ing, and a more equal distribution of the sexes—for where, in the Colonies, there were now two millions more men than women, the reverse was the case at home, where there was a million more women than men—the less competition for the work at home, and a largely increased demand for our manufactures in the Colonies. He would even go further, and say that they would have a peaceful and prosperous Ireland, since discontent was fostered by bad prices, and the working and artisan classes of England were the great consumers of Irish agricultural produce, they had now no money to buy it. At the same time, much might be accomplished, as he had previously said, by rational reforms at home, and that more especially in the direction of a decrease of the present heavy taxation, borne as it was in unequal and unjust proportions. (Cheers.) The educational rate was not one of the least of the items which contributed to this heavy taxation, and while he yielded to no man in his desire to see the children of this country properly educated, he yet ventured to assert that they could have good education without extravagance and without killing religious teaching. (Applause.) They must have more direct control over their educational representatives — and the School Board, with its extravagance, was but an example of what would happen with a great centralisation of London government—and they must have a thorough investigation into the facts connected with the present system of education. (Hear, hear.) Free education was but a myth—a banner under which their liberty was to be curtailed and taxes raised; nothing that was worth having in this world was to be had free. To the speaker, it appeared that the present system of education confined itself too much to book-learning, which after all would not enable their children to meet fairly and squarely the struggle which was before them in after life; technical education was what was much wanted. (Cheers.) Touching on the mismanagement of home, colonial, and foreign affairs by the late administration, the speaker instanced, as the fruits of their works, the discontent of the Irish mind, the paralysis of industry, the Skye Crofters' agitation, the "caving in" to the Boers in the Transvaal, a German military frontier in South Africa, and the creation of a foreign coal depot endangering St. Helena, Ascension, and Sierra Leone—which, as exclusively British coaling stations, formerly gave to England the control of a Cape route to India exclusively British. Moreover, they had allowed Germany into New Guinea—thus giving her two great frontiers of the utmost importance in the event of a rupture with that country—and had generally managed to utterly disgust the Colonies; they had allowed the French to interfere with and extinguish a once flourishing trade with Madagascar; despite a solemn treaty, they refused to interfere in the "military operations" engaged in by France against China, and allowed French men-of-war to coal at British stations—an act which would be remembered against us to our cost when China needed her railway and materials for the period of commercial activity on which she was now entering, and on which Mr. Robson so fondly relied; they had allowed Russia to steadily advance towards India, had blundered and murdered in Egypt, and finished up an unequalled record of five years' shame and disaster by piling up the taxes. (Loud applause.) Bow and Bromley, the speaker trusted and believed, would show its practical disapproval of those past five years by returning him triumphantly at the head of the poll. (Prolonged applause.)

Afterwards, on the motion of Mr. Sherrard, seconded by Mr. Challis, a resolution pledging the meeting to support Captain Colomb's candidature was passed amid renewed and prolonged applause, with three or four dissentients.

MR. B. LUCRAFT.

Under the chairmanship of Mr. W. Jones, Mr. Benjamin Lucraft, M.L.S.B., the labour and Radical candidate for Poplar, addressed a large audience on Wednesday evening at the Town Hall.

Met, on rising, with a somewhat "mixed" reception and cries of "Arbitrate!" the candidate enlarged, in the first place, on the value of a working man in Parliament, maintaining that if half-a-dozen representatives of the working classes had been present there in 1866, those most damnable Acts—the Contagious Diseases Acts—would never have been passed, specially affecting as they did the daughters of the working classes. And yet there seemed to be many present that evening who looked upon it as a curious thing that a working man should aspire to enter Parliament. The time was coming, he would remind them—he saw it coming even now—when every man in such an assembly as that would feel himself to be the equal of my Lord Tom Noddy or the greatest shipbuilder alive. (Applause.) His efforts, then, would be directed to the repeal of Acts such as he had mentioned. (A voice: "Home Rule.") Yes, and he would favour, too, Home Rule for Ireland. Indeed, if he were an Irishman, he would not rest satisfied until he saw a Parliament established on College Green. (Loud cheers.) Land monopoly, he ventured to assert, was the one great cause of the poverty at present existing, for were the millions of acres of land, which were now put out to pasturage or used for deer parks, put under cultivation, the agricultural labourers who now walked the streets of our great towns or competed at the dock gates with, and took the bread out of the mouths of, those who should be the labourers, would be evermore restored to the land; and a great portion of that 140 millions which was now sent abroad for food stuffs would be spent in this country. It was useless for him to enumerate all the great reforms which were supposed to be ripe for settlement; they knew them well, and he was in favour of them all. But he went further; he wanted a great deal more done for the social condition of the people. The mortality of the children of the poorer classes under five years of age was three or four times greater than those of the richer classes, and that, in great measure, because they were unable to get sufficient of the necessaries of life, the greatest of which was fresh air and unpolluted atmosphere. (Hear, hear.) It was impossible that a Parliament of the rich could legislate in this direction, simply because they had no practical experience of the hard and struggling lives of the working classes. They wanted a man of the people to represent them, for a working man, providing he had the brains, had as much right to sit in the House of Commons as any other man. At the same time, he was fighting for no personal aims; his battle was a battle of principle, and if they could find a stronger and a more suitable man, holding the same opinions as himself, he was quite willing to retire. ("No!" and cries of "Green!")

Several questions were afterwards addressed the candidate, in answer to which he denied that there had been extravagance in the administration of compulsory education; there were £200,000 in endowments which could be used for the purpose of aiding free education; he was in favour of reducing no one's wages, and would, on the contrary, do all he could to raise them; he favoured the payment of members of Parliament, the amendment of the Employers' Liability Act, and while he was against the opening of museums on Sunday personally, he would yet act in accordance with the wish of the constituency. He favoured also the establishment of local museums and good libraries, to be kept open till ten o'clock in the evenings, and the utter abolition of the House of Lords.

Another question, relating to arbitration, was answered by Mr. Calvin, who admitted that Mr. Lucraft's committee was inclined to arbitration, and observed that they would shortly arrive at a decision on the matter.

Mr. J. Dunn afterwards moved, Mr. Burke—of the Ironfounders' Society—seconded, and Mr. E. H. Kerwin supported, in an able and energetic speech, the following resolution:—"That this meeting, having heard from Mr. Lucraft an expression of his political opinions, considers him a fit and proper person to represent the borough in Parliament, and pledges itself to use every effort to secure his return."

The resolution was put amid considerable confusion, about one-half the meeting declaring in its favour.

SIR LYON PLAYFAIR AND MR. ERNEST HART.

Sir Lyon Playfair presided, on Tuesday, at a meeting of Mr. Ernest Hart's supporters in St. Peter's Schools. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather the hall was crowded to excess, and hundreds were unable to obtain admission.

Sir Lyon Playfair, who was warmly received, said that the Conservatives were making much of supposed dissentions in the Cabinet. He had the friendship of all the leading statesmen of the Liberal party, and was well acquainted with their views, and he could declare that there were varieties of opinion on certain topics, but there were no dissensions. He compared the situation to that of a railway line: first came Chamberlain on a rapid pilot engine, dashing at a great pace along the line to see that the way was clear; then came the express with good, steady drivers, such as Lord Hartington, Dilke, Childers, and Shaw Lefevre. It proceeded with duly-regulated pace, and was bound to arrive safely because the general superintendent was a grand old man, named Gladstone, who controlled the whole line, governed the signals, put up danger warnings, and worked the block signals with the experience and judgement which gave him supreme control of the whole rail so that there could be no fear of accident or collision. But along side was the old Conservative coach, which tried to drive along the down line and, meeting the express train, was making a desperate effort to pull Hartington and one or two others out of the train into their lumbering old coach. This was the coach which was sure to meet with accident, and was in constant danger of collision, and was frequently upset. It was trying to adopt old world notions and to introduce them into these modern railway times. After referring to foreign affairs, the speaker said he had come at great inconvenience from his own election duties at Leed, because he felt it his duty to bear testimony to the remarkable public capacity and special acquaintance with social and sanitary subjects which Mr. Hart possessed. For many years Mr. Ernest Hart had been a valuable coadjutor with himself and other Parliamentary persons in carrying out reforms most valuable to the health of the nation and the social condition of the poor.

Mr. Hart, who was received with long continued cheering, said that, nearing the day of election, it was cheering beyond measure to find great bodies of the electors assembling with such unanimous enthusiasm to confer with him. After dwelling on the success which had followed his candidature hitherto, he alluded to his opponent, Mr. Charrington, who appeared to stand solely and exclusively on his great interest as a long-established brewer in the district, and who, describing himself as a local candidate, was yet opposed to any form of local option and desired to drown the voice of the locality in oceans of beer. He claimed for the Liberal party for the last fifty years orderly progress and reforms which had reduced the price of every article of food necessary to the comfort of the working classes; they had aided the prosperity of the country, spread education, and enabled the country to pass through periods of great trial without danger, while continental countries had been convulsed by revolution and threatened with anarchy. The Tory party, on the contrary, after opposing every great reform until threatened with danger, had ended by humiliating surrender; and the country had been saved only by their timely adoption of the reforms which the Liberal and Radical party had persistently urged and successfully carried. (Loud applause.) Referring to what he called the "pitiable part which Mr. Ayrton was playing," the speaker remarked, with satisfaction, the fact that he had present on his platform that evening three gentlemen, two of whom had been chairmen of Mr. Ayrton's recent meetings, while the third had been chairman of his last committee. They had now come to him (Mr. Hart), and had said that, in their opinion, the conduct of Mr. Ayrton was imperilling the Liberal cause, and they cared no longer to be a party to it. (Loud applause.) More than that, a large proportion of the very limited number of Mr. Ayrton's supporters had now come forward to call upon that gentleman to arbitrate or retire. (Loud and prolonged applause.)

Mr. Henry Green (the Liberal candidate for Poplar) afterwards addressed the meeting, and expressed the conviction that Mr. Hart had the support of the whole of the true Liberal party in the borough.

Afterwards, on the motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. S. T. Hall, a resolution, pledging the meeting to support the candidature of Mr. Hart, was carried amid applause.

Mr. Alstrom, late of Mr. Ayrton's committee, next moved a resolution, condemning the action of that gentleman, which was seconded by Dr. Corner, supported by Mr. Eliot Smith, and also carried.

MR. SPENCER CHARRINGTON.

Dr. Reilly occupied the chair on Tuesday evening, at the St. Anthony's parish room, James'-street, Globe-road, Mile End, when Mr. Spencer Charrington addressed a large meeting in support of his candidature in the Conservative interest for that division. Amongst those present on the platform were: Miss Charrington, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Reilly, Mrs. Wood, Rev. A. W. F. Martell, Messrs. H. Cushen, Spencer, C. Charrington, G. C. Croft, F. J. Wood, G. H. Booth, Charles Gardner, F. T. Wood, and J. H. Read (hon. secs.).

Mr. Spencer Charrington, whose rising was greeted with prolonged cheering, after animadverting on the foreign policy of the late Government, said they were aware that he was a Churchman, and a warm supporter of the connection between Church and State—(applause)—and so, with regard to all religious communities, he maintained that the property should not be interfered with. At the same time, the Church was capable of improvement, and that chiefly in the direction of the abolition of the sale of livings. Briefly referring to the depression in trade, the speaker took up next the subject of London local government, and urged that one great municipality for the whole of London would not work well, but would prove rather a great source of expense. Yet the government of London might be improved, for it was difficult to understand why great parts of London, like that lying outside the present City boundary at Aldgate, should be excluded, for Whitechapel was quite as much the City as Aldgate. (Applause.) An objection had been raised by one of his opponents, on the ground that he was a local candidate; but, so far from considering it an objection, the speaker was inclined to look at it, rather, as a claim upon the support of the constituency. (Cheers.) Tied to the place of business, by capital and labour, it was but natural that he should have the claims of the hamlet strongly at heart. (Hear, hear.) At all events, he was more likely to attend to the interests of the constituency than candidates who had no property there; men who were in no way connected with the locality, and whose only strength lay in their tongues. (Loud applause.) Mr. Ayrton, too, had found fault with him because he made "a short speech," but the business of the nation was too much retarded by excessive talking, and a few members who professed to be business men without being great talkers, were greatly wanted in the House. (applause.) One of the questions upon which the coming election would turn was that relating to land, and it had been urged that the land was in too few hands; but if, he pointed out, the land was taken and distributed amongst the people they could not live upon it when they had obtained it. A similar experiment was made by the French in Mexico soon after the revolution of 1848 with the result that within a few months the people were brought to the verge of starvation. The cry for the abolition of the House of Lords was an unnecessary one, because the House of Lords corresponded to the Second Chamber of nearly all other countries in the world, where it had been found to act in a beneficent manner. Education he had always warmly supported, but free education must inevitably give an unfair advantage to parents well able to pay the cost of their children's education. And, more than that, the School Board had already power to remit the fees of children where the parents were too poor to pay; while Poor Law Guardians often paid the cost of the education of children of parents who were too poor to afford the few pence required. (Prolonged applause.)

Afterwards, on the motion of Mr. F. J. Wood, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Martell, a vote of confidence in Mr. Charrington was unanimously carried.

The usual compliment to the chairman, passed on the motion of Mr. Spencer Charrington; and a vote of thanks to Mr. Martell for the use of the room—proposed by Mr. Gardner, and seconded by Mr. Cushen—together with three cheers for the Conservative candidate, brought a successful meeting to a close.

MR. F. WOOTTON ISAACSON.

Mr. T. Maeve presided on Thursday evening over a large and, on the whole, enthusiastic meeting, held at the Red Coat Schools, Stepney Green, when Mr. F. Wootton Isaacson spoke in support of his candidature in the Conservative interest for the division. Others present included Sir William Magnay, Major Garrett, Mrs. F. Wootton Isaacson, Miss Isaacson, Miss Suffery, Messrs. Hugh E. M. Stutfield, Thorley, Seigenberg, G. H. Booth, T. Jennings, Steadman, Warwick, Loftus, Gilchrist, Gratwicke, F. J. Withers, Hart, Williams, Harper, Heath, McEwer, Gurney, Thompson, Roff, Cannon, Campbell, Melville, Cook, Coker, and Jolly.

The Chairman having opened the proceedings in an eloquent and energetic speech,

Mr. F. Wootton Isaacson, whose rising was greeted with prolonged cheering, alluded, in the first place, to "that bogus arbitration" between his opponents, which had resulted in the ousting of a man who certainly had a prior claim to support, and the retention of another with avowedly socialistic ideas. He, at all events, might boast of this, that since last June, when he issued his address, he had never deviated one single line from the policy he then advocated; so far from that being the case, time had only proved the soundness of his views, as, for instance, when he expressed the hope and conviction that a Royal Commission, for the purpose of inquiring into the present condition of trade, would be appointed. (Hear, hear.) Going, *seriatim*, through the principal points in his address, the speaker dealt first with the question of trade. Food was outside the pale of hostile tariffs; but when it came to a quiet manipulation of our goods—goods which were known all over the world as being thoroughly good—then they must have fair play. (Loud applause.) The Established Church—the next point in his address—was most beneficial to this country; it was not State paid; it cost them nothing, and they derived from it a large amount of comfort. And, considering the matter practically, they found 9,000 villages and small towns in England and Wales without a Nonconformist place of worship, and what would the five million inhabitants who peopled those towns and villages do without the ministrations of the Church of England? To use the words of Mr. Gladstone to Lord John Russell, if they attempted a robbery of the kind suggested, they would have the whole State about their heads. Then, as to free education, they must recollect that a clause existed in the Elementary Education Act, giving the power to remit school fees where the parents were incapable of paying them. More than that, the working classes possessed a large amount of independence, and would object to be pauperised in the way suggested. And why should they deprive their children of religious teaching to suit the socialistic ideas of Mr. Chamberlain? Let them remember those impressive words of Cardinal Manning: "We can see our children in poor clothes, we can see our children badly fed, but we cannot see their religion taken from them." (Prolonged applause.) On the question of the House of Lords, he entertained somewhat decided—he might say severe—opinions, wishing, as he did, to see a Second Chamber in this country, which should be a sort of House of Appeal, and as such, it required the highest intellects in the land. If they could not hold their own, then they must go to the wall. (Hear, hear.) Animadverting on the foreign policy of the late Government, the speaker proceeded next to enlarge on a subject which he felt to be peculiarly his own—since no other candidate had taken it up—the organisation of the Governmental departments—an organisation which should break down the barriers at present existing between the subordinate and the higher officials, and which should give to the postmen, sorters, and telegraph clerks, the opportunity of rising to that position to which their abilities entitled them. Local matters formed the concluding subject of the speaker, in which connection he congratulated the East End on the opening of the Shadwell Fish Market, and looked forward hopefully to free communications across the Thames. With a Conservative—a progressive Conservative—Government in power, he summed up, they would be on friendly terms with foreign countries, the present system of one-sided free trade would be altered, foreign powers would be called upon to alter their arbitrary hostile tariffs, and short time—that bane of the working man—would never occur again. The speaker resumed his seat amid prolonged cheering, and, on the motion of Mr. F. H. Parsons, seconded by Mr. J. Seigenberg, and supported by Mr. G. Coker, a resolution pledging the meeting to support his candidature was adopted with enthusiasm.

LIEUT.-COL. COWAN.

On Tuesday evening Lieut.-Col. Cowan, the Conservative candidate, addressed a meeting of the electors of Whitechapel, at St. Mary's Schools, Church-passage, Spitalfields. The chair was taken by Mr. Shorter, supported by a number of the leading inhabitants of the district. The room was crowded and the proceedings were enthusiastic. Colonel Cowan having delivered an address, resolutions in favour of his candidature were carried unanimously, and the meeting terminated by giving hearty ringing cheers for the Conservative cause and its representatives for Whitechapel.

THE RIGHT HON. A. S. AYRTON.

Addressing, on Tuesday evening, a crowded meeting at the Morley Hall, Burdett-road, Mile End, in support of his candidature for the division, the Right Hon. A. S. Ayrton said that so far from being an enemy to India, he had aided in establishing a line of steamers along the western coast of the dependency; the present system of railways, banks, and infants' schools; he had supported the transfer of power from the East Indian Company to the Crown; opposed the placing of power exclusively in the hands of the governing classes, and obtained a scheme by which the power of the Secretary of State for India was watched over by a council of members who knew and understood the wants of the people. (Loud applause.) After dealing with arbitration, pointing out that he could not dispose of the electors' votes, but must abide by a pledge which he had given to the effect that he would go to the poll, the speaker criticised the procedure adopted by Mr. Hart in securing promises of support, and described the results arrived at, as fallacious. The advocacy of a proper and intelligent scheme of local self government occupied the remainder of the speech, and a vote of thanks to Mr. Stevens, the chairman, closed the proceedings.

MR. J. C. DURANT.

Mr. J. C. Durant, the Liberal and Radical candidate for Stepney, addressed a crowded meeting of the electors, on Monday evening, at the Baptist Schoolrooms, Commercial-road. After having dwelt in an exhaustive manner on the subject of "Critics and Common Sense," a resolution was enthusiastically passed ratifying the recent decision of Mr. S. Morley, and pledging the audience to support the candidature of Mr. Durant.

MR. MINCHIN AND THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

Presiding at a very successful meeting held at the Limehouse Town Hall on Tuesday evening, under the auspices of the People's League for the abolition of the Hereditary Legislative Chamber, Mr. George Cotton Minchin, the accepted Liberal candidate for the borough, said that in the 59 London divisions there were certainly not half-a-dozen accepted Liberal candidates in favour of retaining the hereditary principle in legislation. He was himself in favour of a Second Chamber, such as was found in the United States and in France, as well as in all our Colonies—a Senate, some of whose members would be elected by representative county Boards in this country, and others, if possible, by the Legislative Chambers of our Colonies, so as to represent Colonial as well as English public opinion. Even from a patriotic Conservative point of view, the present House of Lords had two grave defects. It offered no check to the extravagances of a party majority in the Commons, provided only that party majority called itself Conservative. Its second defect, even in the opinion of thoughtful Conservatives, was that its vote was absolute instead of suspensory. Even the Lords themselves were weary of the false position in which they stood, and which only give them "mouth honour." A distinguished Liberal peer was once remonstrated with by a friend, who had been listening to a quiet debate in the House of Lords on the indifference shown by himself and other members of the Liberal minority, contrasting so strangely with the vociferous cheering of the crowded Tory benches. "That is quite true," his lordship replied, "but then most of our people think the whole thing such bosh." What could be said in defence of an institution like the House of Lords, of which it had been truly said that the most passionate invective against it was less damning than the coldest and most accurate record of its legislative performances for the last fifty years. John Bright wrote only last year that the history of the House of Lords presented "a picture of class selfishness and obstinate resistance to what is liberal and just, which would be astounding if we had not so long been accustomed to it." Mr. Minchin then passed in review some of the Liberal measures which the House of Lords had delayed, defeated, and deformed, pointing out that so long ago as the reign of Queen Anne, the House of Commons passed a Ballot Bill which the House of Lords threw out, and that so long ago as the reign of Henry VI., the House of Lords deprived the leaseholders, copyholders, and labourers of their vote, and restricted the franchise in the counties to freeholders. It was an irony of events that one of the first reforms to which the re-enfranchised agricultural labourers would put his hand, would be to mend or end that very body which deprived him of his vote 400 years. He pointed out that the inhabitants of East London had no reason to be grateful to the House of Lords, as it was owing to them that the neighbourhood was still without free Thames crossings below London Bridge. Mr. Minchin concluded with an eloquent appeal to them all to work and vote for Durant, Hart, Montagu, Robson, and Salomons, who, he said, were all agreed that the people of this country could not get on any longer with an hereditary House of Lords, and that the time had arrived when the people saw that they could get on better without one. (Applause.)

LIBERAL CANDIDATES & MUNICIPAL REFORM.

On Thursday evening a crowded meeting was held at the Sailors' Institute, Mercer-street, Shadwell, in support of London Municipal Reform. Mr. G. Lidgett presided, supported by Sir David Salomons (Liberal candidate for St. George's), Mr. George Cotton Minchin (Liberal candidate for Limehouse), Mr. J. F. B. Firth, M.P., Captain Verney, R.N. (Liberal candidate for North Bucks), Mr. Westlake, Q.C. (Liberal candidate for the Romford Division of South Essex), Revs. J. Fletcher, W. R. Sackett, and W. E. Matthews; Messrs. T. Lloyd, J.P., J. A. Telfer, T. Sly, G. Freeman, J. Jacobs, F. Paterson, F. Pyeman, F. Jacobs, J. Flemming, R. C. Evans, J. Green, J. Harris, F. Craig, and many others.

The Chairman, in the course of his introductory remarks, mentioned that he was chairman of the Liberal Association of Greenwich, the borough for which the uncle of Sir David Salomons so long sat in Parliament, spoke in high terms of the Liberal candidate for St. George's, and urged the electors of that borough to give him their most earnest support.

Mr. Firth who was enthusiastically received, said that if the people of St. George's returned Sir David Salomons to Parliament, they would return one whose vote would always be given in the interest of the people. He (Mr. Firth) had personally no quarrel with Mr. Ritchie, who was an amiable, genial, and agreeable gentleman, as was Sir Stafford Northcote, who had been kicked down into the House of Lords. (Laughter.) At the last election the Liberal majority was largest in the Tower Hamlets, and he (Mr. Firth) was interested to know whether the Liberals of the old borough would not be able to return their candidate in every division. Turning to the subject of London Municipal Reform, Mr. Firth recalled the efforts that have, during the last few years, been made in that direction, and the way in which they have been met by Tory obstruction. The Corporation which controlled the supply of food, which taxed markets and coals, last year spent no less than £13,700 in opposing the London Government Bill, which sought to give the metropolis proper control over its own affairs, to enlarge the liberties of the people, and to equalise the rates, thus relieving the burdens of the poor. The separate municipalities for different districts which had been proposed by the Corporation, would begot isolation which would press heavily on the poor, who for the most part lived in particular districts, and would by themselves have to bear the burden of the poverty of those districts, whilst the rich, who, having made their money in them, and gone to reside elsewhere would be comparatively free from the rates required for the poor. The population of the City which at the beginning of the century numbered 130,000 had diminished to 50,000, because the poor had been crowded out of the City to make way for warehouses and offices, but the charities intended for their benefit had been left behind, and were now misapplied. The whole complexion of things was altered. The "Merchant Taylors" could not now cut out a pair of breeches, and money left by tailors, and for the benefit of their own class was now used for purposes never contemplated by the donors. The incomes of the City Companies amounting to £750,000 a year, ought now to be applied to free education, hospitals, free libraries, baths and washhouses, and kindred public boons. (Loud cheers.)

Sir David Salomons, Bart., in proposing a resolution pledging the meeting to support only those candidates who promised to support London Municipal Reform, spoke of the question as a great question with the people as affecting their pockets, and said that in pursuing his canvass in St. George's he found people arguing whether Mr. Ritchie was not the Liberal candidate—that was because Mr. Ritchie did not avow himself a Conservative on his bills. He (Sir David) was himself in favour of whatever would reduce the rates.

The resolution having been ably seconded by Mr. Westlake, Q.C.,

Mr. Minchin, reviewed the proposals for reform that had been made at various times, and said it would be difficult to find a Liberal who did not agree with John Stuart Mill, in denouncing "that union of modern jobbing and antiquated foppery—the Corporation of the City of London." There was nothing in that ancient City (not even excepting Aldgate Pump, of which he wished to speak with the greatest respect), which was not in need of reform. Where was truth in the City, if it could not be found at the bottom of the oldest well? They had met there to advocate the Government of their vast metropolis by one Supreme Council, assisted by Local Councils for certain specified purposes. What those purposes should be was a matter of detail, but he suggested that local councils should manage education and poor-relief, just as he would place the public-houses under the direct control of the ratepayers. Were the main drainage of London, the cleansing of the streets, the fire brigade, public parks, markets, and improvements, hospitals, asylums, the direction of public traffic, gas, and water, under the control of one Supreme Municipal Council, not only would the rates be lower, but the ratepayers would be better served in every way. As things now stood, the ratepayers were very ill-served for their money. The speaker dealt at some length with the question of water and gas supply. In a humorous manner, the speaker enlarged upon the City Companies' abuses, and concluded by saying: Only quite recently the Master of the wealthiest City Company protested that they had "no other object to serve but the public good." Sir, we will take them at their word, and we will apply the whole of their Trust Funds to their proper purposes—free education and the relief of the ratepayers. We are citizens of no mean City, but at present our wealth is misspent and our name monopolised by irresponsible and unrepresentative cliques. Let us then be up and doing, and never rest until from Poplar in the East to Hammersmith in the West, there shall stretch one city—a city that shall be a dispenser of cheap gas, pure water, and free education to all its sons; a city that shall no longer be administered, but self-governed; a city that shall not only be the capital, but the leader of our Empire; a city that shall be the wonder of the world, and whose name shall be London. (Sustained cheering.)

The resolution was unanimously carried, and the meeting was subsequently addressed by Revs. J. Fletcher, Sackett, and Matthews, Captain Verney, R.N., Mr. Lloyd, J.P., and other speakers.

The proceedings terminated with the usual compliment to the chairman.

Old Jewry Wednesday Divinity Lecture.—The lecture will be resumed in the Church of St. Olave, Old Jewry, by the Rev. George Davenport, vicar of St. Mark's, Whitechapel, the newly-elected lecturer, on Wednesday next, the 18th inst., at the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon, and will conclude before two o'clock. The lecture will continue to be given every Wednesday at the same hour, except during the months of June, July, August, and September. It will be preceded by a shortened form of the evening service. The subject of the first lecture will be "The Preacher's Commission." The subject of each lecture will be duly announced on a board outside the church.

Amphibian Swimming Club.—A series of dances, given under the auspices of this club, have been arranged at the Manor Rooms, Hackney. The first proved a great success, there being about a hundred and fifty present. The dress of the ladies were of a brilliant description, and amongst the devotees to terpsichore we noticed Mr., Mrs. and Miss L. W. Cubitt, Mr. W. R. Itter, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Dredge, Messrs. J. and T. Doughty, Mr. J. and Miss Wood, Mr. A. Charter, Mr. W. and Miss Scott, Mr. and Miss Sander, Messrs. Dutch, Edwards, Gray, C. Parter, W. J. Walker, H. S. Spiller, T. Brown, H. Brown, F. Brown, J. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Werrett, Mr. and Mrs. Unthank, Messrs. W. Tomlinson, A. J. Horne, Cox, W. Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. R. Collett, Messrs. S. Tunstall, Robinson, Mr. and the Misses Rutty, Miss Fisher, the Misses A. and M. Doughty, Miss A. Brown, Miss Spiller, Miss S. Moss, &c. Mr. C. J. Gorzée, the courteous secretary, looked well after the visitors, Mr. Cubitt making an efficient M.C. Mr. Ison's band supplied some pretty music.

German Hospital, Dalston.—During the month of October 136 in-patients (of whom 16 were of the Jewish religion) were admitted, 27 cases being accidents. The number of out-patients was 4,576.

That well-known property, Lea Bridge Gardens, is in the market. The freehold is for sale on the 27th inst., at the Mart, by Messrs. Green and Son, 28 and 29, St. Swithin's-lane.

Mrs. Ernest Hart, the founder of the Donegal Industrial Fund, has been awarded the gold medal at the International Inventions Exhibition "for the organised improvement and encouragement of peasantry industries." A large exhibit of the "Kello Embroideries"—the invention among the cottage industries which won for the fund a place in the Inventions Exhibition—will be held in December at the great art galleries of Messrs. Howell and James, and is expected to arouse much interest among the art-loving public.

The Bishop of Bedford has appointed the Rev. A. Tollemache to take the charge of St. Martin's Mission, Burdett-road, which is in connection with Trinity Church, in the room of the Rev. R. R. Dolling, who has succeeded the Rev. R. Linklater in the charge of Winchester College Mission Church of St. Agatha, Portsea. Mr. F. Saunders, of 1, Violet-street, Devon's-road, Bromley, who is acting as sacristan, writes, requesting financial help towards the fitting up of the Mission Chapel. He will furnish all particulars on application.

"Homes and Haunts of Luther" was the subject of a lecture, illustrated by dissolving views, delivered on Tuesday evening by Mr. G. W. Richardson, at the Assembly Hall, Mile End.

"Village Life" was the subject of a sermon delivered on Sunday evening at the Burdett-road Congregational Chapel by the Rev. J. Rolfe Fisher.

On Thursday an evening concert was given in Wycliffe Chapel, Philpot-street, by the chapel choir, under the *bâton* of Mr. Geo. Merritt, G.T.S.C., assisted by several soloists. The Rev. Charles Lemoine presided.

Mr. T. Richardson writes to deny the rumour that he has joined Mr. Hart's Committee. He is a confident supporter of Mr. Ayrton, and gives reasons for questioning the accuracy of the statement that Mr. Hart has 2,400 promises.

There has been some very rough work at the meetings held at West Ham on behalf of both candidates—Mr. E. R. Cook (Liberal) and Mr. Fulton (Conservative). It is time a truce was called here as in Whitechapel.

Mr. Arthur Cohen, Q.C., M.P., addressed a letter to the *Standard* on Wednesday, explaining that his attitude towards disestablishment is neutral, and that when the question reaches a practical stage he will act as the delegate of the majority of his constituents in the matter.

Metropolitan Free Hospital, Kingsland-road.—City Offices, 163, Bishopsgate-street Without, E.C.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending Nov. 7, was: Medical, 915; surgical, 458; total, 1,373, of which 474 were new cases.

The North Metropolitan Tramways Company.—The traffic returns for the week ended Saturday, Nov. 7, 1885, were: Receipts, £5,447; corresponding week last year, £5,399; increase, £48. Passengers carried last week, 705,208. The mileage open is 35½ miles, as against 34½ miles for the corresponding period of last year

THE WHITECHAPEL DESTRUCTOR.

Mr. Robert Gladding, chairman of the Whitechapel District Board of Works, on Thursday afternoon laid the foundation stone of the shaft of the Destructor now being erected in Wentworth-street, for the purpose of dealing with the local refuse. A large number of the members of the District Board of Works assisted at the function, and among others in attendance were Col. Munro (Metropolitan Board of Works), Mr. Little, builder of the works, Mr. Wolsey, superintendent of the works, Mr. Charles Thompson, foreman of the bricklayers, Mr. W. Warner, C.E., representative of the engineers and patentees of the method (Messrs. Manlove, Alliott, Fryer, and Co., of Nottingham), Mr. Turner (clerk of the Board), Mr. La Riviere (surveyor), and many others interested in the treatment of refuse. The foundation of the chimney-shaft has not been completed without some considerable amount of trouble, chiefly owing to the large quantity of water coming from the bed of ballast through which the excavation had to be carried to get down to the level of the London clay, on which the bottom of the concrete now rests, but Mr. La Riviere is now perfectly satisfied with the foundation as a whole, and with the manner in which the work has been carried out. The size of the excavation was 36ft. square, and this was carried down to a depth of 33 feet. The depth of concrete is 20ft., and the solid contents of the block equals 960 yards, and of this about 115 yards are Portland cement, 100 cubic yards is old bricks, 71 stone, 50 Thames ballast, 624 ballast, and sand as dug from the excavation. The weight of the chimney-shaft will not exceed 1,200 tons, which will exert a pressure of not more than one ton per super foot on the surface of the concrete; and the total weight of the whole structure will not exceed 3,640 tons, which will exert a pressure of about three tons per foot on the London clay. The heighth of the shaft from the London clay to the top of the cap will be 210 feet.—At the opening of the proceedings, Mr. La Riviere, the surveyor, explained that the shaft had been calculated with every care and thought, and the works are having applied to them all the various improvements of construction which have been obtained by the experience of the engineers in those Destructors they have already erected. [They have already erected 18 Destructors in various parts of the country, and have six in course of construction now.] He had therefore every confidence that the object for which the works are being constructed will be most successfully attained, and the present occasion consequently marked an event of great importance not only to the district, but to the metropolis at large.—With a silver trowel which bore a record of the occasion upon which it was employed, Mr. Gladding then spread the mortar, and the stone having been duly lowered with the customary formalities, was declared to be well and truly laid. Standing upon the foundation, Mr. Gladding proceeded to explain the causes which had induced the District Board to take the important step of erecting a Destructor, and we regret that the unprecedented pressure on our space entirely precludes our doing justice to his most able and interesting address. It must suffice to say that he claimed the occasion as one marking distinct municipal progress—a step not taken without long and patient enquiry on the part of the Board, most zealously and ably assisted by their two chief officers, Mr. A. Turner and Mr. La Riviere. By the Destructor, it was hoped and believed that an efficient means would be afforded of getting rid of all the obnoxious refuse and waste material in the district in such a way as to injure no one, while conferring a great benefit on all. Whitechapel, like other parts of the metropolis, was becoming every year further removed from the open country, and hence the difficulty of removing refuse and waste was every year becoming greater, and imposing withal ever-increasing expenditure of the rates. By the Destructor, not only would this difficulty be overcome, but the removal of refuse would be prompter and cheaper, and a source of danger to health more efficaciously dealt with in every way. It was with these hopes that the Board of Works had undertaken this important work, and for carrying it out they relied with confidence on the builder, Mr. Little, who not only bore a high character himself, but inherited the reputation which his father had won before him in the neighbourhood.—Mr. Outhwaite, in cordial terms, referred to the half-century's service which Mr. Gladding has rendered to the public in Whitechapel, and moved a vote of thanks to him for his labours on the present occasion.—This was seconded by Mr. Catmur, and supported by Col. Munro, the latter observing that the occasion was of more than local importance, for there are 39 other districts in London watching the work of which Whitechapel is the pioneer, all anxious to employ a feasible means of coping with the increasingly-difficult problem of refuse removal. For his own part, he hoped and believed that the Destructor's first expense would soon be recouped by the reduction of the rates by 2d. or 3d. in the £ per annum.—The vote was adopted by acclamation, and a round of cheers for Mr. Gladding (heartily joined in by the workmen around) closed the proceedings.

AN UNQUALIFIED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

An inquest was held on Wednesday afternoon at the "Bank of Friendship," Harford-street, Mile End, touching the death of Alice Rosetta Spencer, aged eight years, and lately living with her parents—Mr. Robert and Mrs. Spencer. The proceedings excited considerable interest owing to a charge against "Dr." Smith, of Duckett-street, of being unqualified, arising out of them, and a large number of medical gentlemen were present.—Mrs. Spencer, the mother, who was first called, stated that the deceased showing symptoms of illness, witness sent for Dr. Smith, of the Dispensary, Duckett-street, on Monday, the 2nd of November, to attend her child. He did so, and continued to do so until the following Saturday evening, but the child died on the Sunday morning. She believed Dr. Smith to be a properly qualified medical man.—Mrs. Holden, the landlady, spoke to her being called to see the child on Sunday morning, when it was breathing its last.—Dr. Smith was then called, and cautioned by the coroner that he need not answer the questions addressed him unless he pleased. He was not, he said, a member of the College of Physicians, and he held no English diploma. The name above the dispensary was written: "Dr. Smith, U.S.A."

The Coroner: What does that stand for?

Witness: It stands for nothing, unless it is the United States of America.

The coroner remarked that the letters U.S.A. gave no medical qualification whatever, although calculated to deceive the more ignorant of the public into the belief that such was the case.

In answer to the coroner, the witness proceeded to remark that he attended the case for Dr. Chappel.

The Coroner: But we are not concerned with Dr. Chappel; the mother of the deceased only knew about Dr. Smith.

The witness had diagnosed the case, and found deceased had symptoms of suppressed scarlatina with chest complications. At all events, there was, in his opinion pneumonia.

The Coroner: Well, I don't think it would be fair to question you further. You can sit down.

Dr. John Fordham stated that he had, at the request of the coroner, made a post-mortem examination. There evidently had been pneumonia, but it was undergoing resolution, showing the child to have been ill for at least a fornight or three weeks. That, however, was not the cause of death, which was caused through effusion of the pericardium. He could not have saved the child's life even had he been called in on the Monday morning preceding death, as the symptoms were so severe.

The coroner having briefly summed up the case—remarking, in so doing, that Mr. Smith was very much to blame, and very foolish to have taken the case in hand, well-knowing that, prossessing no qualification, he rendered himself liable to the penalties of the law—the jury returned a verdict of "death through natural causes."

Christ Church, Watney-street.—Instead of the usual Temperance entertainment last Tuesday evening, the Kyrle Society gave Handel's Oratorio, Judas Maccabæus. The church, in which this fine piece of sacred music was sung, was filled, some having to stand during the performance. The evening's proceedings were commenced and closed with brief devotional exercises. The oratorio was well given throughout its three parts. The ladies who represented Jewish women sang admirably, as did also the gentlemen who personified the heroes of the piece, Simon, and Judas Maccabæus. The choruses, moreover, were unusually well rendered, great spirit and power being thrown into them by the numerous and well-trained body of singers. It would be an omission, even in this brief notice, not to mention the able assistance of the organist on this occasion, and the precision and vivacity displayed by the talented conductor. On the whole, it would be hard to say how lovers of sacred music could have spent a couple of hours more enjoyably than the large audience did on Tuesday evening, through this visit of the Kyrle Society to East London, and it is wished that they will repeat their visit before the end of the season.

Stepney Relief Society.—At a meeting of this society on Tuesday, at the "Green Dragon" tavern, Stepney, Flora Ann Thompson was elected a pensioner with 240 votes, but as there was another candidate, Mary Ann Branburg, who had obtained 234 votes, it was decided to elect her also as a permanent pensioner. This will cause some extra strain on the funds of the society, and the committee will be glad to hear from any who are desirous of helping the deserving poor through the agency of their society. Mr. G. T. Smith, 54, Ben Jonson-road, Stepney, will be glad to receive any contributions, and to furnish information respecting the work of the society.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COMMERCIAL STREET BAPTIST CHAPEL.

To the Editor of the *East London Observer*.

Sir,—I hope you will deem the following letter, on public grounds as well as in justice to myself, of sufficient importance for insertion in your columns.

Yours most truly,
William Thomas Adey.

"To T. R. Struthers, Esq.

"Sir,—I have just had placed in my hands a document emanating from Col. Cowan's Committee Room, Whitechapel-road, which, I am informed, has been largely circulated in the district in which my chapel is situated, and which affects me in a manner so direct and serious, that I am compelled to reply to it immediately.

"In this document you are reported to have publicly said, that if your information from the Board of Works (of which, I understand, you are a member) be correct, my chapel is for sale, and may be treated for by private contract.

"What are the facts? The property has never been in the market, is not now, and is not likely to be. If the Board of Works has given you this information, it has done so without the knowledge or consent of some of its most prominent members, and has asserted that which has no foundation whatever in fact.

"A sum of £640 has been recently spent upon the chapel in decoration and repair, all of which, together with working expenses, has been paid.

"Your reference to the congregation was equally incorrect. It was much as you represent it *before I came to it*; since which time—about a year and a half—it has trebled.

"You must know that such statements as you have rashly circulated are likely to injure me in the discharge of my professional duties, and therefore, having shown their untruthfulness, I call upon you to immediately withdraw them.

"If you wish to be regarded as an honourable citizen and public man, you will also tender an apology for the wrong done.

"Awaiting your reply,
"I am, yours obediently,
"Wm. Thomas Adey.

"P.S.—As time presses, I am compelled to send this letter by the same post to you and to the local newspapers."

MR. ROBSON AND THE SUNDAY QUESTION.

To the Editor of the *East London Observer*.

Sir,—In your last issue you report Captain Colomb, making this flagrant misrepresentation:—"Mr. S. U. Thompson rose and used words to the effect, that after the firm declaration of Mr. Robson that he would rather lose ten seats than be returned to Parliament to sit dumb on the museum question, he would lose his self-respect in agreeing to the compromise suggested; and Mr. Robson, on that, rose and said he would not accept the compromise suggested. Since that time Mr. Robson had changed his mind, and he (Captain Colomb) left Mr. Thompson to consider whether the Liberal candidate had lost his self-respect or not." My attention being called to this, I respectfully requested at a subsequent meeting permission to state the facts, but the Conservative manager, who appeared to treat his chairman as a marionette figure, refused this fairness, and applied an offensive epithet to my courteous request. (He is welcome to his personalities—an apt pupil of the master of "jibes and sneers.") Now, sir, no man ever acted with more honour or credit in a difficult position than Mr. Robson on this question. At the Liberal Council, at every public meeting he consistently refused to accept the Bryce compromise, which would bind him, under all circumstances, to sacrifice his vote. His difficulty continued until Mr. Henry Green offered to "pair" with him. To this, of course, he could have no objection, and if Captain Colomb pretends that a member of Parliament by "pairing" with an opponent sacrifices a jot of his self-respect or convictions, he must know he is talking nonsense, or something worse. This honourable settlement is a sore subject with the Tories, as they hoped to snatch a few votes, but that is no justification for false statements, and I hope Captain Colomb will do himself the credit to retract them.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

S. U. Thompson.

IRISHMEN AND CANDIDATES.

To the Editor of the *East London Observer*.

Sir,—I was surprised a few weeks ago to read in one of the local papers, that a deputation from the East End Radical Club waited on Mr. Cowan, the Conservative candidate for Whitechapel. It struck me at the time that, if the members of the East London Hibernian Club had attended a few of Col. Cowan meetings, they might have saved themselves much humiliation. Col. Cowan is no friend of Ireland. I remember in some of his speeches in March last, how contemptuously he spoke of Mr. Parnell, and latterly the endeavours he and his agents made to disfranchise Irishmen who inhabit Glasshouse-buildings, Fives-court, Queen Ann-street, and Elizabeth-place, and especially one old Irishman, Richard Savage, 1, Prince's-court, Old Montagu-street, inhabiting one house thirty years, objected to by Mr. Kaufman, Col. Cowan's alien agent, but who was ultimately placed on the register by the exertions of the Radical candidate. Surely Irishmen of Whitechapel can discern their friends from their foes; they surely have more spirit than to lick the shoes of the party who opposed the extention of the franchise to their country. Samuel Montagu is a true friend to Ireland, pledged to Home Rule, and if the Irishmen of East London heard the loud stirring words of sympathy that came from the lips of both Samuel Montagu and Ernest Hart for the unfortunate country, I am certain that, from the known warmth of their hearts, they would do their utmost to place both these gentlemen at the top of the poll.—I am, sir, your obedient and Irish Radical,

J. Cain.

East London Radical Club,
29, Stepney Green,
11th November, 1885.

WHITECHAPEL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the *East London Observer*.

Sir,—In answer to a letter from Mr. Hall in your last issue about the "query" of the consistency in placing bills concerning Col. Cowan in the window of the Church of England Temperance Society, seeing that Col. Cowan is somewhat opposed to the Local Option Bill, I beg to inform Mr. Hall that we have a more vital point at issue, viz., the defence of the Church of England from the rites of those who would tear down its altar and rob it of its rights. As Churchmen, we would consider it very "inconsistent" if we did not oppose the "Disestablishment Question." Again, Mr. Hall inquires, where are our leaders of the temperance cause. I would enquire here, has Mr. Hall only now awoke to that concern? He speak of himself as an old temperance reformer for over fifty years. I imagine he must be one of the old ones, because I have noticed in my visitation of temperance meetings the platforms to be conspicuous for the absence of Mr. Hall. Again, about consistency. I want to know what a "Temperance Reformer" has to do in using all his energies in returning one of our leading brewers to the School Board. I suppose he acted very much on the principle of assisting to light some of the good qualities of the man, though, probably, he does not agree with all.—Yours truly,

S. Longhurst

73, Whitechapel-road, E.

A Whitechapel Gymnasium.—A gymnasium, to which the superlative commendatory adjective might with justice be applied, has been opened at the Drill Hall, Whitechapel-road, in connection with the 2nd T.H.R.V. With a lofty hall and plenty of space, competent instructors and all the modern gymnastic appliances, the necessary "furniture" for boxing and for assisting muscular development, the gymnasium ought to attract numbers of young men. It is open on Mondays and Fridays from eight to ten.

An Election Sermon.—Taking for his text last Sunday evening the words, "What meaneth the noise of this tumult?" (1st Samuel, I., xiv) the Rev. W. Evans Hurndall preached to a crowded congregation at the Harley-street Chapel, Bow-road, on the subject of "the election and its lessons." Something unusual, he said, was taking place; they received a thousand invitations to vote for this man or that. If they only read one side they were led to suppose that God had permitted a number of the angelic host to come down from Heaven and ask the suffrages of men, and, on the other hand, that a certain number of devils had come up to rule over the superior beings—men. While admitting that the mode of conducting elections had considerably improved, yet they must deplore the slander and lying which was so patent to everyone who had eyes to see. He believed that enough lies would be told during the next election to keep the devil in stock for twelve months. That must be put down, and stamped out. In conclusion, he expressed the wish that the same energy shown in election contests could be shown in religious work.

The Organ Recital at the Bow and Bromley Institute this (Saturday) evening, will be given by Dr. F. J. Sawyer, organist of St. Patrick's Church, Brighton; vocalist, Madame Marie Klauwell; violinists, Mr. J. M. Gray and Mr. A. Webster; violoncello, Mr. Leopold Stern. On Monday the Philothespian Club will perform Gilbert's "Pygmalion and Galatea."

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