The Press.

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Heretofore they were of no use to us, although put up at considerable expense, and since overhauled without benefit, and they were abandoned, as they choked the engine and gave no heat: but now there seems to be no difficulty in that respect, our shop is well heated, and the work appears to be well done.
Very respectfully yours, C. T. PARRY, Supt. of M. W. Baldwin's Locomotive Works.
GIRSONTON MILLS, Oct 17, 1858.
Mr. JOSEPH W. ANTHONY.—Dear Sir: Your favor of the 11th inst. has been received, and should have received my attention earlier, but could not for want of time. You wish to know how our pipes in the storeroom answer the purpose for which they were intended. I would say they work almost to perfection: we can control them so as to make any degree of heat desired in a very short time. A. Buchanan, the man who owns them, tells me he can raise the heat to 90 degrees in ten minutes after letting in steam, and says he does not know to what height he could raise the heat as he never has had occasion to test the full capacity. He thinks the heat could be raised high enough for our purpose with half the quantity of pipes it requires watching to regend the heat from rising too high.
Yours, very truly HARRISON MASON. d29-wfm6t*

The Press.

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1859.

A Plantagenet in Limbo.

London is a great place for indebtedness. Upon the slightest pretence, most frequently upon no pretence at all, tradesmen give extensive credit, and are gulled by the most transparent humbugs. Several instances of this easy credulity have occurred within living memory. Who among newspaper readers is ignorant of the "original" Lost Bourbon, a shoemaker's son, from a petty town in France, who called himself the Duke of Normandy, and pretending to be that son of Louis XVI who died under the cruelties inflicted by his hard taskmaster, Simon, the austere cordwainer, found many London tradesmen to believe that he was the *de jure* King of France and Navarre, and (alluding to the Bourbons, the Orleans family, and the Bonapartists) emphatically proclaimed, "No connection with the house opposite?" Or who is ignorant of bulky Mrs. Serres, self-styled Princess Olivo of Cumberland, wife of a marine painter, who produced a variety of plausible documentary evidence to show that she was the legitimate daughter of Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, brother of George III, whose marriage with the widow of a Derbyshire squire led to the passing of the Royal Marriage Act, which prohibits any of the royal family from marrying without the consent of the Sovereign? Mrs. Serres, who happened to be stout and tall, maintained that she had a strong "family likeness" to the Guelph family—that her mother, second wife of the Duke of Cumberland, was daughter of a Dr. Joseph Wilmot, sometimes spoken of as a probable author of the Letters of "Junius,"—that, in 1815, when she discovered who she was, the late Duke of Kent, father of Queen Victoria, acknowledged her relationship—that George the Third made a will, bequeathing her £15,000—that this will, and another document confirming her right to this money, bore the sign-manual of the King—with many other incidents, equally probable. Yet this woman found many believers, among them Sir Gerard Noel and Mr. Joseph Hume, who brought her claims before the House of Commons, and made out such a case that Sir Robert Peel had to answer it, seriously and lengthily. At the end she died in great poverty, in 1854, a pensioner of the charity of the eccentric Miss Macaulay, nearly as poor as herself. "The Princess Olivo" passed many of her latter days in the King's Bench prison, when she was liberated by the merciful action of the Insolvent Debtors' Court.

In that same prison, even while we write, is now incarcerated a person who appeared before Mr. Commissioner Murphy, in the London Insolvent Debtors' Court, on the 14th of last month, and sought relief from the pressure of his debts, under the high-sounding title of George Henry de Strabologie Neville Plantagenet Harrison. The *Times'* reporter of the case described him as "a tall middle-aged man," and his own description of himself, in his schedule, is a legal curiosity in its way. This schedule, by the way, must mention each residence of the insolvent, from the time he contracted his first debt to that of his petitioning. The "tall, middle-aged man," with the numerous aristocratic appellations, thus described himself:

"George Henry de Strabologie Neville Plantagenet Harrison (sued and committed as George Harrison, known as General Plantagenet Harrison, as George Harrison, and as Colonel Harrison,) Marshal General of the Spanish Republics of America, and Lieutenant-General of the Germanic Confederation, formerly of No. 12 Vernulam Buildings, Gray's Inn; Biddleston; then of the city of Lincoln; then of the city of Nottingham; then of no office; seeking employment in the Turkish army; then of the city of Athens; then of Venice; then of Milan; then of Turin; then again of the city of Paris; then of the Bridge-house Hotel, London-bridge, London; then of No. 11 Old North street, Red Lion square; then of Strawberry Cottage, Chiswick; then of No. 92 Jermyn street, St. James's; then of No. 19 Warwick street, Charing Cross, all in Middlesex, and all this time out of employment; then of No. 3 Gresham place, Regent's Park; then of No. 19 Northumberland street, Strand; and at the same time having offices at the Levant House, St. Helen's place, London, endeavoring to establish there a monopoly and trading on the style and title of Colonel Dundiger, Harrison, & Co.; then of the city of Hamburg; then of Stralsund in Pomerania, a prisoner there; then of Berlin; then of No 501 New Oxford street, then of No. 61 Lincoln's-inn fields, then of No. 7 Denmark place, St. Pancras, Middlesex, gentleman; then of No. 23 Elm Tree road, St. John's wood, Regent's Park, Middlesex, out of business; then a prisoner in the Debtors' Prison for the city of London and county of Middlesex; then of No. 6 Brunswick place, Hackney road, Middlesex, having at the same time a house at No. 1 Albion terrace, Pentman road, South Lambeth, Surrey; and next and late of No. 3 Trinity place, Charing Cross, aforesaid, not in any business or employment, and claiming, by petition to the House of Lords, to be summoned to Parliament as Duke of Lancaster, being heir lineal of the blood of King Henry VI, now a prisoner in the Queen's Prison, pursuant to the statute."

What a cyclopædia of vicissitudes does this recapitulation make! 1. Marshal-General in Spanish South America. 2. Lieutenant-General in the Germanic Confederation. 3. A general officer, seeking a commission from the Sublime Porte. 4. Living without employment, (by his wits?) in Paris, Athens, Venice, Milan, Turin, again in Paris, and in six different places in London. 5. Merchant and banker in London and Paris. 6. Prisoner in Stralsund, in Poland. 7. At Berlin. 8. Back to London. 9. Back to London as a genealogist. 10. In prison in London. 11. Out of employment, in various parts of London. 12. A prisoner in the Queen's Bench Prison. 13. Claimant for the title of Duke of Lancaster, with a seat in the House of Lords, as "heir of the blood of King Henry VI.;" a gentleman who reigned some four hundred years ago. Indeed, as we shall presently show, he went yet further back with his lineage, even to the length of claiming to be, of right, King of England, and so forth.

In his portentous schedule, the many named insolvent attributed his unfortunate position to "Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and Lord Palmerston, on the part of her Majesty's Government, not allowing me to serve as a general officer in the Turkish army after an offer of my services had been accepted by the Sultan, and to my subsequent losses and imprisonment by the Prussian Government." In his balance-sheet, among receipts, was this item: "Received for making out Dr. Wright's pedigree 10 bonds of £1,000 each, the loss by sale of which was £9,750," they only realizing £250.

The poor gentleman's examination developed the fact that he was born at Kirbyhill, in Yorkshire, and was christened George Henry Harrison. He first took the name of De Strabologie Neville Plantagenet, in November, 1813. A cruel creditor objected the Insolvent's petition must be dismissed, as his real name alone should have been given. The kind Commissioner ruled that as there was no doubt of his identity, he should be allowed to proceed.

Then followed the General's examination. He said that he had been bankrupt in 1842—bankrupt again in 1847—discharged by the Insolvency Court in 1852—and again "hard up," having got people to trust him to the amount of over $40,000, though the fact of his previous bankruptcies was patent to the public! Well may it be said that London tradesmen are credulous. One creditor trusted him with wine, because he said he was a general officer, and of sufficient influence to be returned to Parliament for the city of Westminster, if he chose. He further stated that he had been appointed by the Sultan a Marshal in the Turkish army, and his pay would have been more than £10,000 a year, but the British Ambassador interfered to prevent his employment, alleging that the British Government had high and mighty grounds for objecting to him. His antecedents were remarkable. He said he was in the service of the Spanish Republics of America from 1843 to 1846. His pay consisted chiefly of plunder, of which his share was about £180,000 in cattle and horses. He had received the thanks of the President of Peru, and he had been employed in the Holstein war, when he issued proclamations of which he had copies. In 1853 he was appointed by the Seraskier to take command of the Turkish army in Asia, but was prevented from doing so by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. In 1855, intending to establish a banking business in St. Helen's, he went to Hamburg to raise funds, and was arrested by the Prussian Government. *He was the lineal descendant of John of Gaunt, and the Sovereign de jure of these realms, but his claims were barred by the Act of Settlement, which was passed by rebels.* He had been allowed great credit by tradesmen and others on the strength of his Royal descent!

Be it remembered that John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, third son of Edward III, brother of the Black Prince, and father of Henry IV, died exactly 460 years ago. As John of Gaunt married Constance, only daughter and heiress of Peter the Cruel, King of Castile, we must admire Mr. Insolvent Harrison's moderation, in not claiming the Spanish as well as the English crown. In Court, he produced an immense roll, purporting to be a pedigree, which, he said, would convince any one of his descent from John of Gaunt, but Mr. Commissioner Murphy, not considering it quite germane to the Insolvency, actually declined examining it. By virtue of his presumed descent from one of the Plantagenets, Mr. Harrison had assumed that name. Many creditors opposed him in person, alleging that they had trusted him with goods, on credit, which he had immediately disposed of, for cash. This conduct, very deferatory to what Shakspeare calls "the aspiring blood of Lancaster," has a strong savor of swindling, which would have qualified the "Duke of Lancaster" for a place at the bar of a criminal court. After all, the case was adjourned, owing to some informality in the notices sent out to his creditors by the "sovereign *de jure*" of Great Britain. He went back to durance vile. We shall probably hear of him again.

So, for the present, ends this strange case. That a man, three times a bankrupt, should eventually obtain further credits to the tune of $40,000, on his own mere assertion that he was lineally descended from a Royal Duke who flourished nearly 500 years ago, shows the gullibility of London tradesmen a hundred times better than any argument we could adduce. There is no