

THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION OF 1856.

COMMENCED while the country was still engaged in a sanguinary though "just and necessary" war, the duration of which no man could predicate, the session which was brought to a close on Tuesday, July 29, will be chiefly memorable for the ratification of the peace with Russia, and the recurrence of the nation from the strife and din of arms to the more general occupations of peace.

At its opening the Government gave ample indications that in the recess matters of domestic legislation had not escaped their attention, and many measures of fair promise which had been much called for were early introduced. At the same time energetic steps were taken to maintain our military and naval forces in a state of efficiency, and to enable us to prosecute the war with vigour.

When Parliament assembled the great subject of the mighty conflict in which we were engaged engrossed every energy, and when at length peace was proclaimed our senators, with one accord, seemed to arrive at the conclusion, although but two months had elapsed, that the great object of the session had been accomplished. One after another important measures fell through, and were withdrawn from the sheer disinclination of the House to devote itself to sober and serious legislation; and the desire of every one appeared to be to bring the session to a close as speedily as possible. Hence the sitting had been especially remarkable for its brevity.

Among the bills which have, however, received the Royal assent were the Exchequer-bills Funding, the Annuities, the Joint-Stock Banks (Scotland), Sir W. F. Williams' Annuity, the Reformatory Schools (Scotland), the Juvenile Convict Prison (Ireland), the Public Health Supplemental, the Draughts on Bankers, the Factories, the Industrial and Provident Societies, the Joint-Stock Companies, the Grand Juries, the Police (Counties and Boroughs), the Mercantile Law Amendment, the Drainage (Ireland), the Grand Juries (Ireland), the Statutes not in Use Repeal, the Encumbered Estates (Ireland), the Coastguard Service, the Bishops of London and Durham Retirement, the County Courts Acts Amendment, and a considerable number of private acts.

Included in the extensive category of measures abandoned, rejected, or withdrawn, are the Local Dues on Shipping Bill, the Partnership Amendment (Nos. 1 and 2), the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, the Agricultural Statistics, the London Corporation, the Scotch and Irish Paupers' Removal, the Juvenile Offenders (Ireland), the Education (Scotland), the Wills and Administration, the Appellate Jurisdiction, the Criminal Appropriation of Trust Property, the Dulwich College, and many other measures of capital importance introduced both by the Government and by private members.

Having assembled upon the 31st of January, the House of Commons sat upon 106 days, extending over 88½ hours; while the House of Lords sat upon 88 days, extending over 22½ hours. The average duration of the daily sittings of the Commons, therefore, was nearly 8 hours, and of the Lords about 2½ hours. When it is considered that the Commons never sit beyond six hours on Wednesdays, it will be seen that the average on other days must be more than the 8 hours which we have given. We are not surprised to find, therefore, that the "vicious system" of sitting past midnight has been practised to a great extent, and that legislation has been carried on by the Commons during this short session through 88½ hours after midnight, or 11 days of eight hours each. The Lords only exceeded in this way to the extent of some five hours snatched from the period of natural repose. Mr. Brotherton having made a futile attempt when the session was young in favour of the "early closing movement" abandoned his position in despair; the call for "Brotherton" ceased to be a watchword with our less wakeful senators, and Mr. Bouvier's view that more business was got through after twelve o'clock at night than before, appeared to be generally acquiesced in with a species of reluctant despair which was unanswerable. The "No House" phenomenon was realised upon only three welcome occasions, but the "counts out" amounted to seven. Some of these, however, were at a very late hour in the morning, when the House was literally in a state of complete exhaustion and fatigue. The divisions were 23 in the Lords, and 193 in the Commons—a smaller number than has occurred for some years past.

Subjoined is a résumé of the more important events of the session:—

JANUARY.

31st. Parliament opened by the Queen in person. The address, which was moved in the House of Lords by the Earl of Gosford, and seconded by the Earl of Abingdon, and which was moved and seconded in the Commons by Mr. Byng and Mr. Baxter, was agreed to in both Houses without amendment. In the Lords, however, the speech was closely criticised in an address of considerable length by the Earl of Derby.

FEBRUARY.

1st. Mr. Lowe, the Vice-President of the Board of Trade, brought in bills to amend the Law of Partnership, and for the Incorporation and Regulation of Joint-Stock Companies and other associations, which were read a first time.

4th. Mr. Lowe brought in a bill for the abolition of Passing Tolls and the Regulation of Local Dues upon Shipping, which was read a first time. Mr. Whiteside and Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald brought in a variety of bills for the reform of the Court of Chancery and the abolition of the Encumbered Estates Court in Ireland. Lord Duncan (for the Lord Advocate) brought in several Scotch bills.

5th. On the motion of Lord Palmerston a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. W. Ley on his retirement from the office of clerk-assistant to the House. Sir G. Grey brought in a bill for the improvement of the county and borough police, which was read a first time. Mr. Brotherton's motion for the "early closing" of the House was lost by 111 to 50.

7th. In the House of Lords Lord Lyndhurst, in a most able speech, moved that the letters patent purporting to create Sir James Parke a baron of the United Kingdom "for life" be referred to a Committee of Privileges. A long and animated discussion ensued, which resulted in the motion being carried, in opposition to the Government, by a majority of 138 to 105. Mr. Collier brought in a bill to transfer the testamentary jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts to the superior Courts of Common Law and the County Courts. A motion by Captain Scobell for a select committee to inquire into naval administration was lost by 171 to 80.

8th. Earl Granville brought in a bill appointing a Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education. Mr. Cobden asked for explanations respecting our relations with America, which elicited a reply from Lord Palmerston. The Partnership Amendment and the Joint-Stock Companies Bills were read a second time.

11th. Brief discussions took place in the House of Lords respecting the Crimean Commissioners' Report, the Wensleydale Peerage, and an alleged discrepancy between certain diplomatic notes from Colonel Rose and Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. Sir C. Wood proposed the navy estimates, and several votes were agreed to.

12th. A Committee of Privileges met; and the inquiry into the Wensleydale Peerage was proceeded with. Mr. Napier, in a comprehensive speech, proposed a resolution upon the subject of the amendment of the laws. At the suggestion of the Government it was slightly modified in its terms, and the motion was then agreed to.

14th. Sir F. Kelly brought in bills for the consolidation of the Statute Law, and of the laws relating to bills of exchange and promissory notes. Sir J. Shelley moved for a return of the ages, &c., of the Irish Judges. The motion, though vigorously opposed by Mr. Napier and others, was carried by 132 to 121.

15th. Mr. Roebuck introduced the subject of our relations with America, and a brief debate ensued, which was shared in by Lord Palmerston and Mr. Disraeli. The Chancellor of the Exchequer brought in a bill to amend the Act relating to the superannuation of the Civil Service.

18th. The Committee for Privileges on the Wensleydale Peerage sat again. The Court of Chancery (Ireland) Bill, after a long debate, was read a second time in the Commons, and referred to a select committee.

21st. The Earl of Derby brought under the notice of the House the relations between the Commander-in-Chief and the Secretary for War, and an important discussion followed. Sir J. Walsley brought on his motion for opening the National Gallery and British Museum on Sundays, which was lost by 376 to 43.

22nd. The Committee of Privileges met again, when a motion by Lord Glenelg to refer certain questions to the Judges was lost by 142 to 111; and one by Lord Lyndhurst, declaring the report of the committee to be that neither the letters patent nor the writ of summons issued to Lord Wensleydale could entitle him to sit and vote in Parliament, was carried by 92 to 57. In the other House the Chancellor of the Exchequer made a financial statement and moved certain resolutions—one of which related to a loan of £5,000,000. The army estimates were discussed, and several votes taken.

25th. Sir F. Theisinger moved that the Local Dues on Shipping Bill be read a second time that day six months. After a long discussion the debate was adjourned.

26th. Lord Palmerston withdrew the Local Dues on Shipping Bill.

28th. On the motion of the Earl of Derby a committee was appointed to inquire into the subject of the appellate jurisdiction of the House of Lords, with a view to its improvement. Mr. Muntz proposed a motion with reference to our monetary system, which was opposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and was lost by 115 to 68. The case of "Talbot v. Talbot" was brought under notice by Mr. J. G. Phillimore.

29th. The Earl of Albemarle moved for returns relative to torture in India. Mr. Roebuck moved a resolution condemnatory of the appointment of a Board of General Officers to report upon the report of the Crimean Commissioners; but, after a long debate, "finding himself in a minority," he withdrew it.

MARCH.

3rd. Mr. Layard called attention to the state of our relations with Persia. The army estimates in Supply.

4th. Earl Stanhope proposed an address to her Majesty on the subject of a National Portrait Gallery, which was agreed to. Sir De Lacy Evans moved for a select committee to report upon the expediency of abolishing the sale of commissions in the army; but, after a debate, withdrew his motion.

5th. Sir W. Clay carried the second reading of his bill for the Abolition of Church-rates by 221 to 178.

6th. Lord J. Russell moved a series of resolutions on the subject of national education; but after a lengthened debate withdrew them, in order to their being discussed in a committee of the whole House on the ensuing 10th of April.

10th. The Government carried the second reading of the Counties and Boroughs Police Bill by 259 to 106. Lord Palmerston consented to the appointment of a committee to inquire into the Local Dues on Shipping Bill; and Mr. Lowe, in consequence of an informality, withdrew his Partnership Amendment Bill.

13th. Sir C. Napier brought forward his long-threatened motion for a committee to inquire into the operations of the Baltic Fleet. The gallant Admiral had considerable difficulty in finding a seconder; but at length Admiral Walcott "threw him out a towrope." After a speech deprecatory of discussion from Sir C. Wood, an answer to the charges of the gallant Admiral by Sir J. Graham, and a brief subsequent discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

14th. Parliament adjourned for the Easter recess.

31st. Parliament reassembled, and Lord Palmerston announced that a Treaty of Peace had been signed on the previous day at Paris.

APRIL.

1st. Mr. Roebuck brought on a motion with respect to the salaries of the Country Court Judges; but ultimately withdrew it. Sir G. Grey introduced a bill for the Reform of the Corporation of London.

4th. Sir J. Graham having brought under review the conduct of Sir C. Napier at Acre, the House went into Supply, and continued upon the estimates all the evening.

8th. Mr. Muntz proposed a resolution with respect to the equitable adjustment of the income-tax, which was lost by 194 to 63. The Lord Advocate introduced his Scotch Education Bills.

9th. Mr. M. Gibson moved the second reading of his Oath of Abjuration Bill. Sir F. Theisinger proposed as an amendment that it be read a second time that day six months. After an able debate the bill was read a second time by 230 to 195.

10th. A long debate upon the first resolution in Lord J. Russell's Education Bill took place in committee, Mr. Henley having moved as an amendment "that the Chairman do leave the chair." The debate was adjourned.

11th. The adjourned debate was resumed, and after a protracted discussion Mr. Henley's amendment was carried by 260 to 158.

14th. The subject of torture in Madras was discussed in the House of Lords at the instance of the Earl of Albemarle.

15th. Mr. Spooner carried his motion that the House should go into committee to consider the grants relating to the endowment of Maynooth by 159 to 133; and he subsequently obtained leave by 159 to 142 to bring in a bill upon the subject.

16th. Mr. Fagan lost his Ministers' Money (Ireland) Bill, on second reading, by 201 to 121.

18th. The Marquis of Salisbury brought forward the question of secondary punishments, which was briefly discussed in the Lords. Sir Erskine Perry drew attention in the Commons to the increasing annual deficit in the revenue of India; and the House afterwards went into Supply.

21st. The Lord Chancellor's Church Discipline Bill was lost in the Lords by 41 to 33, the amendment having been moved by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Parliament adjourned over two days, in order to be present at the naval review at Spithead.

## THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK FOR 1857.

24th. Severe onslaughts were made on the Admiralty in both Houses for alleged inadequacy of arrangements at the naval review. In the Commons Lord Goderich carried an address to her Majesty on the subject of admissions to the Civil Service by 103 to 87.

25th. In the Lords Earl St. Germans lost his Marriage Law Amendment Bill on the second reading by 43 to 24. In the Commons Sir C. Wood vindicated the Admiralty arrangements at the review. The Police (Counties and Boroughs) Bill was proceeded with in committee.

25th. Mr. Whiteside brought on a motion condemnatory of the conduct of the Government in relation to the fall of Kars. The debate was adjourned.

29th. The Kars debate was resumed, and again adjourned.

### MAY.

1st. The Kars debate was brought to a close by the defeat of the motion by a majority of 303 to 176.

2d. The bands in the parks on Sundays attracted some attention in the Commons, and the Police Bill was proceeded with in committee.

5th. The address to her Majesty on the Treaty of Peace was moved in the Lords by the Earl of Ellesmere, seconded by Lord Glenelg; and in the Commons it was moved by Mr. Evelyn Denison, and seconded by Mr. H. Herbert. In the latter the debate was adjourned.

6th. The debate on the address was resumed, and the motion was ultimately agreed to without a division.

8th. Both Houses met early and proceeded to Buckingham Palace to present the address to her Majesty. Subsequently, Lord Palmerston in the Lords, and Lord Palmerston in the Commons, moved the thanks of Parliament to the army, navy, and marines employed in the late war, and to the embodied militia. The motions were unanimously agreed to. A message from her Majesty informed both Houses that she had been graciously pleased to confer upon General Williams the dignity of a baronet, and recommending the bestowal upon him of a pension of £1000 a year. The Marquis of Clanricarde brought before the House the proposed pension of £5000 per annum to the Marquis of Dalhousie, late Governor-General of India.

9th. Her Majesty's message with respect to General Williams was considered in both Houses, and addresses agreed to. In the House of Commons Lord Palmerston announced that her Majesty had granted an amnesty to all political offenders. Adjourned for the Whitsuntide recess.

19th. Parliament reassembled after the holidays. The Chancellor of the Exchequer made his financial statement.

20th. The Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Bill was, at the instance of the Lord Chancellor, read a second time and sent to a select committee. Mr. H. Berkeley's attempt to bring in a bill for the ballot was defeated by 151 to 111.

21st. Mr. Peake withdrew his Church-rates Bill.

22nd. Lord Colchester moved a series of resolutions condemnatory of the declaration respecting international maritime law, signed by the Plenipotentiaries at Paris. A long and important debate ensued, which resulted in the resolutions being negatived by 156 to 102.

26th. The Joint-Stock Companies Bill went through committee, and the Partnership Amendment (No. 2) Bill was read a second time in the Commons.

27th. The Earl of Elgin brought under consideration the subject of military establishments in the North American colonies, which led to a brief but not unimportant debate.

29th. In consequence of the peace rejoicings, Parliament did not meet.

30th. The Cambridge University Bill got into committee in the Commons, and several clauses were agreed to.

### JUNE.

4th. Mr. G. Moore carried, in an unexpected manner, the second reading of his Irish Tenant Right Bill by 83 to 59.

5th. Mr. S. Herbert called attention to the education and instruction of officers in the army, which led to an interesting but not very protracted debate.

6th. The Appellate Jurisdiction Bill, after a debate and division, passed the Lords.

9th. Mr. Miller Gibson's Oath of Abjuration Bill passed the Commons, an amendment which was moved by Sir F. Thesiger being lost by 159 to 110. The Cambridge University Bill went through committee, divisions being taken upon several points of importance.

10th. Mr. Ewart brought on his annual motion for a committee to inquire into the operation of the system of punishment of death, which was lost by 158 to 64.

12th. Sir G. Grey proposed the educational estimates in Committee of Supply.

13th. Sir C. Wood proposed the navy estimates in Committee of Supply.

15th. In the Lords the Joint Stock Companies Bill was, after some objections raised by Lord Overstone, read a second time by 18 to 5. In the Commons the question of our relations with the United States was raised by Lord J. Russell.

17th. Mr. Walpole moved an address to the Crown on the subject of education in Ireland, and carried it, against the Government, by 113 to 103.

20th. Lord Palmerston withdrew the Agricultural Statistics Bill.

23rd. Lord Lyndhurst moved the second reading of the Oath of Abjuration Bill in the Lords; but was defeated by a majority of 110 to 78. In the Commons Mr. Fortescue succeeded in carrying a motion relative to Irish education, which was intended to alter the decision at which the House arrived on the 17th. Mr. Walpole, however, did not oppose it.

25th. An attempt of Mr. H. Herbert's to defeat the second reading of Mr. Spooner's Maynooth Bill proved unsuccessful, his motion for "this day six months" being lost by 174 to 163.

26th. In the Lords the Matrimonial Causes and Divorce Bill, after some debate, went through committee. Sir G. Grey withdrew the London Corporation Bill; and Mr. Spooner withdrew his Maynooth Bill.

27th. Lord Lyons (late Sir E. Lyons) took his seat in the House of Peers in the Commons Lord Elcho carried a motion for a commission to determine the site of the National Gallery, against the Government, by 153 to 145. Mr. Bouverie withdrew the Scotch and Irish Pauper Removals Bill. The Juvenile Offenders (Ireland) Bill, the Education (Scotland) Bill, and Sir W. Clay's Church-rates Abolition Bill were likewise withdrawn.

30th. The Earl of Derby withdrew his Oath of Abjuration Amendment Bill. Mr. G. H. Moore brought on the "American question," and, after a lengthened discussion, the debate was adjourned.

### JULY.

1st. The debate upon Mr. Moore's motion being brought to a close, the division exhibited the hon. member in a minority of 80 against 274.

4th. The Partnership Amendment Bill, after considerable discussion, went through committee in the Commons.

7th. The Appellate Jurisdiction Bill, after a long debate, was read a second time in the Commons, Mr. Bowyer's amendment being lost by 191 to 142. Mr. Wilson brought in the Appropriation Bill, which was read a first time and hailed with cheers, as signalling the approach of the termination of the session.

8th. The Public Health Bill was thrown out on the motion for going into committee by 73 to 61.

9th. The orders for proceeding with the Civil Service Bill, and the Tenant Right (Ireland) Bill, were respectively discharged.

10th. The bill for granting retiring pensions to the Bishops of London and Durham was introduced and read a first time in the Lords. The orders for proceeding with the Vaccination Bill and the Wills and Administration Bill were discharged in the Commons. The Appellate Jurisdiction Bill was defeated, on the motion of Mr. R. Currie, by 155 to 133.

11th. Sir W. F. Williams, the Hero of Kars, took his seat for Calne. The Sadler frauds and the County Courts Bill were the principal subjects which occupied the attention of the House.

14th. The affairs of Italy were discussed in both Houses at the instance respectively of Lord Lyndhurst and Lord J. Russell. A clause having been introduced into Mr. Lowe's Partnership Amendment (No. 2) Bill by a majority of 103 to 102, the right hon. gentleman withdrew the bill.

15th. The Bishops of London and Durham Retirement Bill was read a second time in the Lords by 47 to 35. At the instance of Sir C. Wood, the Coastguard Service Bill was read a second time. Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald vindicated himself in a masterly speech from an attack of the Irish Master of the Rolls in relation to the escape of James Sadleir from justice.

19th. The Ministerial fish dinner at Greenwich.

21st. Our relations with the Brazils, and the dismantling of the fortresses of Ismail and Reni, were briefly referred to by the Earl of Malmesbury, whose observations elicited a short reply from the Earl of Clarendon. In the other House Mr. V. Smith brought on the Indian Budget.

22nd. Motions with reference to an amended translation of the Bible, the length of members' speeches, Spanish claims, and General Beatson, successively occupied the attention of the Commons.

23rd. The Bishops' Retirement Bill was fully debated in the Commons, and the second reading was carried by 151 to 72.

24th. Mr. Roebuck moved the expulsion from the House of James Sadleir; but, after a debate, the "previous question" was agreed to, the general impression appearing to be that, following precedent, the time for action had scarcely arrived. The Bishops' Bill went through committee.

25th. Mr. Disraeli passed the session in review, remarking upon the number of measures which, although they had been introduced, had not been brought to a successful issue. Lord Palmerston answered Mr. Disraeli, and vindicated the exertions of the Government.

26th. Mr. Gladstone moved for papers with relation to the Episcopal Church of Scotland, which were not refused by the Government.

29th. Parliament prorogued by Royal Commission.

## ANALYSIS OF THE COUNTIES AND BOROUGHS POLICE ACT.

1. Where a constabulary is not already established for the whole of a county, Quarter Sessions to cause the same to be established.
2. Her Majesty may, by order in Council, require separate police districts to be constituted in counties.
3. Her Majesty in Council, on representations from boroughs, may arrange terms of consolidation with counties.
4. County constables to have the like powers, &c., in boroughs, as borough constables have in the county.
5. Constables to perform duties connected with the police as directed by the Justices or Watch Committee.
6. Constables not to receive fees.
7. Borough constables disqualified from voting at certain elections.
8. Retiring gratuities may be granted to incapacitated constables who have not served fifteen years.
9. Deficiency in superannuation fund to be made up out of police rate.
10. Gratuities may be granted to officers superseded by the county police.
11. Power to grant superannuations to chief constables.
12. Annual statement as to crime in counties and boroughs to be furnished to the Secretary of State.
13. Her Majesty may appoint inspectors for inquiring into the efficiency of police, &c.
14. On establishment of an efficient police, one-fourth the charge for pay and clothing to be paid by the Treasury.
15. But no payment to be made to the police of the boroughs with a population under 5000 not consolidated with county police.
16. Provisions relating to borough police to be applicable to the police in the places referred to in the Act 3 and 4 Vict., c. 88, s. 20, until discontinued.
17. The separate police in such places (having a population of 15,000) not to be superseded without the authority of the Secretary of State.
18. Agreements for consolidation not to be determined without the sanction of the Secretary of State.
19. 3 and 4 Vict., c. 88, s. 24, repealed.
20. Station-house, or strong room provided under 3 and 4 Vict., c. 86, may be purchased by Justices and paid for out of county rates.
21. Powers of Cheshire Constabulary Act, 1852, to continue in force in that county until police established under this Act.
22. If two chief constables be appointed in Cheshire, last preceding section to be read as applicable to district of each chief constable.
23. Provision as to superannuation fund under Cheshire Constabulary Act, 1852.
24. Service of police under Cheshire Constabulary Act, 1852.
25. Police rates in the hundred of Wirral, Cheshire, made liable to annuity to widow of a deceased officer.
26. Interpretation of terms.
27. Act not to extend to Metropolitan Police District or City of London.

**ORIGINATING BILLS IN PARLIAMENT.**—With the Crown all bills of amnesty originate; with the House of Lords, all bills relating to restitution in blood and to restitution of honours; with the House of Commons, all bills relating to the public income and expenditure, and all other measures that can properly come within the class of "money bills." Bills affecting the Royal prerogative are not usually introduced into either House without the previous consent of the Crown. It is considered unconstitutional for one House to take the initiative in any measure affecting the privileges of the other. In general it is held that in the Lords should originate bills of "pains and penalties," or other measures founded upon oral testimony, as their Lordships, unlike the Commons, have the power of examining witnesses upon oath.

ANALYSIS  
OF THE  
METROPOLITAN LOCAL MANAGEMENT ACT,  
18 & 19 VICT., CAP. 120.

ELECTION OF VESTRIES.

1. Repeals 1 & 2 Wm. 4, cap. 60, so far as regards parishes in schedules A and B.
2. Regulates the number of vestrymen in such parishes, and not to be less than 18, or more than 120, according to number of rated householders.
3. Parishes having more than 2000 rated householders, at passing of Act, to be divided into wards, and regulates the method of dividing into wards.
4. Empowers a Secretary of State to appoint persons to set out wards and apportion the number of vestrymen.
5. If the relative amounts of population of wards shall vary in any future Census, the Metropolitan Board of Works may alter the number of vestrymen assigned to each ward.
6. Qualification for vestrymen is to be the occupier of premises rated to the poor at £40 per annum, unless the whole number of persons so rated does not exceed one-sixth of the whole number of assessments, when the qualification shall be a rental of £25.
7. Regulates the first election of vestrymen, future elections to take place in the month of May in every year.
8. The full number of vestrymen to be elected at first election, and the existing vestries superseded.
9. One-third of the first-elected vestrymen, to be determined by lot, to go out of office in May, 1857; one other third in May, 1858; and the remaining third in 1859: future-elected members to continue in office three years.
10. Vacancies to be filled up at annual elections.
11. Five auditors to be appointed for every parish not divided into wards, and one auditor for each ward of a parish so divided; but if such number exceed five they are to be reduced by ballot to five.
12. Auditors to go out annually in May.
13. Churchwardens to give notice of elections.
14. In parishes divided into wards, churchwardens to appoint persons to preside at ward elections.
15. Rate-collectors to assist at elections.
16. Regulates the form of proceedings at elections.
17. Any five ratepayers may demand a poll.
18. Duties of inspectors of votes.
19. In case of equality of votes, inspectors to decide by lot.
20. If in the interval between elections the number of vestrymen be reduced below two-thirds of the full number, the vacancies may be forthwith filled up.
21. Any one personating a voter liable to a penalty from £10 to £20.
22. Lists of persons elected to be published in the parish.
23. Penalty on inspector making false return.
24. Vestries to provide places for elections.
25. Provisions when no churchwarden in a parish.
26. All notices and lists required by this Act to be published shall be so by being affixed on every church and public chapel in the parish or ward.
27. Any churchwarden, or other officer, not complying with the provisions of this Act to be guilty of a misdemeanour.
28. Where vestry consists of not more than eighteen, five shall be a quorum; when vestry consists of twenty-four, seven; and when vestry consists of thirty-six, or upwards, nine shall be a quorum.
29. Meetings may be held in the vestry, or elsewhere in the parish, but not in the church.
30. At every meeting of vestry, in the absence of persons authorised by law or custom to take the chair, a chairman is to be elected: chairman to have a second or casting vote.

DISTRICTS AND DISTRICT BOARDS.

31. The parishes mentioned in the second column of schedule B are to be united and form the districts named in the first column.
32. The vestry in every such parish to elect number of members of district board of works mentioned in the third column.
33. If number of inhabited houses vary in any future Census, the Metropolitan Board of Works may alter the number of the members of district boards.
34. One-third of first-elected members of district board, consisting of three or more members, to be determined by lot, to go out of office in June, 1857; one other third in June, 1858; and the remaining third in June, 1859: future-elected members to continue in office three years.
35. The vestry in each such parish, on the first Wednesday in June, to elect as many vestrymen to be members of the board as may be necessary to supply vacancies.
36. In parishes for which less than three members elected, the members go out of office on the first Wednesday in June, 1859, and their successors are to go out on the third year after their election.
37. Casual vacancies shall be immediately filled up.
38. Seven to be a quorum at district board.
39. Ordinary meeting of board.
40. Special meeting by any five members, or by the clerk on requisition by five members; 48 hours' notice.
41. Chairman to be elected at every meeting, and to have a casting vote.
42. The district boards and the vestries of the several parishes in schedule to be incorporated.

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

43. Constitution of Metropolitan Board of Works.
44. The City of London to elect three members of Metropolitan Board.
45. The vestries of parishes in the first part of schedule A shall elect two, and those in the second part of schedule A, except Rotherhithe and the board of works for each of the districts in the first part of schedule B, shall each elect one member of the Metropolitan Board of Works.
46. The districts of Plumstead and Lewisham, united to elect one member of Metropolitan Board.

47. The parishes of Rotherhithe; St. John, Horselydown; St. Olave, and St. Thomas, Southwark, united, to elect one member of the Metropolitan Board.
48. One-third of first-elected members of Metropolitan Board, to be determined by lot, to go out of office on the second Wednesday in June, 1857; one other third in 1858; and the remaining third in 1859.
49. Election of chairman of Metropolitan Board.
50. Appointment of chairman in case of vacancy.
51. Nine members to be a quorum.
52. Meetings of the Metropolitan Board.
53. The chairman to preside; in case of vacancy or absence another member of board to preside: chairman to have a casting vote.

CONSTITUTION, PROCEDURE, AND OFFICERS OF METROPOLITAN AND DISTRICT BOARDS AND VESTRIES.

54. Any member of Metropolitan or District Board, or of any vestry, or any auditor who shall become bankrupt, insolvent, or compound with his creditors, or accept any office under, or be concerned in any contract with, the board or vestry of which he is a member, shall cease to be such member or auditor (exception as to joint-stock companies). Any person acting after becoming disqualified liable to a penalty of £50.
55. Any member of the Metropolitan or District Board may resign by notice in writing to the chairman, and any vestryman by notice to the churchwardens of the parish.
56. Retiring members of boards and vestries may be immediately re-elected.
57. Resolutions of boards and vestries not to be revoked or altered, except at a meeting specially convened for the purpose, and by certain majorities.
58. Committees may be appointed, but their acts to be submitted to the general board for approval.
59. Three members of committee, a quorum.
60. Minutes of proceedings and the names of the members who attend to be entered, and books of account to be kept.
61. Books to be open to inspection of any owner of property, churchwarden, overseer, and ratepayer, within the Metropolis, as to the Metropolitan Board, or within the district or parish, as to district boards or vestries; and they may take copies or extracts, without payment.
62. Clerks, treasurers, surveyors, and other officers, may be appointed.
63. The offices of clerk and treasurer not to be held by the same person, nor one office to be held by the partner or servant of the other.
64. No officer or servant to be interested in any contract or work for the board or vestry; penalty £50.
65. Officers to give security, and to render accounts and give up all property on being called. Two justices empowered to commit until such account rendered and property given up, and to levy by distress.
66. Proper offices to be provided.

POWERS OF VESTRIES AND DISTRICT BOARDS.

67. In the following provision, "vestry" is to mean the vestry of a parish in schedule A.
68. Sewers, except main sewers, vested in vestries and district boards.
69. Vestries and district boards to repair and construct sewers.
70. Division of expenses between parties liable to maintain and repair works, and vestries and district boards.
71. Gullyholes to be trapped.
72. Sewers to be cleansed.
73. Owners of houses may be compelled to construct drains into common sewer.
74. Provision for combined drainage of blocks of houses.
75. No house to be built or rebuilt without drains to sewer.
76. Persons intending to build or rebuild to give seven days' notice in writing to vestry or board.
77. Any person may make any drain into a sewer, but of such size and in such manner and form as vestry or board may direct; penalty, £50.
78. Vestry or district board may make any private drain, and recover expense from owner of house.
79. Or may contract with owner or occupier to make drains, &c., at cost price.
80. Vestry may order a contribution towards original expense of construction of sewers built since 3rd September, 1813, and before 14th August, 1855, at the expense of any other person than the Commissioners of Sewers.
81. No house to be built or rebuilt without proper water-closets; penalty £20; and vestries and district boards may compel owner or occupier of any house to make water-closet, or may do so and recover expense from the owner.
82. Power to inspect drains, &c.
83. Penalty of £10 on any person improperly making or altering drains.
84. If works be found, on inspection, to be properly constructed, expenses to be paid by the vestry.
85. Drains, &c., to be put into proper condition, where necessary.
86. Offensive ditches, drains, &c., to be cleansed.
87. Ditches may be filled up and covered drains substituted.
88. Public conveniences may be provided.
89. Vestries and district boards may transfer their powers to the Metropolitan Board of Works.
90. Powers relating to paving, &c., vested in vestries and district boards.
91. Saving as markets and charitable trusts.
92. Expenses of paving, &c., and all expenses in relation to the regulation, government, or public concerns of any parish, except the affairs of the church and the relief of the poor, are to be deemed expenses incurred in execution of this Act.
93. As to transfer of property of existing bodies.
94. Existing contracts to remain valid.
95. Existing commissioners continued till commencement of Act.
96. Powers and duties of surveyors of highways transferred to vestries and district boards.
97. Provision as to rates already made.
98. Streets to be paved, and
99. Owners of freeholds of courts, &c., not being public thoroughfares, to pave the same.
100. Also to drain and repair pavement; penalty, £5.
101. Vaults and cellars under streets not to be made without the consent of vestries and district boards.

## THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK FOR 1857.

102. Vaults, arches, and cellars under streets to be repaired by the owners or occupiers of houses.

103. Provisions as to the occupation of underground rooms as dwellings.

104. Power to district surveyor, under 7 & 8 Vic., cap. 84, to enter underground rooms.

105. Provisions for paving new streets.

106. Power to repair any street, not being a highway, after one month's notice.

107. Act not to authorise the removal of bars for preventing thoroughfares.

108. Powers to fence footpaths, and to erect posts, &c., in carriage-ways, to render crossings less dangerous.

109. Gas and water companies and others not to break up pavement without notice, except in cases of emergency.

110. Streets not to be broken up except under the superintendence of the vestry or district board.

111. Penalties on persons not using due diligence to reinstate pavement, and in the mean time fencing, guarding, and affixing lights during the night.

112. Pavements injured by bursting or want of repair of pipes to be made good by company on notice.

113. Provision in case of notice being given to wrong company.

114. Power to reinstate pavement, and to charge the expenses to the parties.

115. Power to vestry to contract with companies for restoring pavements.

116. Powers for watering streets, sinking wells, and erecting free pumps.

117. Power to cleanse footways.

118. Power to appoint and pay public crossing sweepers.

119. Power to remove any porch, shed, projecting window, step, cellar, door, or window, or steps leading into any cellar, lamp, lamp-post, lamp-iron, sign, sign-post, sign-iron, show-board, window-shutter, wall, gate, fence, or opening made after commencement of this Act.

120. Similar powers in case of any obstruction or projection made before commencement of Act on condition of making compensation.

121. Hoards with footways and handrail to be erected during repairs.

122. License in writing to be first had from the clerk or surveyor of the district or board.

123. If hoard not erected to the satisfaction of vestry or board, same may be removed.

124. As to laying out new streets.

125. Scavengers to be appointed.

126. Penalty for obstructing scavengers in removing ashes, &c.

127. All dust, ashes, &c., to be the property of the vestry or district board, who are to have power to dispose of the same.

128. Scavengers to remove trade refuse on being paid. Sum to be settled by two justices.

129. Disputes as to trade refuse to be determined by justices.

130. Streets to be lighted.

131. Slaughter-houses not to be licensed under 14 & 15 Vic. cap. 61, without one month's previous notice to vestry or district board.

132. Medical officers of health to be appointed and their duties defined.

133. Inspectors of nuisances to be appointed, and their duties.

134. Vestries and district boards to execute the duties and powers under the Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Acts, 1848 and 1849.

### METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS

135. Main sewers vested in the Metropolitan Board of Works, and power to such board to make sewers.

136. Before works for intercepting the sewage are commenced, plans, &c., to be submitted to Commissioners of Works.

137. Metropolitan Board may declare sewers to be main sewers, and take under their jurisdiction sewerage matters under jurisdiction of vestries and district boards.

138. Metropolitan Board to make orders for controlling vestries and district boards in construction of sewers, &c.

139. Metropolitan Board may direct appointments to be made for two parishes or districts jointly.

140. Or may place a street in different parishes under the management of one vestry, or part of a parish under the management of vestry of adjoining parish.

141. Metropolitan Board to regulate naming of streets, and, where more than one street of same name, may alter the names of all such streets except one; new streets not to be named without notice to the Board, and Board may regulate the numbering of streets.

142. Register to be kept of alterations in names of streets.

143. Buildings not to be brought beyond line of street, within 30 feet of highway, without the consent of Metropolitan Board, notwithstanding there being garden or vacant spaces between the line of buildings and the highway.

144. Power to Metropolitan Board to make improvements.

### DETERMINATION OF METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

145. Powers of Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers to cease.

146. Actions, &c., not to abate, but to continue for or against Metropolitan Board of Works.

147. Rates made by Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers to be recoverable under this Act.

148. Property vested in Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers (except sewers transferred to vestries and district boards) transferred to the Metropolitan Board of Works.

### AUXILIARY POWERS COMMON TO THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS AND TO VESTRIES AND DISTRICT BOARDS.

149. Power to boards and vestries to enter into contracts for carrying Act into execution. Power to compound for penalties in respect of breach of contracts.

150. Power to boards and vestries to purchase lands, &c., for the purposes of this Act.

151. Provisions of 8 & 9 Vict., c. 18, incorporated with this Act.

152. Lands not to be taken compulsorily, except by Metropolitan Board, with consent of Secretary of State.

153. Previous notice to be given to the owners.

154. Power to dispose of surplus lands or property.

155. Owners of land may on sale reserve a right of pre-emption.

156. Penalty for withholding property transferred to Metropolitan Board or any vestry or district board.

157. Regulations as to breaking up turnpike-roads by the Metropolitan Boards.

### AS TO EXPENSES OF VESTRIES AND DISTRICT BOARDS.

158. Sums to be raised by vestries and district boards for defraying their expenses. Sewage expenses to be distinguished on receipt given by collector.

159. Vestries and boards may exempt parts not benefited by expenditure from payment.

160. Provisions for cases where a part of a parish is placed under the management of the vestry or board of adjoining parish or district.

161. Overseers to collect the rate in the same manner as the poor rate, distinguishing sewers rate, lighting rate, and general rate.

162. Public buildings and void spaces now rateable (except churches and burial grounds) to continue rateable.

163. Land to be rated to the sewers rate at one-fourth of its annual value.

164. Existing exemptions in respect of sewers rate to be allowed.

165. Existing exemptions of land from lighting rates to be allowed.

166. Overseers on nonpayment of the rate shall be distrained upon; and in default of sufficient distress the arrears may be levied on the parish.

167. Provision for cases where the vestry of any parish in schedule A make the poor rate.

168. Special persons may be appointed to levy rates in certain cases.

169. Provision for deduction by tenants of sewers rate.

### EXPENSES OF METROPOLITAN BOARD.

170. Sums to be assessed upon the City and other parts of the Metropolis by Metropolitan Board for defraying expenses.

171. Power to Metropolitan Board, or any one authorized by them, to inspect rates made for county or part of county within the Metropolis.

172. Payment to be obtained from the City and from parishes by precepts to the Chamberlain of the City and to vestries and district boards.

173. Payment of sums assessed upon the City.

174. Payment by vestries and district boards of sums assessed by Metropolitan Board.

175. Provision for assessing and levying rates in extra-parochial places mentioned in schedule C. Mode of making the assessment. Allowance to assessors.

176. Places in schedule C not now under rating for sewers not to be rated except for intercepting sewers.

177. When assessment is made, notice thereof to be given, and all persons included in the assessment to have liberty to inspect it, &c. Penalty for refusing inspection.

178. As to the collection of the rate charged in such assessment.

179. Appeal against assessment. The assessment may be altered to relieve the appellant, without altering any other part of it.

### EXISTING LIABILITIES OF BOARDS OR BODIES HAVING POWERS OF PAYING, ETC., AND OF THE METROPOLITAN COMMISSIONERS OF SEWERS.

180. Provision for discharging existing liabilities under local Acts relating to paving, &c.

181. Provision for payment of liabilities of Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers.

182. Where Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers have incurred expenses, to be paid by improvement rates, &c., the Metropolitan Board may levy such rates as remain due.

### GENERAL POWERS TO METROPOLITAN AND DISTRICT BOARDS AND VESTRIES TO BORROW.

183. Power to boards and vestries to borrow money on mortgage. No priority amongst mortgagees.

184. Power to commissioners acting under 14 & 15 Vict., c. 23, to make advances.

185. Form of mortgage; register of mortgages.

186. Repayment of money and interest on mortgages: interest to cease on expiration of notice to pay off a mortgage debt.

187. Power to borrow to pay off existing securities.

188. Payment of principal and interest may be enforced by the appointment of a receiver.

189. Transfer of mortgages; register of transfers.

190. Sinking fund to be formed for paying off mortgages.

191. Mode of paying off mortgages.

### AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.

192. Accounts of Metropolitan Board, district boards, and vestries, to be balanced up to the end of each year.

193. Auditor of accounts of Metropolitan Board to be appointed by Secretary of State, and remunerated by the Board.

194. Auditors to be elected annually by the district boards in the month of April.

195. As to the audit of accounts.

196. Abstract of accounts to be made.

197. Accounts of other parochial boards to be audited by the auditors elected under this Act.

### ANNUAL REPORTS.

198. Annual reports to be made by vestries and district boards in the month of June.

199. Vestry to make out and publish yearly a list of estates, charities, and bequests, &c., with the application thereof.

200. Metropolitan Board of Works to make annual report in the month of June.

201. Reports, &c., of Metropolitan Board to be laid before Parliament.

### BY-LAWS.

202. Power to Metropolitan Board of Works to make by-laws; penalty for breach of by-laws; power to justices to remit penalties.

203. By-laws to be published. Evidence of by-laws.

### PROVISIONS FOR PROTECTION OF PROPERTY AND WORKS OF METROPOLITAN AND DISTRICT BOARDS AND VESTRIES, AND PREVENTING OBSTRUCTION IN EXECUTION OF WORKS.

204. Buildings not to be made over sewers without consent.

205. Penalty of £5 on persons sweeping dirt into sewers.

206. Penalty of 40s for wilfully damaging, &c. lamps or other property of vestries or district boards, or of the Metropolitan Board.

207. Persons carelessly or accidentally damaging lamps, &c., to make satisfaction.

- 208. Penalty on interrupting workmen, &c., in execution of duties.
- 209. Penalty upon occupiers obstructing execution of works, or not disclosing owner's name.
- 210. Savings and provisions in local Acts applicable to Commissioners of Sewers to apply to Metropolitan and district boards and vestries.

APPEALS.

- 211. Power to appeal against orders and acts of vestries and district boards in relation to construction of works to the Metropolitan Board of Works.
- 212. Metropolitan Board to appoint a committee for hearing appeals.

RETIRING ALLOWANCES TO OFFICERS OF COMMISSIONERS OF SEWERS, AND COMPENSATIONS TO OTHER OFFICERS.

- 213. Power to grant retiring allowances to persons employed under Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers.
- 214. Compensation to officers of paving boards.

MISCELLANEOUS CLAUSES.

- 215. Where two or more persons are to do any act or pay any sum of money vestry or district board may apportion the same.
- 216. Power to vestries and district boards to spread repayment of expenses, over a period not exceeding twenty years.
- 217. Occupiers to pay expenses for which owners are liable, and to be reimbursed out of the rent.
- 218. Occupier not to be required to pay more than the amount of rent owing by him.
- 219. Agreements between landlord and tenant not to be affected.
- 220. As to service of notices, &c., on Metropolitan and district boards and vestries.
- 221. As to service of notices on owners and occupiers and other persons.
- 222. Authentication of documents.
- 223. Proof of debts in bankruptcy.
- 224. Tender of amends.
- 225. Compensation, damage, and expenses how to be ascertained and recovered.
- 226. Method of proceeding before justices in questions of damages, &c.
- 227. Penalties, &c., to be recovered as provided by 11 & 12 Vict., c. 43.
- 228. Damages to be made good in addition to penalty.
- 229. Power to officers of Board to seize offenders without warrant.
- 230. Proceedings not to be quashed for want of form.
- 231. Parties allowed to appeal to quarter sessions, on giving security.
- 232. Court to make such order as they think reasonable.
- 233. Penalties to be sued for within six months.
- 234. Application of penalties.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND SAVINGS.

- 235. Provision for joint action of vestries, and savings out of vestries under local Acts.
- 236. Agreement between the London and North-Western Railway Company and certain paving commissioners confirmed.
- 237. Special provision as to powers of commissioners acting under 5 & 6 Vict., c. 48, as to paving Ely-place, &c.
- 238. Special provision as to parish of Woolwich.
- 239. Special provisions as to inclosed gradens in squares, &c.
- 240. Saving of powers and property of commissioners under 14 & 15 Vict., c. 95.
- 241. Saving of the rights of the Commissioners of Works.
- 242. Saving of powers of City Commissioners of Sewers over certain parts of parishes in schedule B.
- 243. Saving rights of Metropolitan Sewage Manure Company, acting under 9 & 10 Vict., c. 398, and 10 & 11 Vict., c. 138.
- 244. Saving rights of commissioners or trustees of turnpike-roads, except as to footpaths.
- 245. Saving for Metropolitan Police Commissioners.
- 246. Not to prejudice dispute between Battersea and Penge.
- 247. Repeal of Acts inconsistent with this Act.
- 248. In case of conflict with the provisions of this Act, provisions of local Acts may be varied by Order in Council, on petition of boards or vestries.

POWER TO EXTEND ACT TO ADJOINING PARISHES.

- 249. Act may be extended by Order in Council to parishes adjoining the Metropolis not having less than 750 ratepayers.

INTERPRETATION AND COMMENCEMENT OF ACT.

- 250. "The Metropolis" to include the City and the parishes and places in schedules A, B, and C; the term "owner" to mean the person entitled to receive the rack rent, or who would so receive the same, if the premises were let at a rack rent. Definitions of "street," "drain," "sewer" and "ashpit."
- 251. Act to commence on 1st January, 1856.

**THE NEW ACT ON METROPOLIS LOCAL MANAGEMENT.**—In the Act to Amend the Act of last Session, 18th and 19th Vict., chap. 120, for the better local management of the metropolis, some important alterations are made. It is enacted that where church-rates were made in open vestry before the passing of the Local Management Act they are to continue to be so made. Nothing in the recited Act is to affect the ecclesiastical districts. Other powers of vestries and like meetings are declared to have been transferred to district boards. Occupiers may claim to be rated whether the landlord be or be not liable to be rated to the relief of the poor in respect thereof. Compositions for rates are not to be disturbed, and landlords' liability not to be affected. The right of occupiers so claiming to vote at elections allowed, provided the rates, except those due within six months, are paid. It is now expressly declared that the payment of church-rates is not a necessary qualification. The rental is to be determined by the column headed "rateable value." Meetings of vestries are regulated; notice of such meetings is not to be placed on the doors of churches, but to be sent by post, or otherwise, to the vestrymen, and notice to be put on the building where the meeting is to be held. The section in the recited Act relating to the advance of public money for the improvement of the metropolis is declared to extend to applications for providing parks, pleasure-grounds, "places of recreation," and open spaces for the improvement of the metropolis or the public benefit of the inhabitants. District boards and vestries are empowered to take ground to be maintained as an open space or pleasure-ground. The Act of last Session and the present Act are to be construed as one Act.

HISTORICAL MEMORANDA ON THE PAPER DUTY.

PAPER is said to have been first made in England about 1588, but it was only brown paper, and made of hemp or osakum.

White paper was not made until about 1688, by French refugees after Revocation of Edict of Nantes.

Very soon afterwards a tax was imposed (about 1696). In a contemporary broadside papermakers say—"We found by a sad experience that when the duty was laid on we could not obtain an advance of one penny on our goods."

In 1711 a proposal was again made to impose a paper tax, which occasioned much excitement, as the trade had by this time expanded. It was computed that the annual consumption was then 500,000 reams, of which one-third was imported. Foreign manufacture was then much the best, and all the finer qualities of paper came from abroad.

A duty was imposed on paper, and at the same time on soap and sundry other articles, by an Act passed 1711, the preamble to which recites, "the necessity of raising large supplies of money to carry on the present war." The tax was, therefore, a war tax, and granted for a term of years, from the 24th of June, 1712.

Shortly after (3rd year of George I.) the excise on paper was made perpetual; and the rate of duty varied on different qualities of paper, according to a schedule appended to the bill.

That the tax crippled the manufacture is shown by its produce. The consumption before the duty of home-made paper was over 300,000 reams a year. In 1770, the first year for which we have excise returns, as the tax produced only £14,500, there is reason to conclude that the manufacture actually fell off in the interval.

In 1784 an ingenious and most laborious effort was made to render the duty as fairly charged (*ad valorem*) as possible. The article of paper was distinguished for the purpose of taxation into no fewer than five classes, comprising eighty-three separate varieties, each bearing a different denomination, and charged with a different rate of duty, from £2 6s. per ream on "Double Atlas," to 1s. 11d. on "Sugar Blue," 11½d. on "Pot," and 5½d. on "Lumber Hand." By this Act the amount of revenue from paper tax reached £53,000 per annum.

In 1793 there was another war. Mr. Pitt modified the paper tax, at once simplifying and augmenting it. He swept away intricate schedules, which he said "occasioned confusion and fraud;" divided paper into three classes—white, whitened brown, and brown, charging an excise duty of 2½d., 1d., and ¾d. on them respectively. This was an increase on previous rates of from one-half to one-third on different qualities. Mr. Pitt expected to derive from it £63,000 additional.

In 1801 more money was wanted, and the paper duty was doubled on all descriptions, with the singular exception that a *drawback* of the whole amount was allowed upon paper "used in printing the diurnal prints." This favour to the newspapers was granted for the sake of maintaining their circulation, and thus preserving the revenue from newspaper stamps.

Two years afterwards another change was made in the duty. The number of denominations of paper reduced to two—"first class" and "second class;" rates, 3d. per pound on first, and 1½d. on second. The second quality was described as being made solely of "old ropes or cordage, from which the tar has not been discharged."

The tax then remained unchanged until 1836, when, in pursuance of report of Sir H. Parnell's Excise Committee, the rate of duty on first-class paper was reduced to 1½d. (same as lowest), and that rate charged uniformly on all qualities. Thus it remains.

The growth of the manufacture and of the duty is as follows:—

In 1770	...	...	...	...	£14,500
1790	...	...	...	...	80,000
1800	...	...	...	...	165,000
1804	} after simplification and imposition of 3d. duty	...	...	...	349,000
1810		...	...	...	411,000
1820	...	...	...	...	491,000
1830	...	...	...	...	620,000
1835	...	...	...	...	850,000

The reduction was calculated by Mr. Spring Rice, now Lord Montegle, to sacrifice £350,000 of revenue. But the deficiency was rapidly made up, and more. In 1837 the duty had fallen to £550,000. By 1843 it reached £679,000; by 1846 to 836,000, or nearly the same as when under the old tariff. In 1850 it had surpassed that amount, being £915,000; and for the last three years has exceeded a million.

The gross value of paper manufactured in 1783 was estimated at £750,000. In 1813 Mr. Stevenson computed it at a million; and when the Excise Committee sat in 1835 it was estimated to exceed £1,300,000. It then employed 27,000 persons directly, besides engineers, smiths, carpenters, &c., in building and repairing mills. The amount of excise duty was calculated to be three times as much as the wages of the workmen employed.

This present effect of the tax is shown by the stagnant condition of trade, in the face of increasing population and augmented taste for literature. The produce has even fallen off within three years. The quantity of paper charged with duty was 177 million pounds in 1853; 177 millions in 1854; and but 167 millions in 1855. The quantity kept for home consumption declined in greater ratio, being in the three years respectively 164, 161, and 155 million pounds.

Drawbacks allowed on the duty since 1711:—

1. On all paper bonâ die used in pressing woollen cloths, &c. (withdrawn in 1836).
2. On all paper exported.
3. On all paper used by the King's Printer, or in Oxford, Cambridge, and Scotch Universities, or Trinity College, Dublin, for printing works in Latin, Greek, the Oriental or Northern tongues; or of Bibles, Testaments, Books of Common Prayer, Psalm Books, the Longer or Shorter Catechism, Confession of Faith, &c.

This advantage was ostensibly to promote education, but really granted by the Ministers of Queen Anne in favouritism to an individual.

From these drawbacks the revenue lost, in 1836, £82,959; of this the Universities, &c., had about £18,000. Motion made for late returns, not yet printed. In the next Session of Parliament the Right Hon. Milner Gibson, Esq., M.P., will move the abolition of this obnoxious tax.

In Continental countries the Governments favour the paper trade, by prohibiting the export of rags and materials for the manufacture. This is the case in France, Belgium, Spain, and Italy.

In England we depend for rags, &c., in a great measure on foreign countries, importing regularly the materials for making twenty or thirty million pounds of paper.