

00

On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 500



SCENE OF THE LATE GUN-COTTON EXPLOSION AT FAVERSHAM.

THE EXPLOSION AT FAVERSHAM.

The explosion of a gun cotton mill, at Faversham, of which we gave an account last week, has proved even more disastrous than was at first stated. So loud was the explosion that the noise was heard within two miles of Maidstone, a distance of seventeen miles. The sound resembled thunder heard at a great distance. The houses within a circumference of a mile were all more or less affected, as if by the shock of an earthquake. The entire number of persons who have sustained is supposed to be thirty-four; of these, twenty have already died. Their funeral, or rather the interment of the fragments of their bodies, took place last Saturday. Of the twenty dead, the remains of ten only have been identified, owing to the dreadfully mangled state of their bodies. Of the fourteen still living, several are not expected to recover. Awfully destructive of human life as the accident has been, it might, and but for a providential circumstance would, have proved more so. It fortunately happened that a considerable number of those usually employed in the works were at the time the catastrophe occurred engaged in haymaking. At the Coroner's inquest, held yesterday week, on the bodies of the sufferers nothing that could be relied on as to the cause of the catastrophe was elicited.

The inquest was adjourned for a month. In the hope that some of the fourteen still surviving sufferers may be so far recovered as to be able to lay before the Jury more definite information regarding the circumstances under which the catastrophe took place. In addition to the numerous deaths caused by the explosion, another death took place under very peculiar circumstances. A young man who had been employed in the neighbourhood, having gone to assist in extricating the sufferers, and during the deal out of the mass of ruins, suddenly fell himself in consequence of the inhalation of the noxious atmosphere caused by the explosion. He was not sent out for medical treatment in Faversham, but he was taken to a medical establishment in London, where he died last night, and the medical attendant has pronounced that he died of the effects of inhaling the noxious atmosphere. The inquest adjourned until the 10th of August, when it is expected that the bodies of the sufferers of Faversham will be examined. We have engraved the scene of the catastrophe from a sketch by an artist whom we dispatched to Faversham. It shows the state of the mill and workmen standing the first shock of the explosion, in greatest distress. The scene of devastation is thus described in the Times report:—

The extraordinary effect of the explosion on the buildings in the neighbourhood, and on the corn fields in the vicinity, cannot possibly be realised except by an eye-witness. The roofs of all the buildings within half a quarter of a mile of the explosion are completely shivered to their bases, and the walls are much shaken. Even at the tower of Faversham, nearly a mile distant from the scene of the disaster, windows were broken, and the houses otherwise damaged in some instances. On the opposite side of the stream which forms the northern boundary of the Marsh Works is a field of wheat of some extent. The explosion has completely blasted this over a space of about two acres, and the ears, dropping and scattered, present a scene of desolation in a field of the most fertile soil. Some of the wheat, which bears the name of the stream, and is a variety of the present wheat about 100 yards from the buildings Nos. 3 and 4, has been completely shivered, and a circular about in all directions. These ruins, distant as they are, are very striking, but the full effect of the explosion is not to be seen until the tide is in. Another instance of the enormous amount of earthen matter thrown up, and scattered, is the case of the corn field, which was completely shivered, and thrown to a very considerable distance.

THE NEW PALACE AT WESTMINSTER.

We subjoin the Architect's last report of the state of the Works at the New Palace, up to June 30.— "The carcass works of the portion of the building towards New Palace-yard are entirely completed. The Victoria Tower is about 50 feet high; the carving of a stone groin within it is completed, and the scaffolding is removed. The Clock Tower is also about 50 feet high. Framed scaffolding and hoisting apparatus have been prepared, and are now being fixed for the upper portions of those towers, which are not yet contracted for. The stone groin over the central hall is now being turned, and is far advanced to completion. St. Stephen's Hall is in part carried up to its full height for the roof, and the remainder is, upon an average, within about 100 feet of the same level. St. Stephen's Tower and the western entrance of the building is carried up to the height of about 30 feet above the ground. The Commons' public lobby, and the central masses of the building above the corridors and public staircase, are, upon an average, within about 10 feet of their full height. The House of Commons' ceiling, beams, and bracketing, and some screens at the north and south ends of the House, are completed. The fittings and finishings of the House are not yet ordered, as no decision is yet come to respecting Dr. Ridd's plans for warming and ventilating this portion of the building. The House of Lords, the Royal ante-chamber, and the House of public lobby, with all their warming and ventilating arrangements and apparatus, are, with the exception of a portion of the stained glass, the fresco paintings, statues, and other works of art) completed; and those portions of the building were occupied for the first time immediately after the Easter recess of the present year. The fittings of the old House of Lords were removed during the Easter recess, the House converted into a gallery of approach from the House of Commons, and other communications made between the temporary and the new buildings. The fittings and finishings of the libraries and recreation rooms are near completion. A considerable extent of joiners' works in ceilings is prepared; much of it is fixed; and other finishings are executed in other portions of the building. Ten new Committee Rooms in the Tower wall have been temporarily fitted up for use since Easter. There are at present 1270 men engaged upon the works of the New Palace, of which 708 are employed at the building, 147 at the quarries, 228 at the Government works at Thames Bank, upon the joiners' fittings and wood carvings, and 193 upon miscellaneous works both at the building and elsewhere. "CHARLES BARRY."

SINGULAR MODE OF PUNISHMENT.—A strange spectacle was witnessed on the 9th inst. at Arnheim, in Holland. A Catholic priest, named Geykens, having been condemned to death for assassination, the King commuted the sentence into perpetual imprisonment, and the application of the punishment called "brandishing the axe," which consists in making a prisoner undergo a pretended execution. A scaffold was prepared exactly as for an execution, and a coffin was on it, as if to receive the bloody and mangled remains of the condemned. At twelve o'clock in the day Geykens was driven in a cart to the scaffold. His head and neck were bare, he wore no coat, his hair was cut very close, and his hands were tied behind his back. Two priests were with him, giving him religious consolation, and two other carriages contained the officers of justice, and the executioner and his assistants, the latter carrying an axe. A strong detachment of soldiers accompanied the cart, and another surrounded the scaffold. Geykens ascended to his appointed place with a tottering step. His eyes were then bandaged, and his head placed on the block. One of the assistant executioners seized him by the hair, to keep his head in the right position, and two other assistants held him by the shoulders. The chief executioner then took the axe, brandished it in the air, and let it descend on the prisoner's neck, so as to make him feel the cold steel. The man who held his head afterwards released it, and far about the minutes the executioner continued to brandish the axe around the

[The following appeared only in our Late Edition of last week.]

HOUSE OF LORDS.—FRIDAY.

Several conferences took place with the Commons upon the subject of amendments made to bills.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—FRIDAY.

NEW MEMBER IN THE ROOM OF MR. CONNELL.—Dr. Power took the oath and his seat for the county of Cork, in the room of the late Mr. Dr. Connell.

THE RAJAH OF SATTARA.

MR. HUME moved for certain papers connected with the Rajah of Sattara, and Sir J. C. Roebuck asked what the contract of the Rajah was with the East India Company with respect to the Rajah of Sattara, and what the Rajah's annual allowance to him is.

THE POOR LAW BILL.—LORD RUSSELL, in a speech, in which he was supported by the Government, to restore the clause struck out by the House of Lords respecting the separation of the parishes.

ADORNED LIBERTY ON THE BISHOPRIC OF MANCHESTER BILL.

The adjourned debate upon the question of going into a committee on this bill was resumed.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—SATURDAY.

The House of Lords met today, but merely to advance some bills a stage, and the only important work of the day was a delay of two hours in consequence of an Bishop being present to read prayers.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—SATURDAY.

The House met and the Consolidated Fund Appropriation Bill (the last bill of the Session) was read a third time and passed.

Some progress was made formally in other business, and the House adjourned till Monday.

HER MAJESTY'S VISIT TO SCOTLAND.—It is, we hear, now arranged that her Majesty, the Royal Highness, Princess Albert, and some, will embark at Wexford on Saturday, the 1st of the month, or on Monday, the 2nd of August.

The Junior branches of the Royal Family are expected to remain at Osborne House during her Majesty's visit to Scotland.

COLONIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. Macdonnell, the Chief Justice of the Gambia, is to be the new Governor; his successor in the Chief Justiceship is not yet appointed.

Lieutenant-Colonel Robt goes from Adelaide to assume the Deputy Adjutant Generalship at the Mauritius, and will be succeeded at Adelaide by Sir Henry Young (for some years Colonial Secretary in Guyana), who now leaves the Eastern District of the Cape Colony.

DIAPYCNET OF FLORENTINE PAINTINGS AT ETON COLLEGE CHAPEL.—During its extensive repairs which are now going on at the west-end Chapel attached to Eton College, a large number of fine paintings were discovered upon the removing of the oak panelling from the walls of the sacred edifice.

Some of these paintings, which appear to have been painted by Florentine artists between

artists and others. It may be mentioned that some of the subjects represented are not exactly suited for public exhibition, and a constant place of worship, but as works of art, it was deemed proper that they should not be destroyed.

A STRANGE WOMAN.—A singular case is related of the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, who lately proceeded from Königsberg to Riga with a mate, four sailors, and the captain's wife and three children.

On the 21st of August, when in the night time, she came on deck with an infant in her arms, the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, then at sea, was asked, what Captain Hesser and the wife of the said were doing on the deck in the jaws of the storm, and they replied, as we were said.

The three other sailors were ordered to go on deck, and were said, that they remained on deck, and that the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, had three children, and the captain's wife and three children.

On the 21st of August, when in the night time, she came on deck with an infant in her arms, the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, then at sea, was asked, what Captain Hesser and the wife of the said were doing on the deck in the jaws of the storm, and they replied, as we were said.

The three other sailors were ordered to go on deck, and were said, that they remained on deck, and that the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, had three children, and the captain's wife and three children.

On the 21st of August, when in the night time, she came on deck with an infant in her arms, the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, then at sea, was asked, what Captain Hesser and the wife of the said were doing on the deck in the jaws of the storm, and they replied, as we were said.

The three other sailors were ordered to go on deck, and were said, that they remained on deck, and that the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, had three children, and the captain's wife and three children.

On the 21st of August, when in the night time, she came on deck with an infant in her arms, the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, then at sea, was asked, what Captain Hesser and the wife of the said were doing on the deck in the jaws of the storm, and they replied, as we were said.

The three other sailors were ordered to go on deck, and were said, that they remained on deck, and that the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, had three children, and the captain's wife and three children.

On the 21st of August, when in the night time, she came on deck with an infant in her arms, the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, then at sea, was asked, what Captain Hesser and the wife of the said were doing on the deck in the jaws of the storm, and they replied, as we were said.

The three other sailors were ordered to go on deck, and were said, that they remained on deck, and that the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, had three children, and the captain's wife and three children.

On the 21st of August, when in the night time, she came on deck with an infant in her arms, the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, then at sea, was asked, what Captain Hesser and the wife of the said were doing on the deck in the jaws of the storm, and they replied, as we were said.

The three other sailors were ordered to go on deck, and were said, that they remained on deck, and that the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, had three children, and the captain's wife and three children.

On the 21st of August, when in the night time, she came on deck with an infant in her arms, the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, then at sea, was asked, what Captain Hesser and the wife of the said were doing on the deck in the jaws of the storm, and they replied, as we were said.

The three other sailors were ordered to go on deck, and were said, that they remained on deck, and that the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, had three children, and the captain's wife and three children.

On the 21st of August, when in the night time, she came on deck with an infant in her arms, the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, then at sea, was asked, what Captain Hesser and the wife of the said were doing on the deck in the jaws of the storm, and they replied, as we were said.

The three other sailors were ordered to go on deck, and were said, that they remained on deck, and that the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, had three children, and the captain's wife and three children.

On the 21st of August, when in the night time, she came on deck with an infant in her arms, the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, then at sea, was asked, what Captain Hesser and the wife of the said were doing on the deck in the jaws of the storm, and they replied, as we were said.

The three other sailors were ordered to go on deck, and were said, that they remained on deck, and that the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, had three children, and the captain's wife and three children.

On the 21st of August, when in the night time, she came on deck with an infant in her arms, the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, then at sea, was asked, what Captain Hesser and the wife of the said were doing on the deck in the jaws of the storm, and they replied, as we were said.

The three other sailors were ordered to go on deck, and were said, that they remained on deck, and that the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, had three children, and the captain's wife and three children.

On the 21st of August, when in the night time, she came on deck with an infant in her arms, the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, then at sea, was asked, what Captain Hesser and the wife of the said were doing on the deck in the jaws of the storm, and they replied, as we were said.

The three other sailors were ordered to go on deck, and were said, that they remained on deck, and that the *Maestro*, Captain Hesser, had three children, and the captain's wife and three children.