

French, had failed to procure an amicable settlement of the differences which had arisen between Russia and Turkey. On the 6th of February the Russian ambassador withdrew from Paris, and on the 8th baron Brunnow, the Russian ambassador at the British court, left England. On the 20th the Grenadier and Coldstream Guards embarked at Southampton for Turkey. Other troops followed in rapid succession. On the 11th of March the Queen reviewed at Spithead the fleet under command of admiral sir Charles Napier, previous to its sailing for the Baltic. On the 12th a treaty of alliance between France, England, and Turkey, was signed at Constantinople. March 25. England and France, having sent an *ultimatum* to the Russian emperor, received an answer to the effect that the Czar had no answer to send. War against Russia declared on the 27th by France, and on the 28th by Great Britain. On the 21st of April Odessa was bombarded by the French and English fleets. On the 10th of May the "Tiger" war steamer ran ashore near Odessa in a dense fog; in this position she was attacked by the Russians who disabled her, and took her crew of two hundred men prisoners. On the 17th Silistria was invested by the Russians, who, after a siege of forty days, abandoned their operations against the place. Two British officers, captain Butler and lieutenant Nasmyth, encouraged and directed the Turks in their heroic defence. On the 29th of May the allied troops disembarked at Varna, where, during the period of their encampment, they suffered greatly from disease and insufficient accommodation. On the 29th of June the Russian batteries at the Sulina mouth of the Danube were destroyed by two British steamers. In the Baltic the fortress of Gustafsvaern was bombarded by the British fleet on the 22nd of May. The British force was reinforced by ten thousand French troops, who left Boulogne on the 15th of July in British ships of war. On the 16th of August the fort of Bomarsund, with a garrison of 2000 men, surrendered to the allied fleet, after three days' bombardment. On the 15th of September the Russians evacuated Moldavia after which the Danubian provinces were garrisoned by the Austrians. On the 14th of September the allied forces landed in the Crimea, on the western shore, near 45° N. lat., without opposition. The army included 23,000 French, 25,000 British, and 8000 Turks. On the 20th the first conflict with the Russians in the Crimea took place in the battle of the Alma, in which the Russians were completely worsted. On the 26th, after a forced march of fourteen hours, the allied forces occupied Balaklava, and subsequently encamped before Sebastopol. On the 20th marshal St. Arnaud, the commander-in-chief of the French forces, fell a victim to disease after having transferred his command to general Canrobert. On the 17th of October the bombardment of Sebastopol by the allied armies and fleets commenced. On the 25th the Russians attacked the allies at Balaklava, but were repulsed with loss. By an unhappy misreading of an order of lord Raglan, the earl of Lucan directed the light cavalry to charge the overwhelming Russian force. Of 607 men who went into the action, only 108 returned. On the 5th of November the battle of Inkerman was fought, in which the Russians, in immense numbers, attempted a surprise before daybreak, but were obliged to retire with a loss of about 10,000 killed and wounded. The struggle lasted the entire day. On the 14th a violent storm occurred in the Black Sea, which destroyed many store ships, and caused great calamities on shore. This was followed by a season of intense suffering amongst the troops; the roads were impassable; the weather was bitterly cold; men and horses, ill supplied with food and shelter, perished in large numbers, whilst medical attention and hospital accommodation were woefully deficient. This being known at home from the reports of the correspondents of the newspapers, gave rise to great dissatisfaction with the management of affairs, and private subscriptions to a large amount were speedily raised to mitigate the distress. Miss Nightingale organised a numerous staff of nurses, and proceeded with them to Constantinople, to superintend the hospitals, which were principally at Scutari, and to attend the sick and wounded, by which attention the lives of many hundreds were saved.

June 10. Crystal Palace at Sydenham opened by queen Victoria.

Sept. 1. The emperor Napoleon entertained at Boulogne the king of the Belgians, the king of Portugal, and the Prince Consort of England.

Sept. 9. The deaths from the cholera in London for the week ending this day were 2050. In three months, August, September, and October, 10,500 persons died of cholera in London.

LEGISLATION. SESSION 17 & 18 VICTORIÆ.

Cap. 5. *An Act to admit Foreign Ships to the Coasting Trade.* Foreign vessels are admitted on paying the same duties as British ships.

Cap. 38. *For the Suppression of Gaming Houses.*

Cap. 74. *To render Reformatory and Industrial Schools in Scotland more available for the benefit of Vagrant Children.* Young persons under fourteen found begging, and without visible means of subsistence, may be sent to these schools without being charged with crime.

Cap. 114. *To extend the Rights enjoyed by the Graduates of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, in respect to the Practice of Physic, to the Graduates of the University of London.* Bachelors and doctors of medicine are privileged to practise as physicians in the same manner as graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, but this privilege does not extend to surgery, pharmacy, or midwifery.

Revenue, 58,903,495*l.*; Expenditure—Army and Ordnance, 9,685,079*l.*; Navy, 6,640,596*l.*; for all purposes, 55,647,991*l.*; Debt, 771,335,801*l.**

Exports of British and Irish Produce, 97,184,726*l.*; total exports, 115,821,092*l.*; imports, 152,389,053*l.*

Emigration—to North American Colonies, 43,761; to the United States, 193,065; to Australian Colonies and New Zealand, 83,237; to other places, 3,366: total, 323,429.

Railway Traffic: Miles open, 8,054; number of passengers, 111,206,707; traffic receipts, 20,215,724*l.*

Number of Paupers, 1,004,068.

1855.

Jan. 25. Lord John Russell retired from office in consequence of an approaching discussion in the House of Commons, on a motion of which Mr. Roebuck gave notice on the 23rd for a select committee to inquire into the condition of our army before Sebastopol, and into the conduct of the commissariat and medical departments of the army.

Jan. 31. Resignation of lord Aberdeen's cabinet, in consequence of the defeat of the government on the 29th, in the division on Mr. Roebuck's motion; the votes being 305 against ministers and 148 in their favour. The earl of Derby was invited by the Queen to undertake the formation of a government, but declined; lord Palmerston accepted the responsibility, and the members of his cabinet were sworn into office on the 28th of February. The ministry stood thus: viscount Palmerston, First Lord of the Treasury; earl Granville, President of the Council; lord Cranworth, Lord High Chancellor; duke of Argyll, Lord Privy Seal; Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Chancellor of the Exchequer; sir George Grey, Secretary of State for Home Affairs; earl of Clarendon, Foreign Secretary; Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, Colonial Secretary; lord Panmure, War Secretary; Right Hon. sir James Graham, First Lord of the Admiralty; Right Hon. Vernon Smith, President of the Board of Control; sir B. Hall, Commissioner of Works and Public Buildings; earl of Harrowby, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; marquess of Lansdowne, without office.

Feb. 20. Lord John Russell left London to attend the conferences of the representatives of the great powers, on the terms of peace between Russia and Turkey, as the British plenipotentiary.

Feb. 22. Withdrawal from office of Mr. Gladstone, sir James Graham, and Mr. Sidney Herbert, on account of the House of Commons insisting upon the appointment of a select committee in terms of Mr. Roebuck's motion. Their places in the cabinet were filled up by the appointment of sir G. C. Lewis, sir Charles Wood, and lord John Russell.

April 17. Arrival of the emperor and empress of the French at Windsor on a visit to the Queen. On the 19th they were entertained by the Lord Mayor at a splendid fête in the Guildhall of London. They took leave on their return home on the 21st.

April 20. The Chancellor of the Exchequer made his financial statement, in which he intimated that the deficiency occasioned by the Russian war was about twenty-three millions, of which he proposed to raise sixteen millions by loan, and the rest by a readjustment involving an increase of taxation.

June 13. The new Metropolitan Cattle Market opened. Prince Albert attended the opening, and in replying to the address read to him by the recorder, after remarking on the enormous growth of London, said that this growth "imperatively requires that those establishments which are to minister to the common wants of the whole should keep pace with its growth and magnitude. This can only be undertaken by public bodies, they can only be carried out by public spirit. . . . I hail the spirit which is rising among us."

July 13. Lord John Russell resigned his office of Colonial secretary in consequence of discussions in the House of Commons in reference to the part taken by him in the Vienna Conference. He was succeeded by sir William Molesworth.

* Up to this date the financial year ended on Jan. 4; all after end on March 31.

Aug. 1. Viscount Canning was entertained at a public banquet by the East India Company, previous to his departure to assume the functions of governor-general of India.

Aug. 18. Queen Victoria and prince Albert visited the emperor of the French in Paris, remaining till the 27th, when they embarked at Boulogne on their return to England.

Nov. 22. The first stone of the Birmingham and Midland Institute laid by prince Albert. At the banquet afterwards, in the Town-hall of Birmingham, in replying to the toast of his health, he dwelt on the advantages to be derived from the higher branches of education; he remarked on the error of considering scientific knowledge as antagonistic; and said, "Far be it from me to undervalue the creative power of genius, or to treat shrewd common sense as worthless without knowledge. But nobody will tell me that the same genius would not take an incomparably higher flight, if supplied with all the means which knowledge can impart, or that common sense does not become, in fact, only truly powerful when in possession of the materials upon which judgment is to be exercised."

Nov. 30. The king of Sardinia arrived at Windsor on a visit to the Queen.

RUSSIAN WAR.—On the 6th of January Conferences were opened at Vienna between the plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, France, Austria and Russia, with a view to the restoration of peace. These conferences continued till the 21st of April, when they were suspended without any practical result. On the 10th of January Victor Emmanuel, king of Sardinia, joined the Allies, and undertook to send 15,000 men to the Crimea to aid in the war against Russia. On the 12th of February an imperial ukase ordered the organization and arming of the entire militia of the Russian empire for the defence of the "orthodox faith." On the 17th the Russians attacked Eupatoria, but were repulsed by the Turks who formed the garrison of the place. On the 2nd of March Nicholas, emperor of Russia, died, and was succeeded by his son Alexander II. The event was announced to the British Houses of Parliament within five hours of the emperor's decease, the intelligence being transmitted by telegraph. On the 4th of April the British fleet, under rear-admiral Dundas, sailed for the Baltic. The Baltic coast was blockaded from the 10th of April. The French fleet in the Baltic was under the command of admiral Pénaud. On the 9th of April the second bombardment of Sebastopol commenced and was continued, with little effect, till the 28th. On the 16th of May general Canrobert resigned the chief command of the French army in the Crimea to general Pellesier, but continued to serve as a general of division. On the 24th of May Kerch was occupied by the Allies, whose fleets swept the sea of Azoff, captured and garrisoned Yenikali, and bombarded Taganrog, Mariapol, Gheisk, and other towns, destroying public buildings, government magazines, and provision stores. On the 7th of June, at Sebastopol, the French troops captured the Mamelon, two redoubts, and 62 guns, and took 130 officers and 400 men prisoners. On the 18th the French attacked the Malakhoff and the English the Redan, but were repulsed by the Russians with considerable loss. On the 28th lord Raglan, the British commander-in-chief in the Crimea, died of cholera, in his 68th year; he was succeeded by general Simpson, as next in command. On the 11th of July, in the Baltic, the fortifications of Sweaborg were bombarded by the allied fleets of England and France. On the 16th of August the battle of the Tchernaya, near Sebastopol, took place, in which the Russians were defeated by the French and the Sardinians. On the 5th of September the third bombardment of Sebastopol commenced, and on the 8th the French took the Malakhoff; the English who attempted to take the Redan were repulsed. The Russians who had suffered to a frightful extent from the effects of the shot and shells which had been poured upon the city and its defences—about 17,000 officers and privates having been killed, wounded, and missing in three days—evacuated the south side of Sebastopol at night, after sinking their ships and blowing up the defences. On the 9th the Allies took possession of the place, which they found in a ruinous condition. On the 17th of October Kinburn, at the mouth of the Dnieper, surrendered to the Allies. On the 18th the Russians blew up the fortress of Oczakoff. On the 10th of November the emperor Alexander visited his army near Sebastopol. On the 11th of November general sir William Codrington assumed the command of the British army in the Crimea. On the 26th the fortress of Kars surrendered to the Russians, after a protracted and gallant defence, continued for several months amidst severe privations; general Williams and the other English officers, his companions, who became prisoners of war, were treated with great kindness by the Russian general. On the 16th of December Austria sent proposals for peace, the terms of which had been sanctioned by the Allies, to the emperor Alexander at St. Petersburg. On the 17th the united kingdom of Sweden and Norway joined the alliance of the Western Powers.

LEGISLATION. SESSION 18 & 19 VICTORIA.

Cap. 27. *An Act to amend the Laws relating to the Stamp Duties on Newspapers, and to provide for the transmission by post of printed Periodicals and Publications.* By this Act the stamp duty was removed except for purposes of transmission by post.

Cap. 88. *To facilitate the Erection of Dwelling-houses for the Working Classes in Scotland.* Granting powers under supervision for small associations to hold land and build houses suitable for the working classes.

Cap. 116. *For the better Prevention of Diseases.* In case of any endemic, epidemic, or contagious disease occurring in any part of England the Privy Council and the General Board of Health are empowered to issue rules and directions for the removal of nuisances, the speedy interment of the dead, for house to house visitation, the dispensing of medicines, &c., the expenses to be paid out of the rates or funds administered by the local authorities.

Cap. 120. *For the better Local Management of the Metropolis.* By this Act the construction of sewers, and such matters as cannot be effected by parishes singly, are confided to a board, the members of which are elected by the various parishes contained in the metropolitan district.

Cap. 126. *For diminishing expense and delay in the Administration of Criminal Justice in certain cases.* Offenders charged with simple felony where the thing stolen does not exceed 5s. in value, may be dealt with summarily by a police magistrate, if they consent; and if the value exceeds 5s. it may be so dealt with on the offender pleading guilty; if he does not, the case must go for trial.

Cap. 132. *For facilitating the Erection of Dwelling-houses for the Working Classes.* This, with some variation in detail, is for a similar purpose to that for Scotland, stated above.

Cap. 133. *For limiting the Liability of Members of certain Joint-Stock Companies.* Enables Joint-Stock Companies to be formed, of which the individual liabilities are limited, but they must be registered, and the word "limited," must form the last word of the name of the company, and must always appear where the title is given.

Revenue, 62,815,952*l.*; Expenditure—Army and Ordnance, 15,631,602*l.*; Navy, 14,490,105*l.*; for all purposes, 65,721,755*l.*; Debt, 801,978,763*l.*

Exports of British and Irish Produce, 95,688,085*l.*: total exports, 116,691,300*l.*; imports, 143,542,850*l.*

Emigration—to North American Colonies, 17,966; to the United States, 103,414; to Australian Colonies and New Zealand, 52,309; to all other places, 3,118: total, 176,807*l.*

Railway Traffic: Miles open, 8,280; number of passengers, 118,595,135; traffic receipts, 21,507,599*l.*

Number of Paupers. 1,018,075.

1856.

Jan. 31. The queen, in opening parliament, announced that Russia had accepted as a basis for negotiation the proposals for a general peace put forth by Austria, with the sanction of the other allied powers.

Feb. 1. Protocol signed at Vienna by the representatives of Russia, France, Great Britain, Austria, and Turkey, accepting the Austrian propositions as a basis for peace.

Feb. 1. Despatch from general Codrington announcing that the destruction of the Sebastopol docks had been completely effected.

Feb. 5. A new Order of Merit, "The Victoria Cross," instituted, the decoration of which is to be conferred upon inferior officers and privates in the army and navy for distinguished gallantry.

Feb. 7. The governor-general of India announced by a proclamation the deposition of the king of Oude, and the annexation of his territory to the British possessions in India. The king was allowed a pension of 120,000*l.* a year.

Feb. 25. The Peace Conferences opened at Paris, attended by the representatives of France, Austria, Great Britain, Russia, Sardinia, and Turkey. Prussia was subsequently admitted.

Feb. 29. Suspension of hostilities in the Crimea.

March 16. Birth of the Prince Imperial of France. On this occasion the emperor issued an amnesty in favour of upwards of a thousand political exiles.

April 25. The Queen reviewed a fleet of more than 300 men-of-war at Portsmouth. At the commencement of the review the fleet extended in an unbroken line of anchorage for about five miles.

- April 29. Peace with Russia officially proclaimed by a herald in the streets of London.
- May 3. An amnesty granted to political exiles, in virtue of which Frost, Williams, Jones, and Smith O'Brien, were permitted to return to England. On the 11th of November a free pardon was granted by the queen to these political offenders.
- May 29. Public celebration of the conclusion of peace. Magnificent fire-works in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin. A general illumination took place.
- June 1. Disastrous inundations in France. For the relief of the sufferers subscriptions were raised in England to the amount of more than 40,000*l.*
- July 12. Evacuation of the Crimea by the allied troops.
- Oct. 8. Seizure by the Chinese authorities of a lorcha, or small trading vessel, which bore the British flag. This led to hostilities between Great Britain and China.
- Oct. 13. Surrender of the city of Herat to the Persians, when the governor and his family were put to death. The Persians having thus violated a treaty to which Great Britain was a party, war was proclaimed against Persia at Calcutta on the 1st of November.
- Oct. 24. Canton attacked by the British, who bombarded it on the 3rd of November.
- Oct. 27. Railway opened between Montreal and Toronto.
- Nov. 22. An insurrection in Sicily suppressed by the military.
- Dec. 9. Bushire, in the Persian Gulf, taken by the British expedition.
- Dec. 10. Mr. Sheepshanks presented to the nation his collection of drawings and paintings. The collection has been placed in the South Kensington Museum.
- Dec. 16. The Queen went to Spithead to receive from the representative of the United States government the Arctic discovery ship *Resolute*, which having been abandoned in the ice by its crew, was recovered by an American ship, and having been completely repaired by the American government, was now restored to Great Britain.

LEGISLATION. SESSION 19 & 20 VICTORIAÆ.

- Cap. 47. *An Act for the Incorporation and Regulation of Joint-Stock Companies and other Associations.* One of the most important parts of this Act is that relating to the winding-up of companies.
- Cap. 64. *To Repeal certain Statutes not in use.* 112 statutes, most of them obsolete, but hitherto unrepealed, are at once swept away.
- Cap. 65. *To encourage the providing of Improved Dwellings for the Labouring Classes in Ireland.*
- Cap. 69. *To render more effectual the Police in Counties and Boroughs of England and Wales.* This empowers the justices assembled in quarter sessions to adopt and enforce a more general system than had hitherto taken place; the divisional police of a county was to be consolidated, unless the secretary of state authorizes a division; and county constables are empowered to act in any borough within the county; and boroughs may be consolidated with the county for the purposes of police.
- Cap. 83. *To provide for the better Defence of the Coasts of the Realm, and the more ready Manning of the Navy, and to transfer to the Admiralty the Management of the Coast Guard.* The coast guard men are to have the privilege of making allotments of wages, and of pensions, as seamen in the navy, and the officers are to have the training of the Royal Naval Coast Volunteers.
- Cap. 98. *To amend the Laws relating to the Burial of the Dead in Ireland.* This establishes burial boards in Ireland as in England.
- Revenue, 70,262,882*l.*; Expenditure—Army, including Ordnance, 32,006,603*l.*; Navy, 19,654,585*l.*; for all purposes, 88,453,385*l.*; Debt, 829,579,798*l.*
- Exports of British and Irish Produce, 115,826,948*l.*: total exports, 139,220,353*l.*; imports, 172,544,154*l.*
- Emigration—to North American Colonies, 16,378; to the United States, 111,837; to Australian Colonies and New Zealand, 44,584; to all other places, 3,755: total, 176,554.
- Railway Traffic: Miles open, 8,707; number of passengers, 129,347,592; traffic receipts, 23,165,491*l.*
- Number of Paupers, 1,030,823.

1857.

[This year was remarkable for the Mutiny of the Native Army in British India, which was not finally subdued till 1858. It may

be convenient to give the events connected with this alarming outbreak under a separate head in each of these years, after the general Chronology.]

- Feb. 3. Parliament opened by commission.
- March 3. A motion proposed by Mr. Cobden censuring the government for the war with China, was carried, after four nights' discussion in the House of Commons, by 263 to 247 votes.
- March 3. Treaty of peace between Great Britain and Persia, signed at Paris by lord Cowley and Ferukh-Khan.
- March 3. Election of Mr. Buchanan as president of the United States of North America.
- March 13. The Chancellor of the Exchequer brought forward his budget, which contained proposals for the remission of taxation to the extent of eleven millions.
- March 14. Treaty signed at Copenhagen for the abolition of the Sound dues. The share of indemnity money payable by Great Britain was 1,125,206*l.*
- March 19. Prince Albert, accompanied by the prince of Wales, opened new schools in Golden Lane, Barbican. In the course of his answer to the address presented to him, he said, "You have not been content with the bare attempt to force, perhaps upon unwilling recipients, a boon, the value of which might not be appreciated, but you have wisely sought to work upon the convictions of the parents of the children you wish to benefit by extending your assistance only to those who, by a small contribution out of their hardly-won earnings, have proved that they are awake to a sense of the vast importance it is to their offspring that the means of being fitted to pass successfully through life, and, by honest industry, to better their condition, should be brought within their reach."
- March 21. Parliament dissolved, and a new parliament summoned.
- April 21. Departure of the earl of Elgin on a special embassy to the emperor of China at Peking.
- May 5. Prince Albert opened the Exhibition of Art Treasures at Manchester. In addressing the committee, he remarked on the "generous feeling of mutual confidence and good will between the different classes of society, of which it [the Exhibition] affords so gratifying a proof."
- May 7. Parliament opened by commission. Mr. J. Evelyn Denison elected Speaker of the House of Commons.
- May 21. The House of Commons agreed to grant to the Princess Royal an annuity of 8000*l.* per annum, and a dower of 40,000*l.*, on occasion of her marriage with prince Frederick William of Prussia.
- June 1. A number of war-junks taken from the Chinese in the Canton river.
- June 22. Educational Conference in London, at which prince Albert presided. In his speech he detailed some of the statistics of the state of education, but he said—"You will probably trace the cause of our social condition to a state of ignorance and lethargic indifference on the subject among parents generally; but the root of the evil will, I suspect, be found to extend into that field on which the political economist exercises his activity—I mean the labour market—demand and supply." He pointed out how this acted. Of the labourer he said—"His children are not only his offspring, to be reared for a future independent position, but they constitute part of his productive power, and work with him for the staff of life." He therefore exhorted the meeting to work "upon the minds and hearts of parents, to place before them the irreparable mischief which they inflict," by keeping their children from the "right of knowledge."
- June 25. An order in Council conferred the title of prince Consort on prince Albert.
- July 11. Failure of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable, the cable having snapped after 335 miles length had been given out.
- July 25. Public meeting at the Mansion House, London, in aid of the sufferers from the Indian mutiny. In the course of three months upwards of 260,000*l.* was raised for this purpose.
- Nov. 12. In consequence of a severe commercial panic, the government authorized the Bank of England to extend its issues, which had the effect of mitigating the pressure upon the money market, and restoring confidence. An estimate was made to the effect that the aggregate liabilities of commercial houses, which had fallen during the panic, amounted to about forty-five millions sterling. At this time there was great distress in the manufacturing districts.
- Nov. 18. Ambassadors from the two kings of Siam received by queen Victoria at a Court held at Windsor.

Nov. 18. Great distress in Kafirland. About 30,000 destitute Kafirs brought in as ser-vants to the Cape Colonists.

Dec. 3. Parliament opened by the Queen in person, having met at this season chiefly for the purpose of passing a bill of indemnity, exonerating the government in regard to the permission given to the Bank of England to extend its issues for the purpose of miti-gating the pressure of the recent commercial panic. On the 12th the royal assent was given to the bill of indemnity, and the Houses adjourned.

Dec. 29. Canton taken by the British forces, and Commissioner Yeh made prisoner.

INDIA.—Jan. 24. A mutinous spirit began to manifest itself among the Sepoys of the East India Company's army at Barrackpore, Berhampore, Lucknow, Meerut, and else-where. The origin of the disaffection was said to be the use of cartridges made up in paper, which had been greased with a mixture of cow's fat and hog's lard—a composition offensive to the Hindoo, who regards the cow with religious veneration, and also to the Mohammedan, who looks upon the hog with abhorrence. On the 10th of May the mutiny broke out at Meerut, from which place the insurgents marched to Delhi, where on the 11th being joined by several native regiments they proclaimed the king of Delhi as Em-peror, and massacred many of the English residents. Lieut. Willoughby blew up the magazine, and made his escape. On the 20th general Anson arrived before Delhi with a small force of British and native troops. On the 27th general Anson died of cholera, which also struck down his successor, sir H. Barnard. General Reed, who took the command on July 5th, was obliged, from ill-health, to transfer it to general Wilson, on the 22nd. General Nicholson having arrived with reinforcements, Delhi was taken by assault on the 14th September, the fight being continued in the city till the 20th. The British lost about 1,200 killed and wounded. General Nicholson died on the 23rd. The native troops, at Lucknow, broke out in mutiny on the 31st of May. They were dispersed by the troops under sir Henry Lawrence. On the 5th of June the Europeans at Alla-habad, were besieged in the fort by the mutineers. The small British force in Cawnpore were in like manner hemmed in, and were compelled to surrender to Nana Sahib on the 26th of June, general Wheeler having died on the 21st from a wound received in making a sally on the previous day. The English were embarked in boats on the Ganges, to be conveyed to Allahabad, in accordance with the terms of surrender. They were fired upon with cannon, many boats were sunk, and those persons who got on shore were cut down. Colonel Havelock, who had arrived at Calcutta from the Persian Gulf on the 17th June, was immediately despatched, with the rank of brigadier-general, in command of the troops intended for the relief of Cawnpore. On the 1st of July general Havelock left Allahabad with a force of 2,000 Europeans; on the 16th he defeated Nana Sahib be-fore Cawnpore; and on the 17th entered the town. On the 10th he again defeated Nana Sahib at Bithoor. At Lucknow, in a sortie against the Sepoy besiegers, on the 2nd of July, sir Henry Lawrence was wounded, and died on the 4th—major Banks took the com-mand, and held possession of the Residency and fort. On the 15th general Neill defeated the mutineers at the Pundoo Nuddee, south of Cawnpore, and flung their bodies into a wide and deep well. On the same day general Havelock gained his ninth victory, between Cawnpore and Lucknow. On the 25th of September he reached Luck-now with 2,500 troops, and relieved the Europeans besieged in the Residency. On the 26th he forced the mutineers to abandon their entrenchments. On the 3rd of November sir Colin Campbell, who had been appointed commander-in-chief of the army in India on the 11th July, and left London for Calcutta on the 12th, arrived at Cawnpore. On the 17th of November he delivered the Europeans from their confinement in the Residency, which was evacuated by the 23rd. On the 25th of November sir Henry Havelock died, eight days after he received the tidings of his having been created a Knight Commander of the Bath. On the 6th of December sir Colin Campbell defeated the Gwalior Contingent, and on the 8th sir Hope Grant also defeated them higher up the Ganges.

LEGISLATION. SESSION 20 & 21 VICTORIA.

Cap. 3. *An Act to Amend the Act of the 16 & 17 Victoria, cap. 95, to substitute in certain Cases other Punishment in lieu of Transportation.* No offender in future to be sentenced to transportation, but persons under sentence of penal servitude may be sent to places beyond sea, the Privy Council appointing the places; and magistrates may com-mit convicts whose licences are revoked to penal servitude in any convict prison.

Cap. 14. *An Act to amend the Joint-Stock Companies' Act, 1856.* Much of this Act relates to the duties of officials, but it also enacts that where more than 20 persons are en-gaged in partnership, and are not registered, each is declared separately liable for the debts of the firm. When a winding-up order has been obtained against any company, the liquidator may obtain a warrant for the arrest of any shareholder whom he may have rea-son to suspect of being about to abscond or to conceal his property, and his books, papers, moneys, and other property may be seized.

Cap. 48. *To make better Provision for the Care and Education of Vagrant, Desti-tute and Disorderly Children, and for the Extension of Industrial Schools.* Parents may be compelled to pay towards the support of their child a sum of not more than 3s. per week.

Cap. 54. *To make better Provision for the Punishment of Frauds committed by Trustees, Bankers, and other Persons intrusted with Property.* After detailing the various frauds enacted against; as appropriating property, making false statements with intent to deceive; keeping fraudulent accounts, &c., the offender is declared liable to penal imprisonment for three, or by imprisonment with or without hard labour for two years, or by fine as the court shall direct.

Cap. 71. *For the Regulation of the Care and Treatment of Lunatics, and for the Provision, Maintenance, and Regulation of Lunatic Asylums in Scotland.* Private asylums are to be licensed; district asylums are to be provided in the large towns, and Commissioners to be appointed who are to inspect and make an annual report.

Cap. 72. *To render more effectual the Police in Counties and Burghs in Scotland.* This Act in effect is for organizing a general police in Scotland, which had previously been only local.

Cap. 77. *To amend the Law relating to Probate and Letters of Administration in England.* This important Act removes the jurisdiction in all such matters, from the Ecclesiastical Courts to a Special Court instituted by this Act; cap. 79, was a similar Act for Ireland.

Cap. 83. *An Act for more effectually Preventing the sale of Obscene Books, Pictures, Prints, and other Articles.* On information given upon oath, magistrates may issue search warrants, authorizing the use of force in the day time, in order to search the sus-pected premises.

Cap. 85. *To amend the Law relating to Divorce and Matrimonial Causes in Eng-land.* This, like cap. 77, removes all such matters from the Ecclesiastical Courts to a Court especially appointed, of which the Judge holds the same office in the Probate Court, the Lord Chancellor, the Chief Judges, and the senior Puisne Judges of the Law Courts, may sit with him; and in suits for annulling marriage, applications for new trials, &c., they must be heard by three or more Judges, the Judge of the Probate Court being always one.

Revenue, 72,334,062*l.*: Expenditure—Army, 20,811,242*l.*; Navy, 13,459,012*l.*; for all objects, 71,371,533*l.*; Debt, 834,722,963*l.*

Exports of British and Irish Produce, 122,066,107*l.*: total of exports, 146,174,301*l.*; imports, 187,844,411*l.*

Emigration—to North American Colonies, 21,001; to the United States, 126,905; to Australian Colonies and New Zealand, 61,243; to all other places, 3,721: total, 212,875.

Railway Traffic: Miles open, 9,094; number of passengers, 139,008,888; traffic receipts, 24,174,610*l.*

Number of Paupers, 979,117.

1858.

Jan. 14. An attempt was made to assassinate the Emperor and Empress of the French by an explosion of hand grenades. The Emperor and Empress escaped unhurt, but five persons were killed, and about sixty wounded. For this attempt five persons were tried and convicted, of whom two, Orsim and Pieri, were guillotined at Paris.

Jan. 25. Marriage of the Princess Royal of England with prince Frederick William of Prussia, in the Chapel of St. James's Palace.

Jan. 31. Completion of the launch of the Great Eastern steam-ship, the commencement having been made about three months previously.

Feb. 10. The blockade of Canton raised.

Feb. 22. Lord Palmerston's Cabinet resigned, in consequence of an adverse vote (234 to 215) of the House of Commons, proposed by Mr. Milner Gibson, expressing regret that her Majesty's government, previously to inviting the House to amend the law of con-spiracy, had not made some reply to the despatch received from the French government dated Jan. 20th, 1858. On the retirement of viscount Palmerston the earl of Derby was entrusted with the formation of a Ministry. The new Cabinet was constituted as follows:—Earl of Derby, First Lord of the Treasury; marquis of Salisbury, President of the Council; lord Chelmsford, Lord High Chancellor; earl of Hardwicke, Lord Privy Seal; Rt. Hon. B. Disraeli, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Rt. Hon. Spencer Walpole, Secre-tary of State for Home Affairs; earl of Malmesbury, Foreign Secretary; Rt. Hon. sir E. B. Lytton, Colonial Secretary; major-general Peel, Secretary for War; earl of Ellen-

borough, President of the Board of Control; Rt. Hon. sir J. S. Pakington, First Lord of the Admiralty; Rt. Hon. J. W. Henley, President of the Board of Trade; lord John Manners, President of the Board of Works.

March 14. A proclamation was issued by the Governor-General of India to the people of Oude, threatening confiscation of the lands of such talookdhars as do not submit to the government. This proclamation was disapproved by lord Ellenborough, the President of the Board of Control, and the publication in this country of his despatch to the governor-general upon the subject led to lord Ellenborough's withdrawal from the Cabinet.

March 15. Lord Malmesbury, the Foreign Secretary, laid on the table of the House of Lords the correspondence that had taken place between her Majesty's government since its accession to office and the French government, and said that the correspondence had concluded in all honour and good feeling on both sides.

March 30. Conference at Shanghai of the representatives of Great Britain, France, Russia, and the United States. The reply of the Chinese government to the communications of the ambassadors being considered unsatisfactory, it was resolved to proceed to Tien-tsin.

May 15. Massacre of the English and French Consuls, and about 20 other Europeans, at Jeddah, the port of Mecca.

May 20. Arrival of the British and French expedition at Tien-tsin, after having captured the Pei-ho forts.

May 26. Treaty of Tien-tsin concluded between the Chinese government and Great Britain, represented by the earl of Elgin. Separate treaties with the Chinese were made by France, Russia, and America.

July 23. Jeddah bombarded by the British ship Cyclops, and again on the 5th of August.

Aug. 5. The Queen and Prince Consort visited the emperor Napoleon at Cherbourg on occasion of the opening of the Napoleon Docks.

Aug. 12. The earl of Elgin landed at Jeddo, the capital of Japan, and negotiated a favourable treaty with the Emperor, which was signed on the 26th.

Aug. 22. Congratulatory message sent by queen Victoria to president Buchanan by the Atlantic Telegraph and responded to in a friendly manner by the president. The telegraph soon ceased to transmit messages, and the efforts made to effect a communication by telegraph between the opposite shores of the Atlantic have been unsuccessful.

Sept. 1. The East India Company's government transferred to the Crown by Act of Parliament, which was announced throughout India by a royal proclamation on the 1st of November.

INDIA.—On the 2nd of January, sir Colin Campbell defeated the rebels at Futtehgur, and established an artillery depot there. On the 10th the first party of ladies and children, and of sick and wounded officers from Lucknow, arrived at Calcutta. They landed under a royal salute amid the cheering of several hundreds of Europeans. On the 29th Saugor, in Central India, which had been invested by the rebels for upwards of six months, was relieved by sir Hugh Rose. March 2. Sir Colin Campbell commenced the siege of Lucknow, taking possession of the Dilkoosha palace and park. On the 19th Lucknow fell into the hands of the British, the rebels, to the number of 50,000, seeking safety in flight. On the 13th of April the garrison of Azimghur was relieved by sir E. Lugard. On the 13th of May sir Hope Grant defeated the rebels at Nawabgunge, near Lucknow, and on the 23rd the strong fortress of Calpee was taken by sir Hugh Rose. On the 19th of June, sir Hugh Rose re-took Gwalior from the rebels, and reinstated the Maharaja Sindia in his capital and possessions.

LEGISLATION. SESSION 21 & 22 VICTORIA.

Cap. 26. *An Act to abolish the Property Qualifications of Members of Parliament.* Repealing all the Acts requiring a property qualification for a member of Parliament.

Cap. 48. *To substitute one Oath for the Oaths of Allegiance, Supremacy, and Abjuration; and for the Relief of her Majesty's Subjects professing the Jewish Religion.* Preserves the form of oath, allows Quakers to "affirm" instead of "swear;" and Jews to omit the words, "on the faith of a Christian."

Cap. 49. *To provide for the Relief of her Majesty's Subjects professing the Jewish Religion.* This Act admits Jews to sit in Parliament, but they are restricted from presenting to any ecclesiastical benefice, and from holding the offices of Lord Chancellor, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, or High Commissioner of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Cap. 90. *To regulate the Qualifications of Practitioners in Medicine and Surgery.*

Councils are appointed to examine applicants as to qualifications, and on approval they receive certificates entitling them to practice. The Act also regulates the Royal College of Physicians, and the College of Surgeons in London, and other medical colleges.

Cap. 91. *To enable Joint-Stock Banking Companies to be formed on the Principle of Limited Liability.* Repeals so much of a former Act as prevented the formation of such Companies; but only on condition of not issuing notes in the United Kingdom.

Cap. 99. *To provide for the Government of British Columbia.* By this Act British Columbia was constituted a distinct colony.

Cap. 106. *For the better Government of India.* This Act transferred the Government of India from the Board of Directors to her Majesty with a new secretary of state for its management.

Revenue, 67,881,513*l.*; Expenditure—Army, 14,405,850*l.*; Navy, 10,590,000*l.*; for all objects, 68,128,859*l.*; Debt, 826,134,640*l.*

Exports of British and Irish Produce, 116,608,756*l.*; total exports, 139,782,779*l.*; imports, 164,583,832*l.*

Emigration—to North American Colonies, 9,704; to the United States, 59,716; to Australian Colonies and New Zealand, 39,295; to all other places, 5,251: total, 113,972.

Amount of Gold imported from Australia, 9,064,763*l.*; total imported, 22,793,126*l.**

Railway Traffic: Miles open, 9,542: number of passengers, 139,193,699; traffic receipts, 23,956,749*l.*

Number of Paupers, 1,037,967.

1859.

Jan. 9. The Governor-General of India published decrees constituting the Punjab a lieutenant-governorship, and ordering the general disarming of Upper India.

Jan. 25. At this date the entire pacification of Oude was reported.

Jan. 30. Prince Napoleon, cousin of the emperor, married at Turin to Princess Clothilde, daughter of the king of Sardinia.

Feb. 3. Parliament opened by the Queen in person.

March 1. Mr. Walpole and Mr. Henley stated to the House of Commons their reasons for withdrawing from lord Derby's government on account of some of the provisions of the Reform Bill proposed by the Government.

March 31. The debate in the House of Commons on the government Reform Bill, which had continued for several days, terminated in the defeat of ministers by a majority of 330 against 291 votes.

April 18. Tantia Toppee, one of the leaders of the Indian Mutiny, executed at Seepree by sentence of a court-martial.

April 19. Parliament dissolved.

June 7. Queen Victoria opened Parliament in person. On the address in answer to the Queen's Speech the ministers were left in a minority of 13.—the votes being 323 to 310—and in consequence resigned the office. Viscount Palmerston was entrusted with the formation of a new Cabinet. The ministry, as arranged by him, was as follows:—Viscount Palmerston, First Lord of the Treasury; earl Granville, President of the Council; lord Campbell, Lord High Chancellor; Duke of Argyll, Lord Privy Seal; Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Right Hon. sir G. C. Lewis, Secretary of State for Home Affairs; lord John Russell, Foreign Secretary; duke of Newcastle, Colonial Secretary; Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, Secretary for War; Right Hon. sir C. Wood, Secretary for India; duke of Somerset, First Lord of the Admiralty; Right Hon. E. Cardwell, Chief Secretary for Ireland; earl of Elgin, Postmaster-General; Right Hon. T. M. Gibson, President of Board of Trade; Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, President of Poor Law Board; Right Hon. sir George Grey, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

June 25. The allied forces accompanying the English and French ambassadors to the Chinese court, being obstructed in their passage up the Pei-ho river, on their way to Peking, attempted to force their way, but were repulsed with the loss of about 450 men.

Aug. 13. Parliament prorogued by commission.

Oct. 30. For several months a large proportion of the workmen employed in the Build-

* The imports of bullion were not registered at the Custom House until Nov., 1857.

ing trades of the metropolis continued on strike, their demand being chiefly for the establishment of nine hours as the time of a working day: much distress prevailed in the families of the workmen. Many of the employers having adopted the rule of payment by the hour, the men gradually returned to work.

ITALY. On the 1st of January, the Emperor of the French at his new year's day reception of the foreign ambassadors, said to M. de Hubner, the Austrian representative:—"I regret that our relations with your government are not so good as they were, but I request you to tell the emperor that my personal feelings for him have not changed." These words reported in the newspapers caused a great sensation throughout Europe. On the 10th the king of Sardinia, in opening the Piedmontese Chambers in Turin, said:—"The horizon in which the new year rises is not perfectly serene. . . . While we respect treaties, we are not insensible to the cry of grief which reaches us from so many parts of Italy." On the 11th of February, Count Cavour, the Piedmontese Prime Minister, in a speech to the Turin Chamber of Deputies, charged Austria with assuming an offensive attitude towards Sardinia by placing large bodies of troops along the frontier. On the 27th Lord Cowley arrived at Vienna, as an envoy from the British government, with a view to mediate between the Austrian government on the one hand, and France and Sardinia on the other. This mission was unsuccessful. On the 1st of April the French government decided to send an army of 60,000 men to the Sardinian frontier. On the 19th the Austrian government sent an *ultimatum* to the Court of Turin, requiring Sardinia to disarm immediately, and to disband the Italian volunteers. Three days were allowed for an answer. Sardinia rejected this *ultimatum*, and Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia, protested against the conduct of Austria. France proceeded to prepare for war. Peaceful revolutions took place on the 27th in Tuscany, and on the 31st at Parma, provisional governments being formed in both cases. On the 30th the Austrian army crossed the Ticino. On the 20th of May the French and Piedmontese, under the command of the emperor Napoleon and Victor-Emmanuel, defeated the Austrians at Montebello. On the 27th Garibaldi, at the head of the Italian volunteers, took possession of the city of Como, after defeating the Austrians in several engagements. On the 30th the emperor of Austria put himself at the head of his army at Verona. On the 31st the Austrian army was defeated by the Sardinians at Palestro. On the 1st of June the French troops occupied Novara. On the 4th was fought the battle of Magenta, in which the Emperor of the French commanded the Imperial Guard and the Zouaves. The Austrians were defeated with immense loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners. On the 5th, Milan and on the 7th Pavia, were evacuated by the Austrians. On the 8th the emperor Napoleon and Victor-Emmanuel entered Milan in triumph. On the 22nd the Austrian army retreated across the Mincio. On the 24th the battle of Solferino took place, in which the Austrians, 170,000 in number, were commanded by the emperor Francis-Joseph, and the allied French and Sardinians, numbering about 150,000, by the emperor Napoleon. The battle, which lasted from five o'clock in the morning till eight at night, was attended with enormous slaughter. An armistice was agreed to on the 8th of July, and on the 11th a personal interview took place at Villafranca, between the emperors of France and Austria, who came to an agreement as to the terms of peace. The treaty of Peace was signed at Zurich, on the 11th November, by the representatives of Austria, France and Sardinia. On the 18th of November General Garibaldi published a proclamation to the Italians, intimating his withdrawal from the service in consequence of the obstacles placed in his path by the demands of a crafty policy, but exhorting the Italians to rally round Victor-Emmanuel.

LEGISLATION. SESSION 22 & 23 VICTORIA.

Cap. 27. *An Act to facilitate Grants of Land to be made near Populous Places for the Use of regulated Recreation for Adults, and as Play-grounds for Children.* Enabling lands given for such purposes to be held by trustees, empowering corporations and parishes to grant lands, for the purchase or maintenance of which personal property of not more than 1000*l.* in value may be bequeathed.

Cap. 31. *To amend and explain the Act of the 6 Geo. IV. cap. 129, to repeal the Law relating to the Combination of Workmen, and to make other Provision in lieu thereof.* Allows workmen to unite for the purpose of regulating their wages or other matters, peaceably and in a reasonable manner, and without threat or intimidation, direct or indirect, but not to break or to induce another to break any contract.

Cap. 56. *To amend the Act 5 & 6 Wm. IV. cap. 63, relating to Weights and Measures.* Imperial standards are to be furnished, and inspectors appointed in counties and towns, who are to examine beams, scales, weights, and measures; false ones being subject to forfeiture and fine. Owners of markets are to provide such articles for general use, and to have their accuracy tested at least twice a year.

Cap. 66. *For regulating Measures used in the Sale of Gas.* A general Act by which inspectors are appointed, and meters are to be examined and stamped, and no meter to be considered legal unless stamped.

Revenue, 65,477,284*l.*; Expenditure—Army, 13,294,814*l.*; Navy, 9,215,487*l.*; for all objects, 60,147,914*l.*; Debt, 823,934,880*l.*

Exports of British and Irish Produce, 130,411, 529*l.*: total exports, 155,692,795*l.*; imports, 179,182,355*l.*

Emigration—to North American Colonies, 6,689; to United States, 70,303; to Australian Colonies and New Zealand, 31,013; to all other places, 12,427: total, 120,432.

Amount of Gold imported from Australia, 3,624,566*l.*: total imported, 22,297,698*l.*; exported, 18,081,139*l.*

Railway Traffic: Miles open, 10,002; number of passengers, 149,807,148; traffic receipts, 25,743,502*l.*

Number of Paupers, 983,837.

1860.

Jan. 24. Parliament opened by the Queen in person. The speech stated that a conference of the great powers of Europe had been proposed with reference to the affairs of Italy, but the conference had been postponed;—whether in congress or in separate negotiation, her majesty would "endeavour to obtain for the people of Italy freedom from foreign interference by force of arms in their internal concerns."

Feb. 10. The chancellor of the exchequer brought forward his budget, which included, among other measures, an extension of the licence system to refreshment houses for the sale of wines, the abolition of the duties on paper and numerous other articles, with the income-tax at sevenpence in the pound on incomes between 100*l.* and 150*l.*, and tenpence in the pound on incomes above 150*l.* a year.

March 1. Lord John Russell introduced a bill to amend the representation of the people of England and Wales. Similar Reform bills were introduced for Scotland and Ireland.

Feb. 12. By votes recorded on the 11th and 12th, the people of Tuscany and the Romagna decided on annexation to Sardinia.

Feb. 15. General rising of the people of Sicily against the Neapolitan government.

Feb. 24. Treaty between France and Sardinia signed at Turin, by which Savoy and Nice were annexed to France.

May 1. War between the Maoris of New Zealand and the British, in consequence of a dispute about the sale of some lands.

May 3. Lord John Russell's Reform bill was read a second time in the House of Commons, after being debated for four nights.

May 16. Garibaldi's troops defeated those of the king of Naples at Liopno. On the 17th Garibaldi issued a proclamation announcing that he had assumed the responsibility of the dictatorship of Sicily.

May 21. In the House of Lords, on the motion of lord Monteagle, the Paper Duties Repeal Bill was thrown out by 193 votes to 104.

May 22. Garibaldi defeated the Neapolitan forces, and on the 27th entered Palermo. On the 29th the ministers of the king of Naples resigned their functions.

June 1. Armistice agreed to between Garibaldi and the Neapolitan troops in Sicily.

June 11. Lord John Russell stated in the House of Commons that, in consequence of the large number of amendments on the proposed Reform bill of which notice had been given, and the lateness of the session, the government had resolved to withdraw the bill.

June 23. The Queen reviewed 18,000 volunteers in Hyde Park.

July 5. The House of Commons, on the motion of lord Palmerston, passed three resolutions in vindication of the privileges of the House against the recent aggression of the Lords, in throwing out the Paper Duties Repeal Bill, the rejecting of which, being a money bill, was not within the province of the Lords.

July 9. The prince of Wales, accompanied by the duke of Newcastle, Secretary of State for the Colonies, embarked at Plymouth on a visit to Canada and the United States. On the 18th of August the prince was at Quebec. On the 20th of September he entered the United States on his way to Washington to visit the president, travelling under the title of baron Renfrew. On the 15th of November he landed at Plymouth on his return home.

July 16. Opening of the fourth annual congress of the International Statistical Congress in London, when the Prince Consort, as president, delivered an address.

July 21. England, France, and other European powers, united in sending an expedition to Syria to protect the life and property of Europeans, and arrest the effusion of blood, in the conflicts which might occur and were still threatened between the Druses and the Maronites.

Aug. 7. The Queen reviewed about 20,000 volunteers in the Queen's Park, Edinburgh.

Aug. 20. Fuad Pasha, the commissioner sent to Syria by the sultan, caused 167 persons implicated in the massacres in Syria to be executed in Damascus, and many others to be sent to Constantinople to be imprisoned and put to hard labour.

Aug. 21. The Taku forts at the mouth of the Pei-ho river taken by the British and French troops, after a determined resistance by the Tartars forming the garrison. The allies proceeded to occupy Tien-tsin, the ambassadors and the main body of the army going on towards Peking.

Aug. 28. Parliament closed by commission.

Sept. 7. The king of Naples left his capital in a Spanish ship for Gaeta. Garibaldi entered Naples on the 8th, accompanied only by his staff, and immediately organized a government. On the 9th he proclaimed Victor-Emmanuel king of Italy, and on the 11th handed over the Neapolitan fleet to the Sardinian admiral.

Sept. 29. Ancona capitulated to the Sardinians. The papal army, with their commander, general Lamoricière, surrendered themselves prisoners of war.

Oct. 1. Garibaldi defeated the Neapolitans in the battle of the Volturno.

Oct. 24. Peace concluded between Great Britain and France on the one hand, and China on the other. The allies were represented by the earl of Elgin and baron Gros; China was represented by prince Kung, brother of the emperor. On the 5th of November the allied forces left Peking.

Nov. 7. The king of Sardinia entered Naples, and was received with general enthusiasm. On the 9th Garibaldi retired to his small property on the little island of Caprea.

Dec. 13. Death of the earl of Aberdeen, aged 77.

Dec. 14. Message of president Buchanan to the United States' congress, deprecating the threatened secession of the Southern states.

Dec. 20. Secession of South Carolina from the United States of North America.

LEGISLATION. SESSION 23 & 24 VICTORIÆ.

Cap. 8. *An Act to amend the Law relating to the unlawful Administering of Poisons.* Administering poisons or noxious substances with intent to injure, aggrieve or annoy, is made punishable as a misdemeanor for three years, with or without hard labor; if endangering life or causing bodily harm, by penal servitude for not more than ten or less than three years. Persons indicted for the felony may be convicted of the misdemeanor.

Cap. 11. *To amend the Law relating to Endowed Schools.* Provides for the admission of children of parents not in communion with the Church of England, where not expressly required by the endowment.

Cap. 27. *For granting to Her Majesty certain Duties on Wine Licences and Refreshment Houses, and for regulating the licensing of Refreshment Houses, and the granting of Wine Licences.* Licenses for the retailing of foreign wine to be drunk on the premises to be granted by the commissioners of inland revenue, within certain limited hours, and under certain regulations.

Cap. 78. *To place the Employment of Women, young Persons, and Children in Bleaching Works and Dyeing Works, under the Regulations of the Factory Acts.*

Cap. 84. *For preventing the Adulteration of Articles of Food or Drink.* Articles of food adulterated with anything prejudicial to health, subjects the seller, if aware of it, to a penalty of 5*l.* Chemical analyzers are to be appointed, and purchasers may have a suspected article analyzed on payment of a fee varying from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* 6*d.*

Cap. 151. *For the Regulation and Inspection of Mines.* Forbids the employment of boys under the age of twelve, or not under ten, with a certificate of having attended school for a certain period. Penalties are imposed for giving false certificates, and inspectors are appointed.

Cap. 154. *To consolidate and amend the Law of Landlord and Tenant in Ireland.* Several acts are repealed, and fixtures of trade and agriculture erected by a tenant at his own expense are made removable, if not injuring the freehold. Compensation is to be made for the crops or manuring the land on the removal of the tenant.

Revenue, 71,089,660*l.*; Expenditure—Army, 14,915,243*l.*; Navy, 11,823,859*l.*; for all objects, 69,502,289*l.*; Debt, 819,079,310*l.*

Emigration—to North American Colonies, 9,786; to United States, 87,500; to Australian Colonies and New Zealand, 24,302; to all other places, 6,881: total, 128,469.

Amount of Gold imported from Australia, 6,719,000*l.*: total imported, 12,584,684*l.*; exported, 10,393,512*l.*

Railway Traffic: Miles open, 10,433; number of passengers, 163,483,572; traffic receipts, 27,766,622*l.*

Number of Paupers, 973,255.

1861.

Jan. 1. The French government abolished the passport system in respect of British subjects travelling in France.

Jan. 3. President Buchanan received commissioners from South Carolina, who requested that the troops should be removed from the forts of the United States in Charleston Harbour. The President, in accordance with the views of the majority of his Cabinet, refused to withdraw the troops.

Jan. 12. Famine in north-western India, owing to want of rain. Besides money granted by the government, and raised by subscription in Calcutta, upwards of 100,000*l.* was transmitted from London and Liverpool, the contributions of the people of Great Britain for the relief of the starving millions of the Indian rice country.

Feb. 4. The emperor Napoleon, in opening the French Legislative Chambers, invited free discussion on the topics submitted to their consideration, and intimated that the newspapers would now be permitted to publish the debates.

Feb. 5. Parliament opened by the Queen in person, who, in the Royal speech, expressed her concern at the unhappy differences which had arisen between the States composing the North American Union, and her heartfelt wish that these differences might be susceptible of a satisfactory adjustment.

Feb. 14. Gaeta surrendered to the Piedmontese general, Cialdini, after suffering severely from the prolonged siege and bombardment. The ex-king and queen of Naples left the harbour on board the French ship *Mouette*.

Feb. 26. Mr. Bruce took up his residence at Peking as British plenipotentiary at the Chinese Court.

April 8. The decennial census of Great Britain and Ireland taken this day.

1 England and Wales.....	20,061,725
2 Scotland.....	3,061,329
3 Ireland.....	5,764,543
4 Islands in the British Seas.....	143,779
Army, Navy and Merchant Seamen.....	393,412
Total.....	29,334,788

The males and females numbered in each case as follows: (1) 9,758,852 males and 10,302,873 females; (2) 1,447,015 m. and 1,614,314 f.; (3) 2,804,961 m. and 2,959,582 f.; and (4) 66,394 m. and 77,385 f.; the total consists of 14,380,634 of the one sex, and 14,954,154 of the other.

April 8. Disturbances in Warsaw, in which in a few days about a thousand persons were killed and wounded by the Russian troops.

April 15. The chancellor of the exchequer brought forward his budget, in which he proposed to reduce the rate of income-tax from 10*d.* to 9*d.* in the pound, to abolish the paper duties, and to re-enact the existing duties on tea and sugar for one year.

April 15. Proclamation of Mr. Lincoln, the new president of the United States, calling out the militia of the several states, and summoning an early session of congress, to meet on July 4th.

April 18. At Harper's Ferry the commissioners of the Federal government, being pressed by a superior force, destroyed the armoury, the arsenal, and 15,000 stand of arms, and retired to Pennsylvania.

April 29. In the House of Lords it was stated by lord Wodehouse that her Majesty's government had decided not to intrude advice or counsel on the government of the United States; but that lord Lyons, the British ambassador at Washington, had been instructed to express on every fitting occasion the earnest desire of her Majesty's government that the differences between the North and the South might be amicably arranged.