

## CURRENT FOREIGN TOPICS.

LONDON, May 6.—Mr. Gladstone was absent from the House of Commons to-day on account of indisposition.

Thomas Oldham Barlow, Walter William Oules, and Briton Riviere have been elected members of the Royal Academy.

The Master of the British ship Governor Langdon, from Pensacola, March 15, which has arrived at Greenock, reports that on March 31, 30 miles off Cape Florida, he rescued a man from a small boat who said he was a son of a General of the United States Army, had been blown to sea, and had been five days without food. His name is J. W. Gile.

A parcel of powder was exploded under the walls of the barracks at Chester last night, but the damage was trifling. It is believed that the perpetrators of the act are some Militiamen who had been punished.

Mr. Sidney Locock, British Minister at Guatemala, has been transferred to Belgrade, Servia, to succeed Mr. Gerard F. Gould, who will go to Wurtemberg, Germany. Col. Charles E. Mansfield, present Minister to Colombia, will go to Venezuela. Mr. Augustus Henry Mounsey, Secretary of the Legation at Athens, will go to Colombia.

It is stated that Mr. Bradlaugh is about to issue an appeal to the people, pointing out the manner in which the House of Commons is treating him, and asserting that the Conservatives, under cover of his case, jeopardize the Land bill and impede the business of the country.

A subscription has been opened to raise £5,000 to complete and beautify Hughenden Church as a memorial to Lord Beaconsfield. Six of the windows are to be illuminated, and the interior is to be decorated. A handsome spire will be erected, with a chime of bells, the church-yard inclosed with handsome railings, and a monument placed over the Beaconsfield vault.

In the House of Commons to-day, Lord Hartington, Secretary of State for India, in reply to an inquiry, said: "I have no information about a Russian escort going to Kabul. I have asked the Marquis of Ripon, Governor-General of India, and he has none. Hitherto Russians escorting members of the Ameer's family have only gone to the frontier. There is no British or accredited native Agent at Kabul."

BERLIN, May 6.—The Reichstag to-day adopted the report of the committee, that the Reichstag meet yearly, and rejected the Conservative motion for biennial budgets, but sanctioned quadrennial Parliaments.

Wagner's "Nibelungen Trilogy" was begun at the Victoria Theatre here last evening. There was an immense crowd of spectators, and great enthusiasm prevailed. The composer, Wagner, was present, being seated in a box. At the conclusion of the performance he was enthusiastically cheered, when he descended to the stage and returned thanks for the reception given his work.

The Free Traders are much dissatisfied at the bills recently introduced in the Federal Council for increasing the duties on grist and introducing a duty on grapes. When the bills come before the Reichstag the Left intend to reintroduce the motion for the abolition of the duties on corn.

A bill for erecting a new Parliament House will be immediately introduced in the Reichstag. This removes all ground for conjectures concerning the removal of the seat of Government to some other city, as intimated recently by Prince Bismarck.

LISBON, May 6.—Senhor d'Antas has resigned the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will return to London as Ambassador.

RAGUSA, May 6.—Ali Bey, of Gusinje, has submitted to Dervisch Pasha, the Turkish Commander in Chief. The latter is expected to arrive at Scutari soon.

PARIS, May 6.—The Budget Committee of the Chamber of Deputies has rejected a Radical amendment in favor of the suppression of the French Embassy at the Vatican.

M. Gambetta, who was present at a banquet to celebrate the abolition of slavery, proposed the toast, "To all French subjects beyond the seas, without distinction of race or color."

An address from the English committee for the abolition of slavery was read, proposing the formation of a Franco-English committee for the abolition of slavery in Egypt on a similar plan to that controlling the Egyptian finances.

LONDON, May 7.—The *Standard* announces that the Conservative peers will meet on Monday to ratify the selection of Lord Salisbury for the leadership which they have already made. Although Lord Salisbury may not at once be styled chief of the whole Conservative Party, there can be little doubt that he will really occupy that position. The *Standard* is assured that the relations between Sir Stafford Northcote and Lord Salisbury will be those of close mutual confidence.

An animated debate took place in the House of Commons last night on the Government's proposal to fix the time for debate on the Oath bill at 2 P. M. next Tuesday. A hostile amendment moved by Mr. Gorst was only defeated by a vote of 128 to 122. The more extreme Conservatives resorted to dilatory tactics and motions of adjournment. The debate was ultimately adjourned until Monday.

Mr. Bradlaugh's appeal to the people is published this morning.

The *Times* announces that Mr. Goschen will leave Constantinople as soon as the convention for the settlement of the Greek frontier is signed. Lord Dufferin will succeed Mr. Goschen, and Sir Edward Thornton will succeed Lord Dufferin at St. Petersburg.