

is deplorable to find the executive adding a thousand pounds to a two-year-old race, the winner of which is to be sold for a fifth of that sum. The colt by *Roseberry-Lady Flora*, which secured this race, was run up to 550 guineas; and as his owner was content to let him go at that price, he evidently did not deem him to be worth more than half of the stake which he won. There was racing at Thetford last Thursday and Friday; the principal event being the Great Road Stakes, for which twelve two-year-old colts, including one or two sent all the way from Newmarket. Victory remained with a northern filly, Mr. Brooks's *Meadow Sweet*, which, with *Rosbury* and the daughter of *Speenham* and *Gardena*, the two *Epsom* winners, are the best animals of their age which have been seen so far.

An extraordinary Republican demonstration took place in the Danish Parliament on the 14th inst. Jans Bunt, a member of the Left, declared in the course of the debate on the Budget that the movement in favour of a republic was daily gaining ground among the people; and that "if the King were driven from the country to-morrow" not one in a thousand would move a finger to restrain him. The majority, he added, among loyal chieftains from the Left, are heartily tired of royalty. The President of the Chamber protested against the name of the King being brought into the debate; but in the division which followed the Left beat the Government by a majority of 45 to 25.

Mr. De Ruiters, one of the metropolitan police-court magistrates, has written a letter to the *Observer* to explain that he has not determined that a bear is a "domestic animal," as that journal seems to have imagined. When Mr. De Ruiters really did not see a couple of men who were cradly ill-treating a dancing bear in the streets—not for their cruelty to the bear, but for obstructing a public thoroughfare. But that bears who have been sufficiently tamed to dance, or, indeed, that any animals employed for the use or amusement of man, should be without legal protection against cruelty because they are not "domestic animals" is certainly a defect in the law which should not remain without amendment.

At a meeting of the London unemployed held on Clerkenwell Green on Friday a resolution urging such a "secret procession" in necessary to bring the cause of the men more definitely before the public was unanimously passed; and it was also resolved that the procession should take place to-morrow. There came by a doubt that as a means of bringing the case of any class of persons who have a grievance before the public there is nothing equal to a street procession. The objection seemed to traffic by the procession is of itself sufficient to attract general attention, but it is very doubtful whether the processions gain any real advantage by thus creating a nuisance. To people who are not unemployed time is valuable, and to diminish their facilities of locomotion by blocking the thoroughfares is a proceeding calculated to produce irritation rather than sympathy.

A melancholy story was told the other day at the Oldham Police Court. A man was charged there with committing an assault upon another man, employed as a "watcher" in the collection of voting-papers on the occasion of an election of guardians at that place. Early in the week, when the election took place, seventeen voting-papers had to be collected from one house. The defendant wanted to see the papers, but was not allowed to do so. He thereupon became excited, seized the complainant, and tried to throw him down. A scuffle ensued, in the course of which, it was alleged, the defendant kicked the complainant and "slashed him" in some cinders. A fine of 5s. was imposed; and the penalty was not excessive, for, however deep the interest taken by any one in parochial affairs, there can be no excuse for rubbing people's faces in cinders. The story, nevertheless, has its rebuking aspect, for it shows that in Oldham, at least, the election of local authorities is not a mere matter of form, but stirs the great heart of the inhabitants to its inner core.

Mr. Healy's Bill for the amendment of the Irish Land Act stands at the first order of the day on Wednesday next; and Mr. Gladstone, it is said, will take the opportunity to make a statement of the intentions of the Government about the several subjects with which the new measure deals. If this applies to Mr. Healy's proposals with regard to the purchase of holdings, the Ministerial declaration is likely to anticipate, to some extent, the interest of the debate which it is to take place on Mr. Healy's motion on the 5th of next month. But the other portion of the Bill, in which Mr. Healy proposes a scheme for the settlement of arrears, is itself likely to give rise to an interesting debate. The proposal of the member for Westford, which applies only to holders of not more than £200 yearly rent, is that if the years' rent due on the last day next succeeding August 1st, 1881, is paid, or if the tenant is willing to pay it, all arrearages arrears which he may be unable to pay shall be wiped off by a free grant from the Commissioners to the landlord of a sum not exceeding one year's rent, and not exceeding half the arrears. In other words, gifts are to be substituted for the loans authorized by the Land Act, and the transaction is to be made compulsory upon the landlord. In this latter point alone, therefore, the Bill represents a new departure of a very important kind; and the attitude of the Government towards it will be awaited with a good deal of curiosity.

MR. DARWIN'S WORK.

The loss of Mr. Darwin has called forth one harmonious voice of regret and admiration from the civilized world. Even by those who still look with doubt or dislike on the results of Mr. Darwin's inquiries, more particularly such results as he himself rather embarrassed than avowed, the greatness of the man is fully admitted. We shall not now tell over again the most beautiful tale of his life, or give a catalogue of his published works, or dwell on the influence of his own life on the world. We shall only say that the things are true, that Mr. Darwin's name is by the accident but juster of titles in all respects, of the state in which he found natural science, and the state in which he left it; of the method and the power by which he increased human knowledge; of his own expectations and attitude of mind regarding his contribution to it; of that which he accomplished, and of that which he bequeathed. For already there are mistakes and misconceptions to be guarded against. All good actions and even high legends, even in these days of exact and widely diffused information; and a generation content to know Mr. Darwin's "Origin of Species," at second-hand might easily find itself led astray by a legend, or perplexed by conflicting legends, of the rise and triumph of Darwinism. The popular tendency is to regard the ideas of evolution and natural selection as having been hurled into the scientific world like a thunderbolt from a clear sky; and by not a few among our cultivated people the specific relation of natural selection to the general doctrine of development is left wholly out of sight. On the other hand, there is a kind of over-curious criticism which, in opposition to the first popular impression, seeks to exaggerate the importance of Mr. Darwin's forebodings, and of those parts of the doctrine which are not peculiarly his own, and to disparage the value and novelty of his work. This kind of criticism is doubly and trebly unjust, both in itself and with regard to its probable results; nevertheless it has been urged with much persistence, and in one case by a competent naturalist.

Hardly to good advantage of Darwinism is required by as honest and attentive reader to set things straight, though the Darwinian literature which is useful or necessary to speculation has already attained to small bulk. The needed warnings and corrections were largely supplied by Mr. Darwin himself in the later editions of his "Origin of Species." He was not ambitious of popular fame, still less did he trouble himself about the questions of priority which too often arise unwisely strife between men of science; in this very matter of the theory of natural selection a splendid example of manifest brotherhood in the search for truth was set both by himself and by Mr. Wallace. But he was anxious to be rightly understood, and needed to make his own position completely clear to those who were unwilling to understand him. Mr. Darwin's own explanations, therefore, are the first authority to be consulted on the growth and the scope of his doctrine. It is very strange then to call a man as the chief witness in his own cause. But the truth is that in this case Mr. Darwin is not only the best-informed but the most impartial witness. If he has any bias, it is against himself. His followers are infinitely more like partisans; Mr. Darwin could not be so potential even under provocation. It has been only recently that a hardy and arrogant man has found among the numerous criticisms of the "Origin of Species" which, so far from anything in it, has not been stated with the utmost force it is capable of by Mr. Darwin himself. He reminds one of Aristotle by the abrupt frankness with which he steps the course of his own exposition to meet some apparently formidable objection. He was a master of scientific argument, but neither had nor affected to have the rhetorical art of the advocate. With rare sincerity he displays the weakest parts of his case in equal prominence with the strongest; and this he did when he knew that he would have many opponents, and did not know how easily he could afford to be generous to them. The manner, indeed, in which Mr. Darwin announced his theory is one of the most remarkable things in the history of science.

In the year 1831 the *Beagle* left England for a scientific expedition round the world, which Mr. Darwin accompanied as naturalist. The voyage lasted five years all but a few months. In the course of the great number of observations then made Mr. Darwin, as he tells us at the very opening of the "Origin of Species," "was much struck with certain facts in the distribution of the organic beings inhabiting South America, and in the geological relations of the present to the past inhabitants of that continent. These facts seemed to throw some light on the origin of species; and it occurred to Mr. Darwin on his return home "that something might perhaps be made out on this question by patiently accumulating and reflecting on all sorts of facts which could possibly have any bearing on it." There is something in this curiously like Newton's account of his own power; Newton, as is well known, ascribed his success in physical problems not to any sudden inspiration, but to steady and patient attention. Mr. Darwin felt to work accordingly on the facts he had thus marked out for himself, and passed and ruminated on them during more than twenty years. When he did publish the "Origin of Species," it was as a mere abstract of his results, and almost under protest: he thought the time barely ripe. His hand was anxiously forced, so to speak, by Mr. Wallace having independently reached, and being ready to publish, closely similar conclusions. These coincided with Mr. Darwin's genius, happily for mankind, the external conditions for pursuing his chosen work at his own time and in his own way. Such coincidences appear, as the world is now ordered, to be almost indispensable for securing to the highest kind of intellectual excellence a true sphere of activity.

How then was the world prepared to receive Mr. Darwin's discovery? Absolutely unprepared it was not, but neither was it well prepared. Various writers, from Erasmus Darwin downwards, had propounded with more or less definiteness the doctrine of the variability of species and the production of the countless existing forms of life from a limited number of original types, or even from a single primitive type. Everything except

