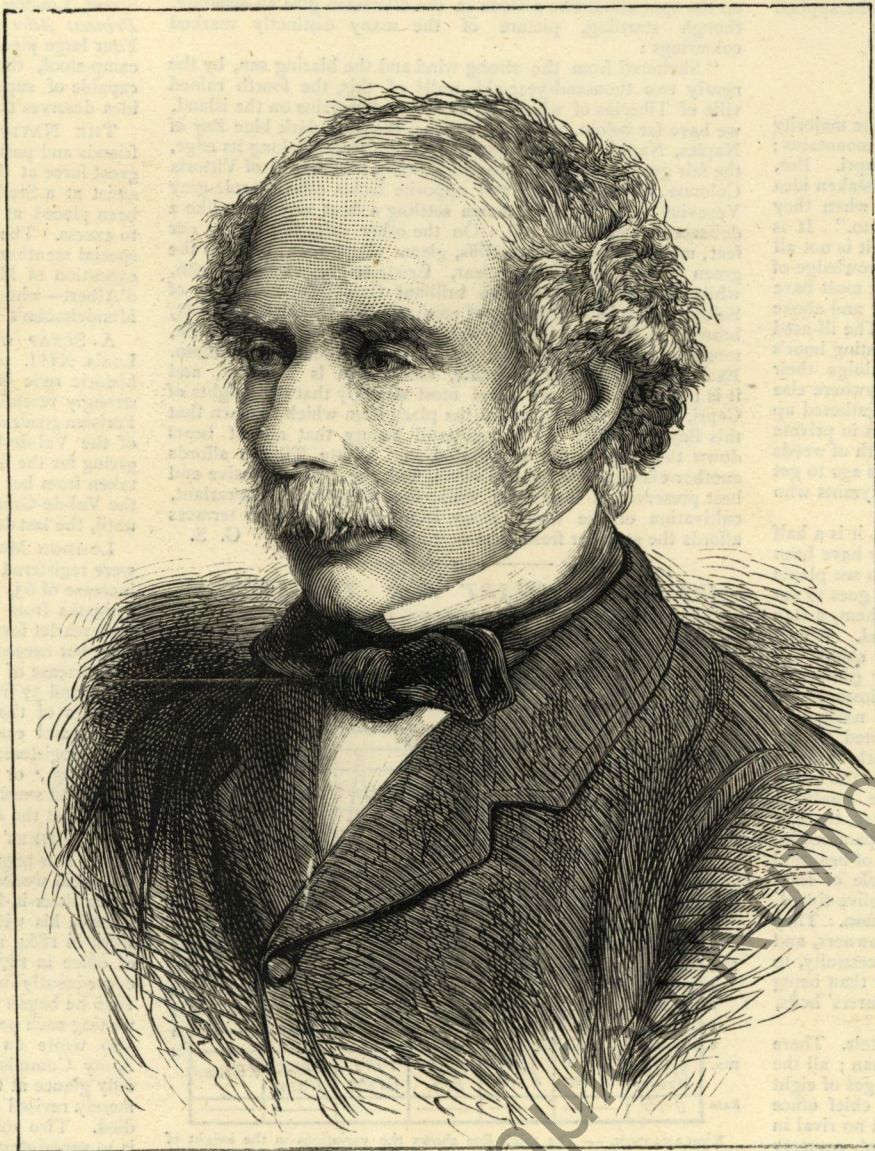


LORD BEACONSFIELD'S GOLD CASKET

It will be remembered that in August last, soon after the return of our plenipotentiaries from Berlin, they were entertained at the Guildhall, and presented with the Freedom of the City in recognition of the services which they had rendered to the country during the Berlin Conference. The parchment certificates were handed to them at once, but the golden caskets in which they are to be preserved have only just been completed. They were designed and manufactured by Stephen Smith and Son, of Covent Garden. The sides are panelled in eight recesses, seven of which are occupied by enamelled shields representing the arms of the Powers at the Congress, the eighth bearing the arms of the recipient, this being the only difference between the one presented to Lord Beaconsfield and that intended for the Marquis of Salisbury. The cover is surmounted by a figure of Britannia; the base, which is of olive wood, decorated with palm leaves, bears the City arms and the inscription, and has at its four angles models of Landseer's Lions on the Nelson Column.

'TAKE CARE OF THE PENCE'

THE Hon. Edward Stanhope, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for India, whose work among the hop-pickers is well known and remembered in the districts where they are employed, has taken great interest in the movement to promote thrift among them, through the agency of the National Penny Bank, of which he is the chairman and one of the most active supporters. The scheme which is being tried is to open penny banks in the hop-gardens at the time the wages are paid, so that any hop-picker who can be induced to become a depositor will, on reaching London, find his money credited to him at any one of the seventy-three Branch Penny Banks now in operation. Our illustration represents an interesting gathering which took place on Sunday, the 22nd ult., at Buffalo Farm, Mereworth, near Wateringbury, when Mr. George C. T. Bartley, the manager of the National Penny Bank, delivered an address, pointing out in a popular manner the advantages of care and thrift in money, and the benefit of making the most and best use of everything we have. We may add that the work of the National Penny Bank is divided into three distinct branches—the



THE LATE SIR T. M. BIDDULPH
Born July 29, 1810, Died Sept. 28, 1878

penny Bank, the sale of Government securities, and the loans to assist in purchasing houses.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT

THE apparatus exhibited by Messrs. Wells and Co., of Shoreditch, for the production of electric light by the Jablockhoff process, and shown in our engraving, consists of a Gramme machine, a section of which is given to show the arrangement of magnets around a central axis. This rotates about 1,100 times per minute, and is driven by any ordinary engine. The Jablockhoff candle consists of two sticks of moulded carbon, embedded in a mass of composition to give them solidity, and are separated by a column of plaster of Paris, which acts as an insulator. The two carbons are connected at top by means of a thin stick of carbon one millimetre in diameter. The entire candle is held in a strong metal clip. Four of these are contained in a lamp, and are burnt in succession, an automatic arrangement shifting the current as each one is burnt out.

Messrs. Wells exhibited three of these lamps inside, and one outside of their large show rooms, the illumination of which was perfect, showing colours distinctly, and, being diffused, did not cast heavy shadows. They afterwards burnt six candles on one stand, simultaneously producing a brilliant light and solid shadows. As to the light itself, there is but little difference, and that only to be noted by experts, between it and the light produced by the systems that have already been adopted in London. It is of a very powerful character, and it extends its illuminating influence for a considerable distance without much apparent diminution of strength. Until Mr. Edison's recently-announced discovery is placed more definitely before the world we must, we think, give the palm to M. Jablockhoff for his electric candle.

PIOUS CELESTIALS IN CALIFORNIA go annually to the graves of their relatives to feed the spirits of the dead. They take with them roast pork, a quantity of whisky, and such other food as a well-regulated spirit of the Chinese persuasion is supposed to relish, and place the eatables on the graves, pouring a bottle of whisky on each as a libation. After waiting long enough for the spirits to make a hearty meal, the economical Chinese pack up the food and take it home again.



THE OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS—CONVEYING TURKISH CONVICTS BACK TO TURKEY ON BOARD H.M.S. "BLACK PRINCE"