The Daily News,

TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 9.

☞ SEE FIRST PAGE.

THE POET TENNYSON AND HIS PUBLISHERS.

A London correspondent writes as follows: "When Mr Tennyson decided lately upon inviting tenders for the exclusive right of publishing his works, considerable curiosity was excited. What would booksellers have bid for Paradise Lost? But this is a commercial time, and even laureates are touched by the zeal for gain. If books sell they will fetch a high price with the publisher, and so all the estimates were, according to previous ideas, extremely high. But there are degrees, and the largest bidder was Mr Strachan, a publisher comparatively of yesterday, who has become known almost entirely through the sixpenny periodical entitled *Good Words*. Mr Strachan offered the poet £4,000 per annum for 20 years for the privilege of publishing all his works, past and future, and security being good, the offer was accepted. But many think that Mr Strachan is buying gold too dearly. Suppose another poet springs up and eclipses the author of The May Queen. Or suppose the public taste changes and goes over to Swinburne, Walt Whitham or Robt. Browning? How is Strachan to get around the corner with £4,000 every year? But this gentleman has given lavishly for some years to secure leading names. For his magazine he has caught two or three Cabinet Ministers, two Archbishops and three or four Bishops, to say nothing of eminent scientific men, and this simply has been done by money. One, two, three, four, and even five hundred pounds have been paid by him for contributions of this rank. He is a Scotchman, and ought to know best—but to timid men he seems overdaring. An extraordinary story is afloat as to this competition. A gentleman who had an opportunity of forming the acquaintance of Tennyson, some time ago begged Mrs Tennyson's acceptance of a splendid ermine mantle worth £100. A little later he competed with others for the poems, but was not successful. I hardly expect you to credit what followed, but the statement is said to be true. He wrote to Mr Tennyson, and, referring to the mantle, hinted that it was given in the belief that the publishing would be accorded to the donor, and as it was otherwise, he would like the article back again! Tennyson instantly replied that as the mantle was worn, it could not be returned, but if the bill of its cost was forwarded, a check for the amount should be written forthwith. Whether this was done I have not heard. But the story may be added to the anecdotes of publishers.

UPS AND DOWNS IN THE WORLD.

"Sir, bring me a good, plain dinner," said a melancholy-looking individual to a waiter at one of the principal hotels in a Western State.

"Yes, sir."

The dinner was brought and devoured, and the eater called the landlord aside and thus addressed him:

"You are the landlord?"

"Yes."

"You do a good business here?"

"Yes," (in astonishment).

"You make probably ten dollars a day clear?"

"Yes."

"Then I am safe. I cannot pay for what I have consumed. I have been out of employment for seven months, but have engaged to work to-morrow. I have been without food four-and-twenty hours when I entered your place. I will pay you in a week."

"I cannot pay my bills with such promises," blustered the landlord; "and I do not keep a poor-house. You should address the proper authorities. Leave me something for security."

"I have nothing."

"I will take your coat."

"If I go into the street without that I will get my death such weather as this."

"You should have thought of that before you came here."

"You are serious? Well, I solemnly aver that one week from now I will pay you."

"I will take your coat."

The coat was left, and a week afterwards redeemed.

Seven years after that a wealthy man entered the political arena, and was presented to the caucus as an applicant for a Congressional nomination. The chairman of the caucus held his peace. He heard the name and history of the applicant, who was a member of the church and one of the most respectable citizens. The vote was a tie, and he cast a negative, thereby defeating the wealthy applicant, whom he met an hour afterward, and to whom he said:

"You don't remember me?"

"No."

"I once ate dinner in your hotel, and although I told you I was famishing, and pledged you my word and honour to pay you in a week, you took my coat and saw me go out in the inclement air, at the risk of my life, without it."

"Well, sir, what then?"

"Not much. You call yourself a Christian. To-night you were a candidate for nomination, and but for me you would have been elected to Congress."

Three years after the Christian hotel-keeper became bankrupt. The dinnerless wretch that was is now a high functionary.—*American Paper.*

The Duke of Saxe Coburg Gotha has illustrated the somewhat dull routine of a petty German Principality by the institution of a new order of Woman's Courage. This new decoration comes late in the day, but, if it be not rendered worthless, like the Legion of Honour and the Black Eagle of Prussia, by indiscriminate bestowal, it will be a more enviable distinction than any diamond, or star, or cross that is worn by men. It would be difficult to make out a shining list of names which might have been written down upon such a bead-roll, had the Order of Woman's Courage been established—such as Joan of Arc, Lady Russel, the Maid of Saragossa, Grace Darling, and Florence Nightingale.

The *Oxford Calendar* for 1869 has just been published. It appears, from comparing it with the *Calendar* of last year, that the numbers on the books have increased by 251, and that the increase in the matriculations during the past year has been 54. Christ Church has 30 members more than those of last year, Queen's 21; Lincoln, 19; Brasenose, 18; New College, 17; while there are slight increases in most of the other colleges. There is no college in which there is any serious diminution of numbers. Of the Halls, St. Alban Hall has increased by 20, and St. Mary Hall by 18. The number of unattached students is 36. It must be recollected that this class of students has only existed during the two past terms, so that, should the matriculations continue at the present rate, it may be expected that, three years hence, there will be a body of unattached students numbering from 150 to 180. This number will be as large as the most sanguine friends of the new system venture to predict.

FRANCE AND HER FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The semi-official prints speak with positive fury of the bill passed by the Belgian parliament for the purpose of putting a veto on the projected fusion of the railway from Arlon to Brussels with the French Eastern Company. The *Public* speaks of a "series of intrigues" of the Belgian ministry, stigmatises them as devoid of the "smallest ray of reason," and sternly tells them that the French Government can, "by a stroke of its pen, ruin Belgian commerce in twenty-four hours." The papers all say or insinuate that the bill has been brought forward at the dictation of Prussia, and the *Liberte* says: "He who does not see that the Belgian army will very shortly be the advanced guard of the Prussian army against France must be blind."

The *France* publishes an article, headed "Public Feeling in France," in which it treats of the railway question in Belgium, and says:—"People believe they see the hand of Prussia in this last Belgian affair. It is necessary that it should be known abroad that France is tired of the present precarious and uncertain condition of her foreign relations. The existing state of things is neither war or peace. No one is more sincerely inclined towards a pacific course than ourselves, but this state of uncertainty which compromises every interest and alarms the public mind is truly unbearable. It is time to have done with it."

The *Public*, in an article on the same subject, says:—"There is no Belgian question at issue, but a serious question of political economy, which has been raised inopportunely by the Ministry now in power in Brussels. We do not know if it will be settled by legitimate reprisals on the part of France or by the fall of the Belgian Cabinet."

The *Patrie* and other journals also publish articles condemning the attitude of the Belgian Government.

Although war is still spoken of as likely to take place in spring, M. de Lavalette does not appear to share these bellicose ideas, and is reported to have expressed his discontent at seeing certain semi-official papers, such as *La France* and *Le Pays*, make use of violent language towards Prussia, and entering into a regular political discussion with the Berlin press.

The skin of the leaf of the Indian dagger plant has been made into a new style of bonnet for women's wear. This plant grows in the island of Jamaica, and an experimental bonnet made from it was lately exhibited before the Royal Botanic society in London. The material has the appearance of glazed tissue paper, or very thin wood shaving. It is naturally white, but readily takes a dye. It is too fragile for use in clothing, but the present style of bonnet is made of material as delicate as this; and as the size of that article of apparel is nothing to speak of, the limited dimensions of the leaf offer no impediment to its use.

The report of the Joint Committee on American Ordnance, which is now published in full, embodies statements which, as the N. Y. *Tribune* says, "are at once indisputable and essentially incredible." It is evident that American artillery is behind that of any other great nation. The Committee condemn the Rodman, the Parrott, and Dahlgren guns alike, and recommend that a new gun, constructed upon the same principle as the English Armstrong gun, shall be adopted. They also recommend a more efficient system of harbour defence. It is stated in the report that during the operations upon Morris Island, 22 large guns was the greatest number mounted at one time, yet 50 in all burst during the siege, as is shown by the evidence of Gen. Gilmore. In the attack on Fort Fisher, all the Parrott guns in the fleet burst according to the report of Admiral Porter. By the bursting of five of these guns at the first bombardment, 45 persons were killed and wounded, by the projectiles from the enemy's guns during the attack.

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March 15, 67.

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April 23

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Author of the "Spas of Germany."
"Dr. Granville] has found that Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil produces the desired effect in a shorter time than other kinds, and that it does not cause the nausea and indigestion too often consequent on the administration of the pale oil."
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REFERENCES.
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VOLUME XVIII.

The Daily News.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 10.

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TERRIBLE FIGHT WITH WILD-CATS.

[illegible]ver in Sullivan county (N.Y.), along [illegible] Neversink) is a little settlement known [illegible] Eden—so named, probably, as a kind [illegible] compensation for being as unlike the [illegible] live Eden as one could readily imagine. One of the celebrities of the neighbourhood is Jonas Brooks—a thoroughgoing backwoodsman, a terror to all sorts of "varmint" that prowl about that part of the country, and particularly to wildcats, which are his especial aversion. The number of wild cats which he has killed is immense—so many that he is known everywhere about that region by the *subriquet* of Jonas Brooks, the Wildcat killer of Eden. The various exploits and adventures in that line, if properly written up, would make a page of thrilling interest—a worthy counterpart to "Tom Quick, the Indian Slayer."

Some few weeks ago Jonas espied one of the hated felines, while going through a piece of woods, and true to his instinct, he followed after the animal, without stopping to consider that he was unarmed—not even having a jack-knife about him. He followed it until it retreated to a sort of cave in the rocks, where Jonas made up his mind to "go in" and capture the "varmint." So, picking up a tough hickory cudgel, he proceeded to enter the cave. After entering the entrance, to his surprise he found quite a lofty cavern, extending back some thirty feet, and in the furthest extremity glowed not only one, but half a dozen pairs of ferocious eyes, which betoken [illegible] work for any intruder. Jonas was undoubtedly "somethin' took back," as he pressed in at the sight of so many [illegible] eyes fixed upon him, but as it wouldn't do to stand [illegible] in his nature to retreat under any circumstances, he cautiously advanced into the c