertake the siege; while the 1st and 2nd Divisions, under General Bosquet, will form the corps of observation and reserve.

The Light-house of Cape Cherson has fallen into our hands, and is lighted up by English sailors. The Russians had left it in darkness, but a party of blue-jackets dashed at it on the 26th, and compelled the Russian light-house keeper to illuminate it. They have kept fast hold of it ever since, for the Russians cannot get at it without coming under the fire of our ships. Jack is in great delight at this little feat.

The following order of the day, prepared by the Allied Generals on the evening of October 3, regulating the commencement of the siege, was issued a few hours before the despatches left. The names of the first detachments at work could not be ascertained. The intrenchments, however, were opened with perfect success, not a shot disturbing the men:

ORDERS TO THE ARMY BEFORE COMMENCING SIEGE OPERATIONS.

"The trenches will be opened this evening against Sebastopol. A working-party, consisting of —, furnished by the —, will be marched to the Engineers' dépôt at — p.m., where they will receive tools and directions from the Engineers' officers and Sappers, who will guide them to the works. They will be without arms and accoutrements. The guard for the protection of the working and ground will consist of —, furnished by —, and will parade in their camp at — p.m.; be conducted to their positions, posted, and receive instructions from staff officers who will be assembled for the purpose.

"All the movements of the parties must be, if possible, kept out of view of the place.

"After moving from their last place of assembly, which will be after dark, the *utmost silence must be preserved*, and the least possible noise of any kind made. The working-parties will be arranged in proper order by the Engineers, but it will not commence work till ordered, after which it must be carried on with the greatest energy.

"The Engineers will be charged with the arrangements, but the officers of the troops must be responsible for the maintenance of order, and attention to the directions given by the Engineers, and for the amount of work done. On diligence and regular conduct of the working-parties will depend more rapid and complete success of the enterprise. The working-parties must not quit the works on slight alarms. If the enemy make a sortie, the guard will advance and drive them in, and before they reach the work, if possible. Should the working-party be absolutely obliged to retire, they will take their tools with them, and reform a short distance in rear, to return to the work when the sortie is repulsed.

"The guard will be posted in rear of the working-party, and near to it, if possible, under cover from the fire of the place; if not, they must lie down in order of battle, with accoutrements on, and each man with his firelock close by him—one party, not less than one-third of the forces absolutely on the alert all through the night, taking it alternately, ready for an immediate rush on the enemy.

"A sortie is out and on the works in a very short time, and therefore the guard must be in immediate readiness to attack it without hesitation; nothing is so easily defeated as a sortie if charged without delay.

"After the repulse of any sortie, the guard will return under cover as soon as possible, and resume their position.

"All working-parties and guards will be composed of entire regiments, or parts, and not of detachments, made up of different corps."

PRINCE MENSCHIKOFF'S DESPATCHES.

The following extract from the *Journal de St. Petersburg* of the 8th instant, will show that the telegraphic abstract conveys but a faint impression of the extent to which Prince Menschikoff or his Government have misrepresented the movements of the Allies in the Crimea. The *Journal de St. Petersburg*, quoting the supplement extraordinary of the *Intelliger Russ* of Sept. 25 (Oct. 7), states—

General Prince Menschikoff reports to the Emperor, under date of September 18 (40), that, having made his flank movement from Sebastopol on Bagtcheserai, he was preparing to assume the offensive on the first opportunity. This plan promised the more success, inasmuch as the Allies had divided their forces. While the French were approaching some fortifications on the northern shore of the Sebastopol bay, the English troops had repaired to Balaklava by sea, where they had effected a landing. As soon as Prince Menschikoff was informed of it, he advanced; but the French, avoiding the combat, had also abandoned the north of Sebastopol, and had gone to the south of that city in order to rejoin their allies. Prince Menschikoff had arrived on the 18th (30th) with the greater part of his troops at the fortifications of the north and had established himself there, waiting till the enemy's intentions should be manifested. Up to the 18th (30th) there had been no operation.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

The latest accounts relating to the English fleet were that the twelve screw line-of-battle ships would proceed to Ledsund so soon as the state of the weather permitted their leaving the Gulf of Finland. According to present arrangements they will take their final departure from the Russian coasts in eight or ten days from the present time, and may be expected in England about the middle of November. The blockade of the enemy's ports will then be entrusted to Captain R. Watson, of the *Impératrice* (50), who will have under his orders the *Euryalus* (50), *Argonaut* (46), *Magicienne* (16), *Desperate* (8), *Basilisk* (6), *Bulldog* (6), and *Dragon* (6), together with two or three smaller steamers. These vessels will not take their departure from the Baltic until compelled to do so to avoid being frozen in; and if, on further consideration, it should be deemed advisable, they will pass the winter at Kiel, or at some other neutral port, instead of returning to England. The *Amphion*, Captain A. C. Key, was, by the latest advices, cruising off Memel. The *Alban* and *Lightning* steamers had left the fleet, and were on their voyage home; Captain Sullivan, of the latter vessel, remaining on board the flag-ship of the Commander-in-Chief.

The *Leopard*, 18, paddle-frigate, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Martin, arrived at Spithead on Wednesday morning, from the Gulf of Bothnia and the Baltic, but she brought no additional news of the movements of the Baltic fleet. She had coasted along the shores of Sweden on her voyage home, calling at several ports on that coast, her last call being at Gottenburg.

On Saturday last two French line-of-battle ships and three French frigates passed Nyborg on their way to France. On Sunday the *Austerlitz*, accompanied by two French frigates, passed in the same direction. The *Inflexible*, the flag-ship of Admiral Parseval Deschenes, has also sailed homewards.

EXPEDITION AGAINST THE RUSSIANS AT SITKA.

The last advices from Hong-Kong state that Admiral Sir James Stirling remained at Shanghai, awaiting the arrival of Admiral de

Guerre, in the French frigate *Jeanne d'Arc*. The united English and French force was to proceed to New Archangel (Sitka), and co-operates with Admiral Price, of the Pacific squadron, in giving an account of the Russian ships of war and forts in the north.

THE WAR IN ASIA.

A letter from Batoum brings intelligence from Asia Minor up to the 29th ult. Ferik Pacha, who, with 8000 men, was on the Nataucha, crossed into the Russian territory on the 27th, and reconnoitred as far as Dschumat. The Russians are concentrated at Kutais, and are collecting reinforcements from the fortresses on the eastern coast of the Euxine. The Kars army is being reinforced and re-organised. Ismail Pacha was expected to join it within a few weeks. The present Governor of Kars, Zary Pacha, remains inactive, while the Russians are preparing for future operations. Schamyl sent messengers to inform the leaders of the Turkish army at Kars of his intended descent on the Russian territory, and expected they would co-operate with him; but their petty jealousies, and the demoralised state of their army, prevented Schamyl's anticipations being fulfilled; "and," as the Batoum correspondent says, "as he (Schamyl) found himself unsupported by the Turks, he has lately returned to his mountain lair with Russian booty." The Governor of Erzeroum was engaged in attempting to stop the disorders of the Zeybecks in the interior of Anatolia, and had captured several of the leaders, and restored quiet in the immediate neighbourhood of his Pachalik, "but not till the Zeybecks had murdered several French officers on their journey to Kars." The Russians have recently again withdrawn from Bayazid, and the communication with Persia is re-established.

AMERICA.

The British and North American Royal Mail steamer *Arabia* arrived at Liverpool, on Saturday evening, from New York, after a passage of only ten days; having sailed on the 4th instant.

The *New York Herald* announces that the Executive at Washington has determined on decided measures with regard to the Central American question. The right of Nicaragua to the port of Greytown is to be asserted, and the Mosquito protectorate treated with marks of contempt. For this purpose the razee *Independence* is to go there, accompanied by a war-steamer, and perhaps other vessels.

Washington rumours still speak of the annexation of the Sandwich Islands to the United States as on the verge of completion; and the very terms agreed upon have even been published by an Albany paper.

The British Minister has issued a circular, warning all British subjects in Mexico from contributing to the loan proposed by Russia. A circular has been issued by the Government, directing the Governors of the departments and territories to keep a book, in which are to be recorded, with all punctuality and exactness, the name, nationality, date of landing, qualifications of passport, and all other information that can be obtained, respecting foreigners arriving at any point within the jurisdiction of the Governors, as well as respecting foreigners who may remain there, or may go into the interior of the Republic.

The non-arrival of the *Arctic* had begun to excite observation; but, as she had been only fourteen days at sea, no doubts as to her safety had arisen.

INDIA AND CHINA.

The papers in anticipation of the Overland Mail from India, via Marseilles, have come to hand. Letters from the Panjab mention the dangerous illness of our ally, Maharaja Goolab Singh. He is not expected to live; and, as his death would probably be followed by a disputed succession and civil war, we shall be under the necessity of interfering with the affairs of his state. Gholab's son and heir, Rumheer Singh, is said to be extremely unpopular, and his nephew, Ja Wahir Singh, much beloved.

The administration of the lately lapsed state of Nagpore has been modelled on the system that has succeeded so well in the Punjaub.

The Indian papers continue to be filled with accounts of petty disturbances in Oude. The most flagrant crimes are committed with impunity in the immediate neighbourhood of the palace and residency, by the eunuchs and other favourites of the King. The country appears to be in a state of anarchy and intestine warfare, owing to the weakness of the Government.

The Nizam's dominions are again disturbed. A Zemindar, named Letchimand Row, at the head of some hundreds of armed followers, is plundering and intercepting remittances to the capital. He carried off, about a fortnight ago, £20,000 in cash, besides jewels, from a single district; and the Naib of the districts in which he is plundering reports that the Government troops are quite unequal to his capture, and requests extraneous aid.

Affairs at Canton remain in the same critical state, and the disaffection is extending. The insurgents are in great force in the surrounding country, and three attempts were made to take the city, which, however, failed. Honam, opposite Canton, is threatened, and the latest accounts mention that the people are quietly maturing for an open revolt against the mandarins' authority. They had not molested any one, and will not allow goods or valuables to be removed from the native shops, to prevent any panic.

At Whampoa contributions are being levied under threat. The river between that place and Canton continues to be infested by pirates, interfering with the trade, which can only be carried on by the presence of a steamer or armed convoy. The approaches of the city by land and water are in possession of the insurgents; and the Government seem to confine their operations to the defence of the city.

The transit of tea has been stopped by the heavy exactions demanded in passing; and, inquiry for goods having ceased, the business at Canton has been limited to the shipping off the tea that are on the market.

An attempt has been made to effect a compromise with the insurgents, but was not successful.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

FRIDAY'S rural tryst of Upton, on "the salmon-haunted Severn," and a six days' festival at Newmarket, are the two racing fixtures for next week; and then "horn and hound" will duly lure back their devotees, who think, with old Frank Buckle, that no racer ought to be saddled after the Newmarket Saturday.

TATTERSALL'S.—THURSDAY.

Match: 100 svs.—Gossip, 1. Apostate 2. Sweepstakes of 5 svs.—Duet, 1. Despised, 2. Great Warwick Handicap.—Kaffir, 1. Pantomime, 2. Sweepstakes of 5 svs.—Falcon, 1. Apostate, 2. Two-Year-Old Handicap.—Cock of the North, 1. Priestcraft, 2. Leamington Welsh Cup.—Veteran, 1. Morning Star, 2.

WEDNESDAY.

Handicap Plate.—Falcon, 1. Gaslight 2. Scurry Handicap.—Florist, 1. The Dandy, 2.

Grand Open Steeplechase.—Tipperary Boy, 1. Star of England, 2.

Hunt Cup Steeplechase.—Odihain, 1. Frank, 2.

Free Handicap Hurdle Race.—Banstead, 1. Tipperary Boy, 2.

Selling Hurdle Race.—Songster, 1. Massaroni, 2.

RICHMOND RACES.—WEDNESDAY.

Richmond Handicap.—Merry Bird, 1. Ellermere, 2.

Easy Stakes.—Fandango, 1. Lord Alfred, 2.

Aske Triennial Stakes.—Fairthorn, 1.

Sweepstakes.—Joan walked over.

PROBATION OF CONVOCATION.—Yesterday (Friday) morning the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury was prorogued, according to the tenor of a Royal Writ, by the Vicar-General of the Most Rev. the Archbishop of Canterbury and Metropolitan, under a special commission from his Grace to that effect, until Friday, Nov. 17. The meeting on the 17th of November will be merely formal, none of the clergy being expected to attend.

INTENDED VISIT OF THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH.—I understand from what would appear to be excellent authority, that the visit will take place in the course of the month of November, but I have not heard that the precise day is fixed. I understand that it is expected that Queen Victoria and Prince Albert will return the visit about the middle of May next, when her Majesty will not only be able to see the French Exhibition, which will then be open, but see Paris in all its glory, with the immense improvements now going on, in a state of completion. It is almost needless to say that this exchange of visits is of immense importance. They must not be looked on simply as an exchange of civilities between the Sovereigns of two great countries. They are a real political event, and will do much to cement the alliance which has already been so cordially entered into between the people of both countries.

—Paris Correspondent of the Chronicle.

THE VINTAGE IN FRANCE.

BORDEAUX AND THE CLARET DISTRICTS.

OCTOBER in France is one of the busiest and most exciting months in the year. As September draws to a close, the country people begin to watch with anxiety the changes of the wind and the appearance of the sky, and the talk from morning to night is continually about the weather. Every proprietor of a viatage looks upon the sunlight as a special boon to himself, and begins already to count his "gold in the sunbeams." The whole country is up and stirring. The idlers and paupers in town and country flock to the vine fields, to lend a hand at the grape-gathering and a foot at the grape-pressing. This year's vintage appears to have commenced under somewhat unfavourable auspices, owing to the ravages of the *cidium* or grape disease, which has rapidly increased of late years, not only in France, but in the vintages of Spain, Portugal, and Madeira. It is to be hoped, however, that things are not quite so bad as they are represented. The tendency to exaggerate is a general one; and it is possible that the vine-proprietors, in the first alarm of the moment, may have exaggerated their misfortunes—especially as the holders of stocks are generally but too apt in their own interest to raise the value of last year's produce at the expense of the future.

The Emperor of the French, with that adhesion to Free-trade principles which has distinguished his career, has taken advantage of the blow upon the vineyards to modify the duties upon the importation of wine into France.

The following extract from an article of the *Debâche* on the decree reducing the import duties on foreign wines and spirits will be read with interest:—

The news which we received from the most southern of the wine-producing departments, where the vintage has commenced, show to what extent the recent decree allowing foreign wines to be imported into France until otherwise ordered, was called for. The yield of wine presents itself under a sad aspect. In an average year the vintage amounts to several hundred millions; and, if wine be not absolutely indispensable to the subsistence of the populations, it is extremely useful. In the southern departments in particular, where wine is produced and sold at a very low price, it occupies a great place in the food of the people. In the region bathed by the Mediterranean, wine, which is there remarkable for its quality, is sold by retail, in ordinary times, at from ten to fifteen centimes the quart; that is to say, that in these parts it is within the reach of all purses; the meanest labourer, in fact, can take it at all his meals, and it is from it that he derives great part of his strength. At present in those parts, a wine inferior to the ordinary quality costs more than treble, namely, from forty to sixty centimes the quart. At that price, it is an article which ceases to be within reach of the poorer classes. Hence it causes great perturbation in the customary regimen of the populations. Under these circumstances, the Government, justly anxious to maintain, so far as depends on it, food at cheap rate, could not have done better than remove the barrier which prevented the free admission of ordinary wines from abroad. It was a chimerical idea in 1816 to impose heavy duties on foreign wines, in order to protect our production. That production protects itself unaided. We may say of the ordinary wines of France, as well as of her finer sorts, they are unequalled. They are not only by the quality, the flavour, the just proportion of spirit they contain, but also by the abundance of their production, and the lowness of their prices. This is especially true of the wines in the departments near the Mediterranean. The department of the Hérault, which is the most remarkable of all in this respect, generally produces 4,000,000 hectolitres. That is the tenth of the production of France. The wholesale price for wine a year old is, under ordinary circumstances, 7 fr. the hectolitre, or 7 c. the litre; and if kept for an additional year, the wine is much more agreeable and healthy than the wines charged at Paris, in restaurants, 1 fr. 50 c. or 2 fr. Even the wine called St. George is generally sold in the country at 7 c. the litre, or thereabouts. Now, it is absolutely impossible to import into France at that rate wine which is worth anything at all, on account of the expense of conveyance, of commissions, and of the profit which the importer desires to make. Such a fact suffices to prove that the pretended protection which it was thought right to accord to ordinary wines, by imposing Customs duties on foreign wines, is a fiction.

Our Artist has chosen for Illustration the city of Bordeaux, the great wine emporium of France; and the vintages of Château Margaux and Château Lafitte, the most celebrated in the whole Claret district; together with the different processes of wine-making.

Bordeaux is situated at the distance of about 400 miles from Paris, on the banks of the river Garonne, seventy miles from its junction with the sea. It contains a population of 110,000 inhabitants, and is the second seaport town in France. The quays and harbours of this ancient city are among the finest in the world. The river is 2300 feet broad, and from 20 to 30 deep, with water sufficient to float vessels of 1200 tons burden. The quays of Bordeaux have been compared to those of Liverpool, which, indeed, they resemble in a remarkable manner, both by the fine frontage they present, the quantity of shipping they contain, and their great extent.

Bordeaux was known to the Romans under the name of Burdigala, and was made the capital of Aquitaine under Hadrian. It fell into the possession of the English in 1152, by the marriage of Henry II. of England with Eleanor of Aquitaine, and remained so till the middle of the fifteenth century. The Black Prince lived in Bordeaux for several years, and made it his head-quarters previous to the famous battle of Poictiers. Here, also, his son Richard II. was born, and thence called Richard of Bordeaux. Among the more modern historical events connected with Bordeaux was its siege during the civil wars of the Fronde, by the youthful King Louis XIV., his mother, and Mazarin. Bordeaux also figured in the Revolution of '89; and many of the greatest and most celebrated members of the Legislative Assembly—such as Duco, Gaudet, Gensonné, Vergnani, and others—were returned by the Department of Gironde—thence called Girondins. All the commotions that afflicted Paris during those disastrous times found ready

THE VINTAGE IN FRANCE.



THE CITY OF BORDEAUX.

of vines unsupported, drooping, straggling, and sprawling and intertwining their branches like beds of snakes; and again you came into the district of a new species of bush—a thicker, stouter—a grenadier vine—growing to at least six feet, and supported by a corresponding stake. But the low, two-feet dwarfs are invariably the great wine-givers."

Vines attain their full growth at the age of five years. Many produce the most excellent grapes at this early period, and some have been known to bring forth good fruit even at the age of 150 or 200 years. The vine does not, like most other plants, increase in height according as it increases in years, but in depth merely; thus a vine two or three feet high is often known to have roots and fibres thirty, forty, and even fifty feet in length. About three feet below the surface of the soil is a hard impenetrable stratum of conglomerate, known in France by the provincial name of *alias*, which requires to be broken previous to planting the vine. Every season a plough is drawn between the rows of vines, for the purpose of exposing the roots.

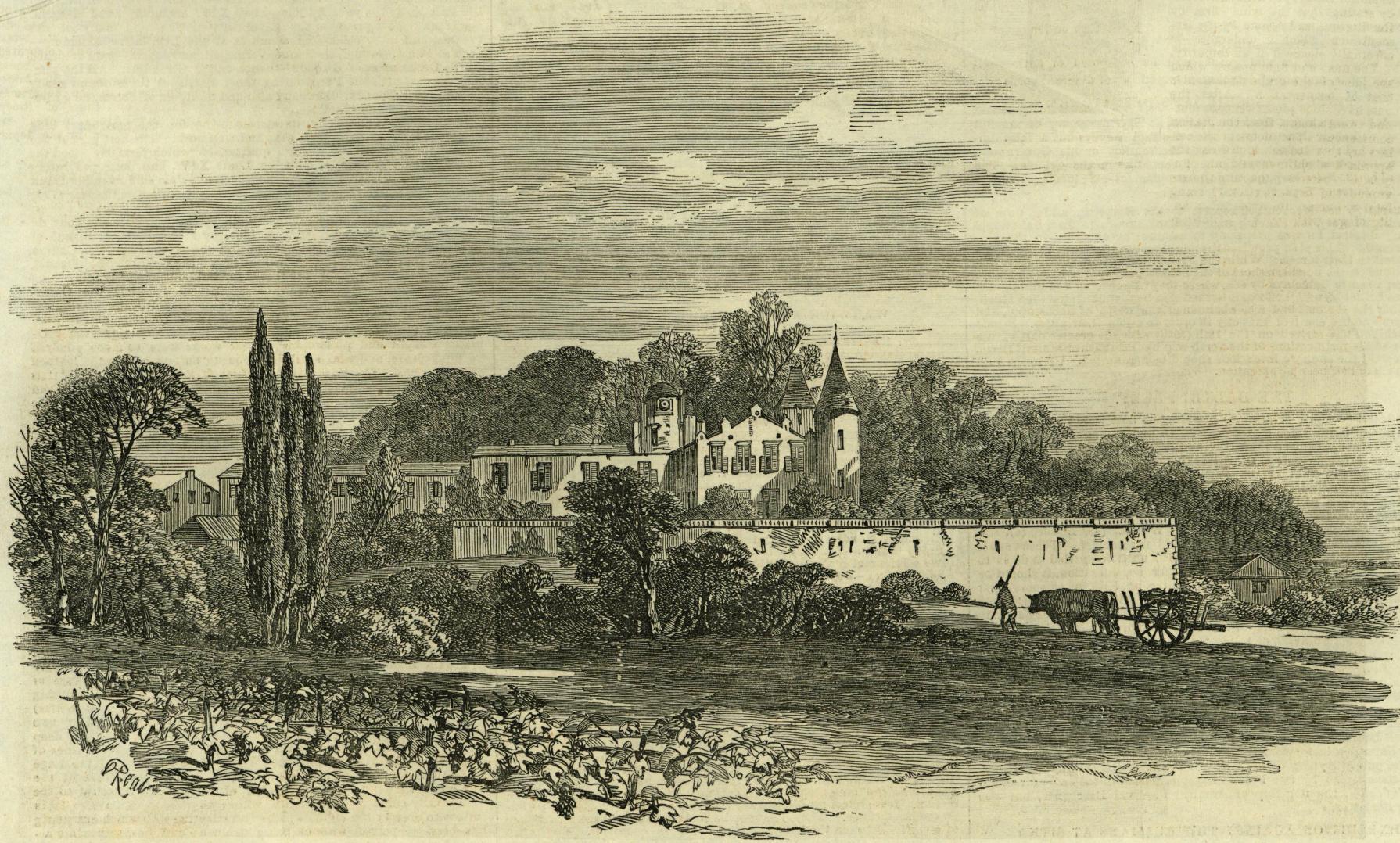
A person travelling in a wine country for the first time might be surprised if he were told that the hard gravelly soil of Medoc is more valuable than many of the most loamy arable lands; and still more surprised if told that the hardest parts of it were the most precious of all. The reason why this stony soil, on which scarcely anything else will flourish, is so favourable to the growth of the vine is that the vine lives more by heat and less by moisture than any other vegetable. The gravel acts at once as a sieve to carry away the water from the sinewy

roots of the plant, and as an oven to retain the heat of the sun's rays. Most people, if taken to a vineyard, and asked to point out the best vines, would point to the tall, luxuriant plants which ever-top their more modest companions by several feet; but the shrewd vintager, after reading you a homily on the folly of taking things by appearances, would tell you that what the dwarfish vines want in beauty they make up for in virtue. The most valuable vines seldom exceed from two to three feet in height.

The day for the commencement of the vintage in France is fixed by the Government authorities, who appoint overseers to make the round of the districts to examine into the state of the crops previous to giving the order for commencing operations. Mr. Reach gives a lively and comprehensive description of grape-gathering in Medoc, which may serve as an explanation of the scene represented by our Artist. "There are no idle spectators at a vintage," says that writer, "all the world must work; and so I speedily found myself—after being most cordially welcomed by a fat old gentleman, hoarse with bawling, in a pair of very dirty shirt-sleeves and a pouring perspiration—with a huge pair of scissors in my hand, cutting off the branches, in the midst of an uproarious troop of young men, young women, and children—threading the avenues between the plants—stripping with wonderful dexterity the clustered branches—their hands, indeed, gliding, like dirty, yellow serpents, among the broad green leaves; and sometimes shouting out merry badinage, sometimes singing bits of strange rhythmed melody in chorus; and all the time, as far as thefeat could be effected, eating the grapes by handfuls. The

whole thing was very jolly; I never heard more laughing about nothing in particular, more open and unblushing love-making, and more resolute quizzing of the good man, whose grapes were going partly into the baskets, tubs, pots, and pans, carried every few minutes by the children and old people out of the green alleys to the pressing-tub, and partly into the capacious stomachs of the gatherers. At first, I was dainty in my selection of the grapes to be chosen, eschewing the under-ripe and the over-ripe. A damsels beside me observed this: 'Cut away, she said; 'every grape makes wine.' 'Yes; but the caterpillars?' 'They give it a body!' * * * * * I was talking to the lord of the vineyard, when some one—there were petticoats in the case—dashed at him from behind; and instantly a couple of hands clasped his neck, and one of them squashed a huge bunch of grapes over his mouth and nose, rubbing in the bleeding fruit as if it were a healing ointment, while streams of juice squirted from between the fingers of the fair assailant, and streamed down the patron's equivocal shirt. After being half-burked, the good man shook his fist at the girl as she flew, laughing, down the alley: and then, resuming his talk with me, he said, 'We call that *Faire des moustaches*. We all do it at vintage time.' And ten minutes thereafter I saw the jolly old boy go chasing an ancient crone of a pail-bearer, a bunch of very ripe grapes in his hand, amid the delighted hurrahs of all assembled."

After the grapes have been gathered, they are placed into a tub called a *cuvier de pressoir*, in which they are trodden, the juice flowing out of a hole at the side of the press into a sieve below, which retains the skins



THE CHATEAU LAFITTE, MEDOC, NEAR BORDEAUX.

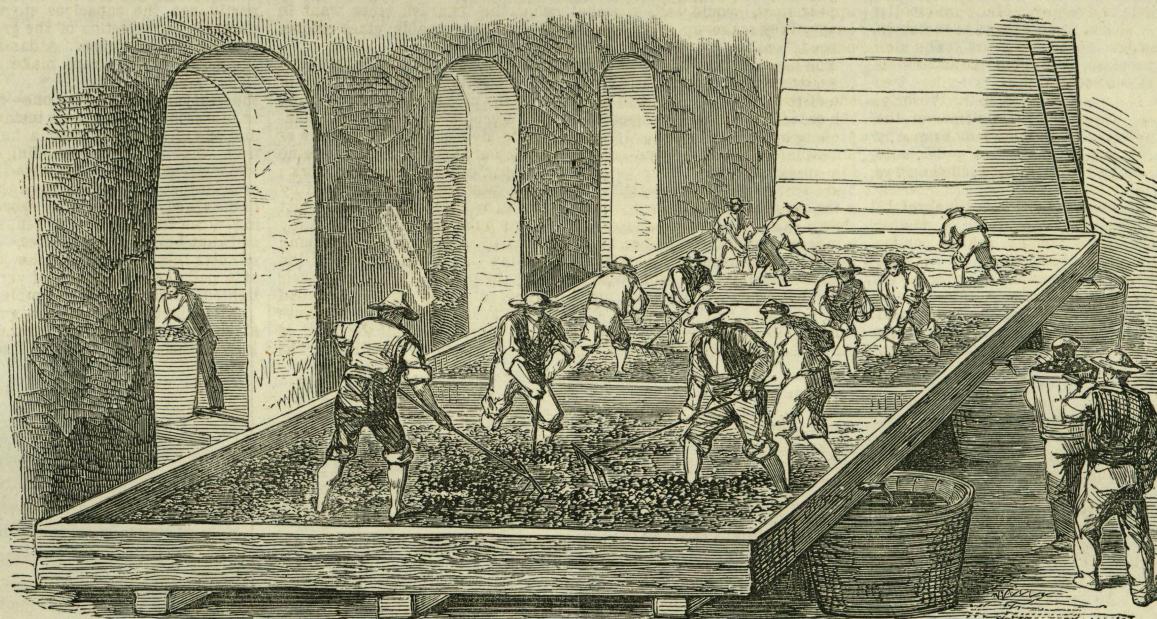
THE VINTAGE IN FRANCE.



THE VINTAGE, IN MEDOC, NEAR BORDEAUX.

stones, and other extraneous matter, and thence into tubs. The wine-treaders principally consist of strong men that can bear the fatigue of the "wine-dance." Champagne and Rhône wines are generally made by machine pressing—a method which certainly seems preferable, in point of cleanliness, to the ordinary method of treading, which is universal in the claret country. Attempts have been made to introduce this new system into the great vintages of France, but the proprietors insist that no contrivance, however ingenious, can ever compete with the human foot for grape-pressing purposes; and meet the objections of the squeamish, as to the propriety of allowing men to smash the grapes with their feet, by stating that the wine—first by the filtering, and second by the fermentation, which it undergoes—is effectually cleansed of all impurity.

The next and final process which the juice of the grape undergoes is that of fermentation. After the vats have stood some twenty or four-and-twenty hours, the fermentation commences. The doors of the cellars are then locked, to prevent the approach of children and other inquisitive persons; the atmosphere around the fermenting vats being fatal to human life, from the quantity of gas with which it is impreg-

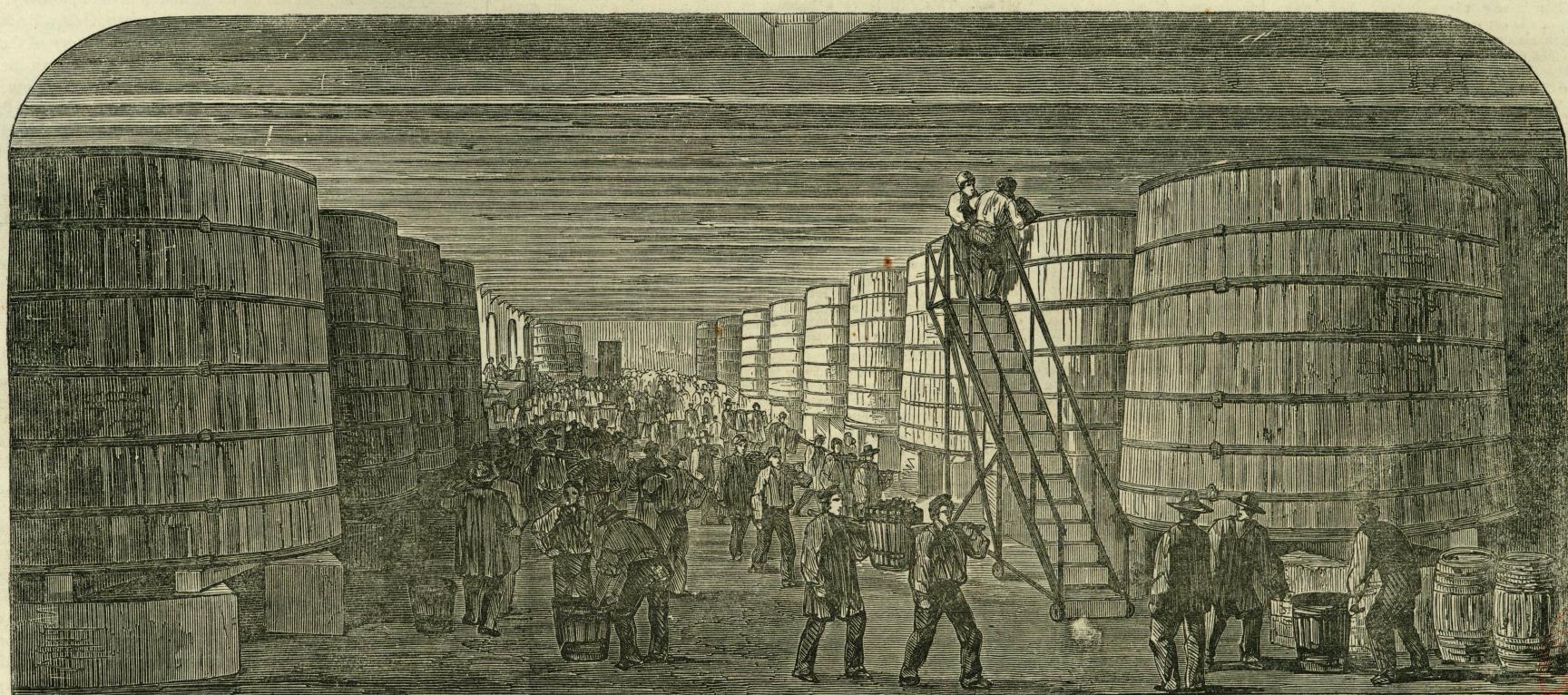


WINE-MAKING, AT THE CHATEAU LAFITTE.

nated. The stalks, skins, and leaves, which fall to the bottom of the tubs, are taken out and squeezed a second time, when they produce a bad, bitter wine, which is sold cheap to the peasantry. Nor is the residue even of this second distillation allowed to be wasted. It is soaked in water, to produce *piquette*—a vile concoction, sold at one or two sous a bottle, and honoured with the name of wine.

The wines of France are divisible into the three great varieties of Champagne, Burgundy, and Claret or Bordeaux. Of Champagne, the best white wines are those of Sillery, Ay, Mareuil, Dizy, Epernay, Crémant, Avize, Menil, and several others of the department of Marne—famous for their fine sparkling qualities, and their exquisite flavour when not effervescent. Champagne also furnishes several red wines, equally excellent and celebrated; such as those of Verzy, Verzenay, Mailly, St. Basle, Bouzy, St. Thierry, and Cumières, in the department of Marne; and those of Riceys, Balmot sur l'Ainge, Avirey, and Bagnoux la Fosse, in the department of the Aube.

The red wines of Burgundy are distinguished by their brilliant colour, their fine delicate flavour, their strength, and their rich bouquet. Of these, the principal growths are—



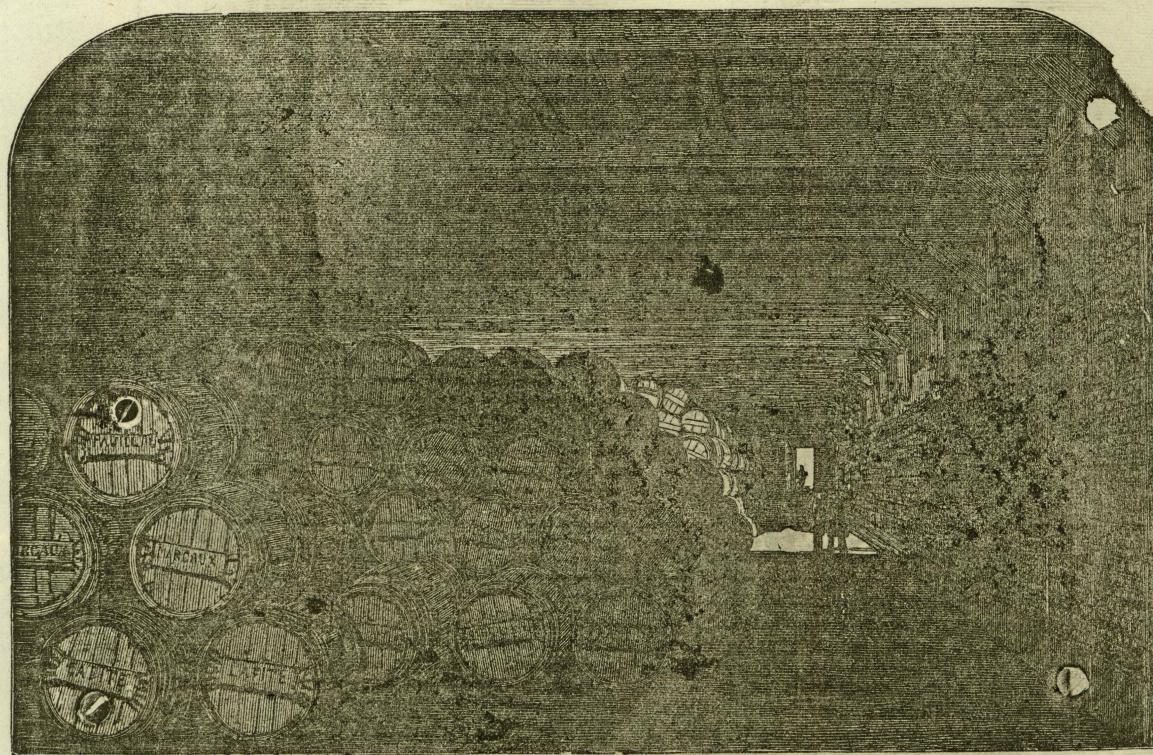
THE PRESSOIR OF THE CHATEAU LAFITTE, NEAR BORDEAUX.

Romarée-Conti, Richebourg, La Tâche, Clos Vougeot, Chambertin, Clos St Georges, Corton, Volnay, Pommard, Beaune, Chambolle, Mercurey, Savigny, and Meursault, in the department of Côte d'Or; Pto, Fréaux Châtel, and Mâconnais, in the department of the Yonne; and Thorins, in Saône-et-Loire. The best white Burgundies are—Hermitage, Montrachet, Chevalier Montrachet, Laphrère, Goutte d'Or, Charme, and others in the territory of Meursault, in Côte d'Or; Vau Lorillon, Les Grives, and Chablis, in the department of the Yonne; and Pouilly and Guisnée, in Saône-et-Loire. Burgundy also furnishes a great quantity of vins ordinaires.

The fine red wines of Bordeaux are distinguished by their delightful

send them as presents to their Ambassadors. Thus it often happens that the *premiers crus* of the most celebrated vintages are sold for many seasons in advance.

Château Lafitte, near the seaport town of Pauillac, is a large building surrounded by trees, and standing in the midst of beautiful garden-walks and terraces. It is the property of Sir Samuel Scott, the owner of the celebrated vintages to which it gives its name. Château Lafitte produces an annual average of 120 tons of first-rate wines, together with a quantity of inferior sorts. The wines of Lesparre and those of Pauillac are both comprehended under the name of Lafitte; but those of Pauillac are by far the most excellent.



WINE-CELLAR OF MESSRS. CRUSE AND HIRSCHFELD, AT BORDEAUX.

bouquet and their agreeable piquant flavour. The most celebrated are those of Château-Margaux, Château-Lafitte, Château-Latour, Château-Hautbrion, St. Julien, Fauillac, St. Estèphe, St. Emilion, Larose, Palus, Talence, Léoville, Pessac, and Méridanac. Among the white wines are Bommes, Rions, Blanquefort, Grave, Sauterne, Barsac, Preignac, and Langon. Bordeaux, like Burgundy, furnishes several vins ordinaires. The most excellent of these are Messanges, Sarlat, and Adour.

The average vine produce of Champagne is estimated in the French statistical tables at 55,500 hectares, or 185,870 acres of vineyards—yielding wines to the value of upwards of 11,000,000 francs annually; the average vine produce of Burgundy at 89,689 hectares, or 224,200 acres—yielding wines to the value of 52,000,000 francs; and the average vine produce of Bordeaux at 187,000 hectares, or 343,000 acres—yielding wines to the amount of upwards of 49,000,000 francs.

The composition of natural wines is so variable as to render it impossible to lay down a general analysis which shall apply in every particular to each wine individually. The following substances, however, are to be met with in more or less quantities in all natural wines—viz., water, alcohol, and mucilaginous matter; acetic and carbonic acid; blue and yellow colouring matter; sugar, camphorine; bitartrate of potash, bitartrate of calcium, and bitartrate of magnesia; sulphate of lime, sulphate of potash; and oil. Attempts have been made to establish general rules, by which the quality as well as the vintage of a particular wine may be discovered, in case of the label on the bottle being incorrect. A *bon vivant* will tell at once whether his wine be genuine or not by its bouquet, or by its flavour. A writer in the *Moniteur Universel* has fancifully divided the wines of France, according to their taste, into the following five divisions:—1st, those of the eastern districts, having a taste of gun-flint; 2nd, those of the south, having a taste of roast meat; 3rd, those of Bordeaux, having a taste of incense in the case of the superior wines, and of resin in the case of *ordinaires*; 4th, those of Burgundy, having a taste of faded rose-leaf, and a bouquet like the smell of the sprout of the wild eglantine; 5th, those of the interior, from Orleans to Touraine, having a taste of raspberry and violet as regards the red, and of willow-leaf as regards the white wines. When a wine has lost its tone, the mixing it with another will sometimes improve it. Weak wines, previous to being sent on a long journey, should be strengthened with a mixture of some rougher and more spirituous wine. This is often done at the vineyards, but more frequently by merchants whose interest it is to sell strong wines at low prices. Claret intended for the English market are, for the most part, mixed with Rhône wines, principally Hermitage. The use of brandy for that purpose, which many persons consider to be universal, is very rare. A perfect knowledge of the tastes of the different wines is only the result of a long experience; and even then it requires an extraordinary delicacy of palate to distinguish the several wines in one mixture.

It appears to be an undisputed fact that more wine is drunk in France than in any other country. The annual consumption of wines at Paris alone is estimated at upwards of 1,000,000 hectolitres; the number of proprietors and cultivators of the grape in France being no less than 5,000,000, and the average value of wines sold annually throughout the Empire amounting to upwards of 1,000,000,000 francs (about £42,000,000). The extent of the French vintage is estimated at nearly 2,000,000 hectares; and yields to the revenue an income of 200,000,000 francs (or £8,000,000). More than one-half of the *premiers crus* are made into wines for English consumption; most of the second growths are consumed in Holland; and, of the third, in France. Very little *vin ordinaire* is imported into England. The price of a hogshead of the finest claret is estimated at about £50 in Bordeaux; and in England, at about £80, which includes freight, carriage, duty, &c. The annual average of wine produce in Medoc is estimated at from 150,000 to 170,000 hogsheads, of which only 6000 are exported to England.

CHATEAU MARGAUX, AND CHATEAU LAFITTE.

Château Margaux, one of the most celebrated vintages in Medoc, is situated at the distance of about 20 miles from Bordeaux. The Château itself is a large villa, built after the Italian school, and belongs to M. d'Agudo, a Spanish banker of eminence, who owns the surrounding vineyards. "Passing along a narrow sandy road, amid a waste of scrubby-looking bushes," says the excellent authority from whom we have already quoted, "you pass beneath the branches of a clump of noble oaks and elms, and perceive a great white structure glimmering gaudily before you. Take such a country-house as you may still find in your grandmother's sampler, decorated with a due allowance of doors and windows. Clap before it a misplaced Grecian portico; whitewash the whole to a state of the most glaring and dazzling brightness; carefully close all outside shutters—painted white likewise—and you have Château Margaux rising before you like a wan, ghastly spectre of a house, amid stately terraced gardens and trimmed, clipped, and tortured trees." About half a mile from the Château is the village of Margaux, with its spruce, white-washed houses, and its air of tranquillity and recession. The soil of the Margaux estate is gravelly, and in some parts flinty: it yields an annual produce of about 1000 tons of wine, of which about 180 are first growths. The grapes of Château Margaux are said to have a disagreeable taste, although the wines they produce are among the most splendid productions of the French vintage. Very little prime Margaux ever reaches England; most of the first growths, like those of nearly all the other great vintages in France, being bought up by Kings and Emperors, or by the Pope, who either reserve them for their own use and that of their courts, or

Subjoined is a representation of the cellars of Messrs. Cruse and Hirschfeld, one of the most extensive firms in Bordeaux, and which were visited by the Emperor Napoleon in October, 1852.

MUSIC.

REUNION DES ARTS.—The Réunion des Arts is a society composed of artists, and lovers of music, the fine arts, and *belles lettres*, who hold periodical evening meetings for the purpose of enjoying the pleasures derived from their favourite pursuits. These meetings are sometimes musical soirées, and sometimes *conversazioni* of a more general character. Many ladies and gentlemen of note in the artistic world are members; and the evenings are social, agreeable, and interesting. The society's rooms, in Harley-street, are furnished with a variety of paintings, engravings, and other works of art; and, during the meetings, many of the literary novelties of the day are to be found on the tables. The first meeting of the season was held on Wednesday evening, and was a soirée musicale. At such an early period, and when so many persons are still out of town, the attendance, of course, could not be so large, or the entertainment so brilliant, as they usually are later in the season. Still there was some classical music, well performed, which gave pleasure to the company; particularly Mendelssohn's Quartet in E flat, performed by Messrs. Ries, De Witt, Goffrie, and Paque. Several vocal pieces were sung by Mlle. Cesarini and Mr. Herbert.

THE CONCORDIA SOCIETY.—A concert was given by this society on Tuesday evening, at the rooms of the Greenwich Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. The Concordia Society has for its object the cultivation of pure vocal harmony, and its labours are neither inefficient nor unsuccessful. The programme of the concert consisted of an admirable selection of English glees and German part-songs, by Webbe, Calcott, Horsley, Mendelssohn, Weber, and other classical masters, sung by Miss Brentnall, Miss Williams, Messrs Fielding, Ball, Theodore, Distin, McDavitt, and Percy—the members of the society. The room was filled by an assemblage of nearly seven hundred persons, by whom the pieces were received with the greatest applause—no less than five of them having been encored. The concert was given under the auspices of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge; and the Concordians received the thanks and the congratulations of the committee on their excellent and successful performance.

THE PERRY TESTIMONIAL FUND.—Lieutenant Perry's Defence and Testimonial Fund is closed. The total amount subscribed is about £2100, from which sum there will be deducted 200 guineas for law charges, and about the same amount for advertising and incidental expenses. This will leave a balance in hand amounting to about £1700, which sum will be invested in the joint names of Lieutenant Perry and the Mayor of Windsor, to be afterwards expended in the purchase of his promotion in the army should the verdict of the court-martial hereafter be set aside, which it is confidently expected will be the case; but, if otherwise, the money to be placed at Lieutenant Perry's disposal in proportioning his best interests as a civilian.

PORTRAIT OF LIEUT. BELLOT.—(Published by T. Boys.)—This very interesting memorial of the late Lieut. Belot, the ill-fated Arctic explorer, has been engraved by Mr. James Scott, from the picture painted by Mr. Stephen Pearce, for Lady Franklin, just before he took his departure for the North. The plate is engraved in Mr. Scott's best manner, and is, by special permission, dedicated to the Emperor of the French, who honoured the painter with an audience at the Tuilleries, and as a mark of his high satisfaction, presented Mr. Pearce with an elegant snuff-box, bearing the Imperial crown and cipher on the lid.

NEW POSTAGE STAMP AFFIXER.—Mr. Naylor, of Birmingham, has invented a small machine for affixing postage stamps to letters, dispensing with the disagreeable practice of moistening them with the tongue. The corner of the letter is wetted by passing it between a damp sponge and roller, it is then placed over a spring box containing stamps, one of which by the depression of a small lever, is securely affixed to the letter. This can be accomplished in two or three seconds.

TESTIMONIAL.—On Thursday last, the officers and servants of the East Lancashire Railway Company presented to Mr. Alfred Ormerod, their late audit-clerk (on the occasion of his leaving the employment), a silver tea-service, accompanied by a suitable address, engraved on vellum, and handsomely bound in morocco.

THE PENDING CHURCH CONTROVERSY.—The Archbishop of Canterbury has issued a Commission to inquire whether there is any ground for proceeding further with the objections that have been made against the Venerable Archdeacon Denison's doctrinal teaching. The Commission consists of the Right Rev. Dr. Carr, late Bishop of Bombay, but now Rector of Bath; the Rev. Charles Langdon, of Queen Camel Vicarage, Ilchester; the Rev. Charles Pole, Rural Dean, Yeovilton Rectory, Ilchester; the Rev. R. C. Philips, Cuckington Rectory, Wincanton; the Rev. H. Parr, Shipston-on-Stour.

PROPOSED RETURN OF THE JEWS TO SPAIN.—The Prussian Jews are endeavouring to obtain the revocation of the Edict of 1492, issued by Ferdinand and Isabella, which banished from Spain all persons of their race. They have addressed to the Spanish Cortes a memorandum to that effect, in which they endeavour to prove that Jewish colonies existed in Spain long before that country was inhabited by Christians. They quote, in support of their assertion, Strabo, Philo, and the Spanish historian Los Rios, who even declares that the Jews rendered the greatest services to the Christians when these latter re-conquered Spain.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Oct. 22.—19th Sunday after Trinity. Lord Holland died, 1840
MONDAY, 23.—Royal Exchange founded, 1667. Battle of Edgehill, 1642
TUESDAY, 24.—Edict of Nantes revoked by Louis XIV, 1685.
WEDNESDAY, 25.—St. Crispin. Battle of Agincourt, 1415.
THURSDAY, 26.—Riots at Bristol, 1831. Hogarth died, 1764.
FRIDAY, 27.—Sir Walter Raleigh beheaded, 1618.
SATURDAY, 28.—St. Simon and St. Jude.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE

FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 28, 1854.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
M 2 5 2 25	A 2 40	M 3 0	A 3 15	M 3 35	A 3 40	M 4 10

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1854.

SEBASTOPOL continues to be the word in everybody's mouth, and the one engrossing thought in every mind. But military affairs do not march with so much rapidity as the public eagerness would desire; and the preparations for the siege have taken more time than people at home were led to anticipate. But the public will feel assured that whatever delays have occurred have been necessary to ensure success. Men at the head of so momentous an enterprise, crowned as they are with the laurels of recent victory, are not likely to hold back at the moment when a greater victory is within their grasp. They will strike at the proper time, we are certain—and with the proper effect, we must confidently believe. If it be possible for the United Armies to surpass the brilliant achievements of the Alma—they are the men from whom the blow may be expected. Reinforcements continue to reach them; and cavalry, of which they were so greatly in need on the memorable 20th of September, will not fail them to follow up the next advantage of their arms. The letter of our Special Correspondent, dated from Balaklava, on the 3rd instant—together with such telegraphic despatches of a later date, as appear to be worthy of credence, communicate to our readers the latest news from the seat of war. They will be found to justify the public confidence, that the city and fortress of Sebastopol are doomed. We have only to hope that the dogged obstinacy of the garrison will not protract a defence which can have no effect in saving the place, but which will inevitably lead to a most deplorable sacrifice of life. The Russian people are not aware of the true history of the day of Alma, and sing Te Deums as usual for an imaginary victory; but the Czar himself is fully aware of the facts, and will strain every nerve to wipe out the disaster. Menschikoff—with still more powerful incentives to efface what in his case was not simply a disaster, but a disgrace—will, with the fanatic courage of all Russians in high office, when driven to extremity, sell his defeat as dearly as he can. It is therefore, but too probable that the story of the fall of Sebastopol will be one of the most awful, as well as the most memorable, in the annals of warfare. Russian reinforcements are on the march on every side; although the numerous reports that reach the world, on the not very reliable authority of the German press, are not to be taken as authentic with regard to the exact numbers, or present whereabouts of the commanders. But whatever be their numbers, the few friends that Russia still holds among German writers and diplomats do not anticipate that they can effect a junction with Prince Menschikoff till the month of November is far advanced. Perhaps, in the meantime, Omer Pacha will find them some other place to defend, of quite as much consequence as Sebastopol.

So much interest is created by these operations, as the visible climax of the campaign, that less attention than their importance deserves is bestowed on the position and proceedings of the German Powers. The Czar, who must have long been aware that he has nothing to hope from the friendship or gratitude of Austria, has lately directed a movement which can have no other object than one of proximate hostilities with that Power. The three Russian provinces, or military districts, that abut on the Austrian Empire, have been declared in a state of siege—a tolerably broad hint from the Czar to the Emperor Francis Joseph that he considers a rupture to be imminent. True to his previous policy of affecting towards his subjects the position of an injured Power, and one that acts only on the defensive, the Czar will doubtless leave the initiative of declaring war to the Emperor of Austria; and we do not see—after the lengths to which Austria has already proceeded, not alone by formal acts of diplomacy, but by the unstudied expressions of sympathy with Great Britain and France, and of congratulation on the glorious victory of the Alma—how actual warfare between the two States can be much longer avoided. Austria made many sacrifices to obtain the support of Prussia and the Germanic Confederation before she could definitely engage herself with the anti-Russian alliance; but "the petty, pithless, and marrowless" policy of Prussia is so apparent, that Austria can no longer indulge any hope in that quarter. She must cast her lot with the Maritime Powers, or be for ever disgraced; and, to a Power situated as she is, disgrace is fatal. The tide of events is running so strongly, that Austria can no longer temporise, even if disposed. She is in the midst of the current—and if she do not act, will run the risk of being carried into far greater dangers and difficulties than any into which a bolder and more resolute course might lead her. As for Prussia, it is highly probable that the Allies will immediately take steps to teach her that her present mode of being, or of appearing to be neutral, is a nuisance to Europe that can no longer be tolerated. Such a declaration would have some personal as well as political results, that might please the Prussian nation as much as they would gratify Europe.

IT seems to be generally admitted that the operations of the Baltic fleet are at an end for the present year; and that the greater portions of the British and French squadrons are on their way home. The principal reasons alleged are, the prevalence of stormy weather and the commencement of the winter frost. Even so early as the sixth of the present month many of the creeks and harbours of those northern shores were reported to be partially frozen. No doubt, these reasons must be held satisfactory for the discontinuance of operations. Powerful fleets may often escape and defy the storm; but the inexorable ice is an opponent