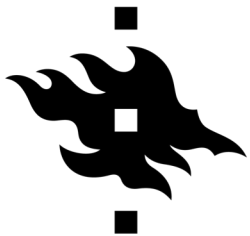


Tracing democratization in (big and messy) digital newspaper archives

Turo Hiltunen, Turo Vartiainen and Minna Palander-Collin
(University of Helsinki)



FileEditViewHistoryBookmarksToolsHelp

FI Finnish (Finland) Finnish Help

Democratization, Mediatization X

https://www.helsinki.fi/en/researchgroups/democratization-mediatization-and-language-practices133%Search

DEMOCRATIZATION, MEDIATIZATION AND LANGUAGE PRACTICESUNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI | SUOMI SVENSKA

ABOUTRESEARCHPEOPLEEVENTSPUBLICATIONS

DEMOCRATIZATION, MEDIATIZATION AND LANGUAGE PRACTICES


Studying public language use in Britain 1700–1950

Exploring Sociocultural Change and Language Change


DEMLANG produces knowledge about the interrelatedness of the sociocultural processes of democratization and mediatization, and language practices in Britain, 1700–1950. The aim is to discover mechanisms operating in the bidirectional relationship between sociocultural change and language change.

[Read more](#)


In cooperation with



Tampereen yliopisto
Tampere University



SUOMEN AKATEMIA
FINLANDS AKADEMI
ACADEMY OF FINLAND



Democratization

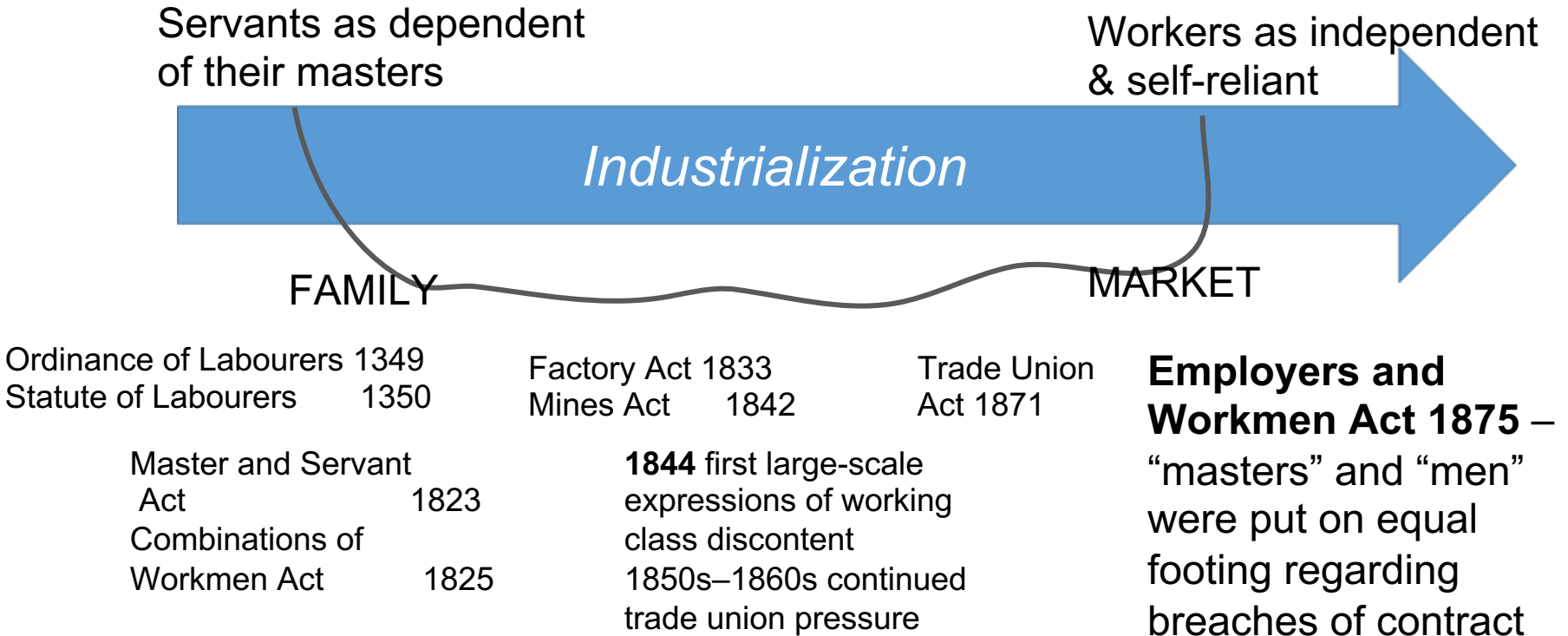
As a political concept

- Specific societal changes through which “[l]arge numbers were given significant opportunity for influence over the political process” (Garrard 2002: 2)
- In Britain from the beginning of the nineteenth century until the mid-twentieth century
- Working-class men included through the Acts of 1867, 1884/5 and 1918; the women’s formal parliamentary admission in 1918 and 1928

As a linguistic concept

“(1) **the phasing out of overt markers of power asymmetry with the aim of expressing greater equality and solidarity** (democratization proper); (2) a shift to a more speechlike style (colloquialization); and (3) a tendency toward informality in language, or informalization” (Farrelly and Seoane 2012: 393).

Masters and servants in the 19th century





OLD BAILEY



HANSARD



BRITISH LIBRARY NEWSPAPERS



OLD BAILEY



HANSARD



BRITISH LIBRARY NEWSPAPERS

British Library Newspapers

- PDFs of a variety of newspapers from the eighteenth to the twentieth century available through an online interface provided by Gale
- OCRred text files purchased by the University of Helsinki Library
- Newspapers as a window to social, political and technological changes (cf. Conboy 2010: 1) and public identities for social groups (cf. Fairclough 2013: 213-221)
- Newspaper language has been claimed to be an “agile” genre (Hundt & Mair 1999)
- BUT: newspapers are not just one genre/text type

Sampling the BL Newspapers database

British Library Newspapers

- 2 million newspaper pages
- Selected by experts in the field
- Full runs when possible
- National and regional newspapers

About This Database

- Fully text searchable
- View entire pages or individual articles
- Save, bookmark, e-mail and print results
- Use [Topic Guide](#) to learn more

[More...](#)

Basic Search ?

Find:

Search for words in: ☐ Key

Limit the results:

by publication date(s) : ☒ All ☐

Year

Year

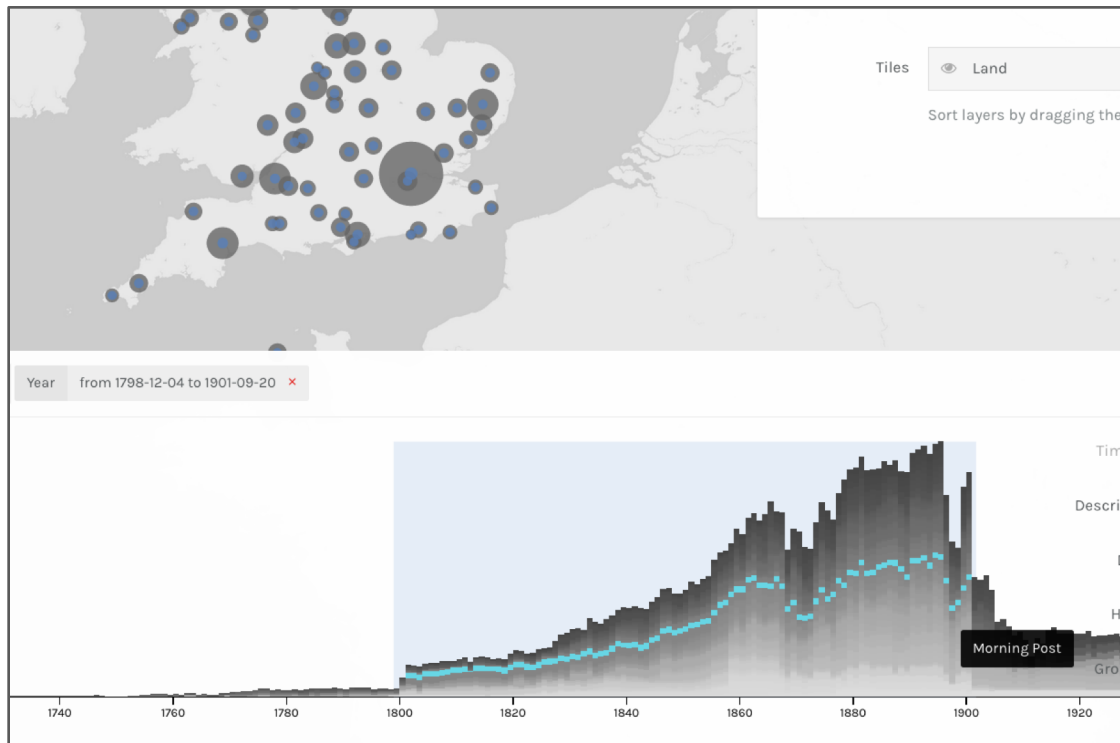
Problems for corpus linguistic analyses

- *Large amount of data*
- *Granularity of metadata*
- *No linguistic annotation*
- *Quality of scanned documents*
- *What is it representative of?*

“The ‘bigger is better’ approach... ignores variation in lexical and semantic phenomena, because these corpora are often just composed of immense ‘blobs’ [of text]... and there is no way to subdivide these ‘blobs’ into meaningful sections”

-Mark Davies (2019)

Sampling the BL Newspapers database



Problems for corpus linguistic analyses

- *Large amount of data*
- *Granularity of metadata*
- *No linguistic annotation*
- *Quality of scanned documents*
- *What is it representative of?*

Summary of the sample

5 newspapers

- *Aberdeen Journal*
- *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette*
- *Bury and Norwich Post*
- *Morning Post*
- *York Herald*

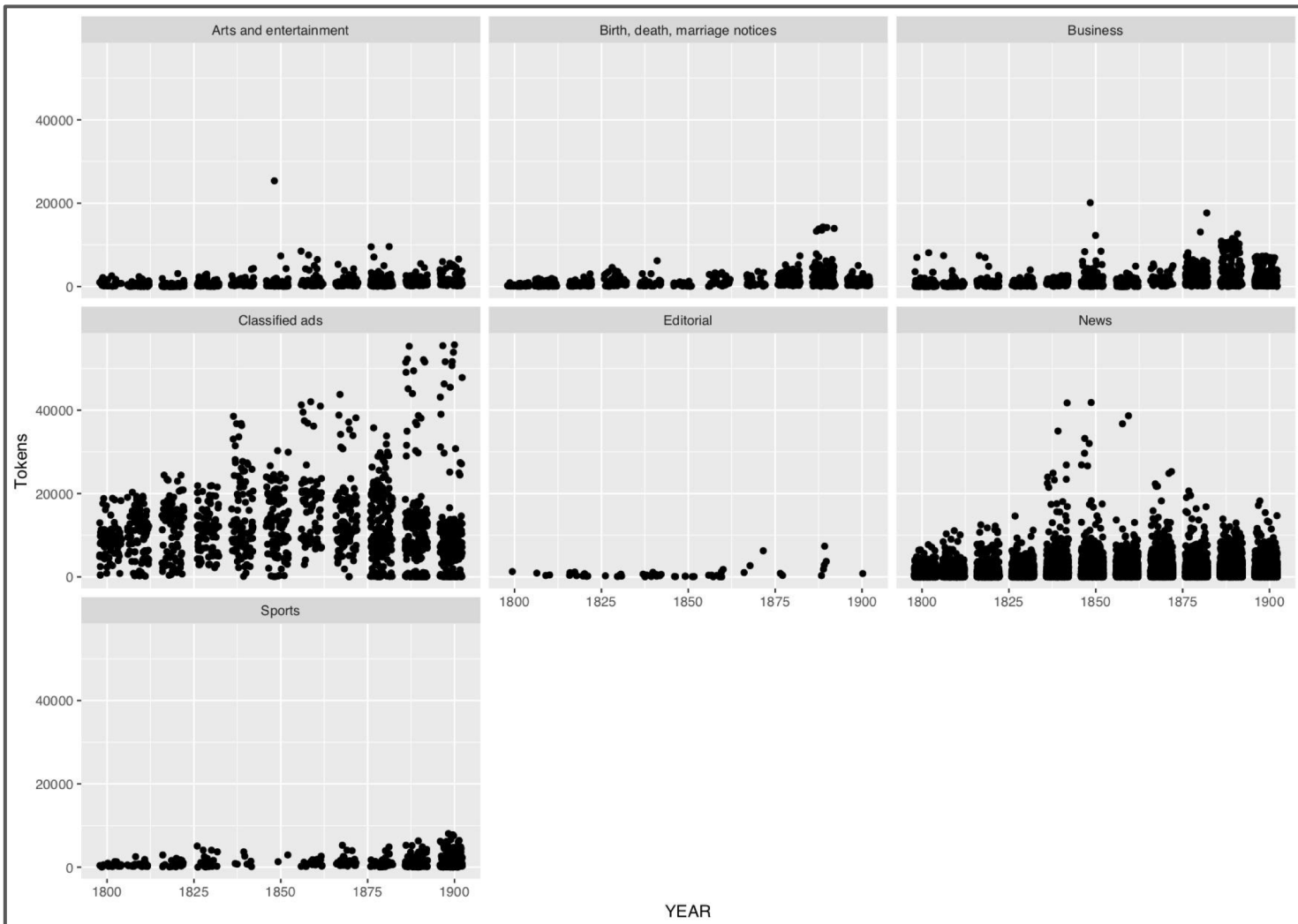
10-year intervals

- 1809
- 1819
- ...
- 1899

All issues in
January and June

Sample size

- 21,000 documents
- 43m words
- Article types
 - Arts and entertainment
 - Birth, death, marriage notices
 - Business
 - **Classified ads**
 - Editorial
 - **News**
 - Sports



Sampling the BL Newspapers database



l*ti,y-- - 1 ' 13 _r ARRINGTON-STREET^ Estab. 1851.
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Problems for corpus linguistic analyses

- *Large amount of data*
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Sampling the BL Newspapers database



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Problems for corpus linguistic analyses

- *Large amount of data*
- *Granularity of metadata*
- *No linguistic annotation*
- *Quality of scanned documents*
- *What is it representative of?*

OCR CONFIDENCE: 77.6%

do not remember the
WESTERN DAILY PRESS."

UT A RAILWAY.

ilway that really comes into
to the outskirts. They bring
down amongst the most offen-
bourhood, which were placed
erge of the town; and they
ircuitous, crowded, and dis-
e to the centre of the city,
first-class shopkeepers who
re about three miles off, from
6d for a cab, or requires about
express train takes in going
wealthy population seldom
Bristol cannot avail them-
at, owing to this difficulty of

iverpool, Leeds, and other
ys go into the very heart of
an step into the trains with-
e, or fatigue. Birmingham
s from east to west and from
pening in the north-western
in stations is placed, close
oblest street; the other, the
midst of a highly important
t cheering to witness the
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on of New Street.
nd leading men of Manches-
anent residences, mansions,
in fine country air, where
ured at a moderate price,
t to go direct to these places
ot to wait for trains coming

t there are but twelve trains
a, 11½ miles, and between
e 22 trains every day, a dis-
s considerably less, and these
ut as the former ones. This
olians are served with their

complaints—"Clifton does swarm with beggars: I never re-
trade." The papers have lately been filled with similar
member, even in I
place has for a lon
beggars."

The correctness
The returns made
32,558 tramps and
infamous character
Report on Vagrancy.
a session in Lincoln
nually levied by the
county one-third of
If Bristol only posse
lation she would hav

TABLE OF VA

On a day in Sept.
1867
Ditto, April, 1868 ..

Thus, in the six mo
and tramps in Bristo
the *Western Daily P*
ber 6th, 1867, that
really formidable dim
The prospects of
there were only 30 b
1867, there were 43 i
Clifton.

P.S.—The above
living in tramp lod
estimate of their num

LATEST

MR GLAD

Mr Gladstone will move in the House of Commons

Madrid, Feb. 28.—An attempt at a socialistic
rising has been made at Barcelona, but it
entirely failed. Thirty-three persons were
taken by the volunteers of liberty, and
conveyed to Fort Mon Jiuch. The conspiracy
has numerous ramifications in the
provinces. The inhabitants of Barcelona
took no part in the plot, and great
indignation is expressed against the leaders
of the movement. In the rural districts of
Barcelona a band of Carlists has been
defeated by the Volunteers. In to-day's
sitting of the Cortes, the Minister of the
Interior declared that the result of these
conspiracies was to postpone the intended
amnesty for political offences.

judge held that the action of Mr Young during the elec-
mob as an approval of
of the several mann-
the War Office for the
lay. The expenditure
al Arsenal, Woolwich,
Factories, Woolwich,
laboratory, Woolwich,
nce Factories, Ports-
Small Arms' Factory,

NEWS.

of Count Dzialinsky
asted six days, was
e o'clock this after-
emned to imprison-

pt at a socialistic
ona, but it entirely
were taken by the
veyed to Fort Mon
nerous ramifications
tants of Barcelona
great indignation is
f the movement.
Barcelona a band of
ne Volunteers.
tes, the Minister of

OCR CONFIDENCE 94%

Summary of the sample — 90% OCR Confidence

5 newspapers

- ~~Aberdeen Journal~~
- *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette*
- *Bury and Norwich Post*
- *Morning Post*
- *York Herald*

Arts and entertainment
Birth, death, marriage notices
Business
Classified ads
Editorial
News
Sports

3,474 articles

4,900,000 words

ants, are estimated at the value of one million shillings. The insurance of the property of the river Miramichi the country has been insured, sweeping away several smaller settlements, where the entire destruction of the property of fifteen minutes only! affording the chance of saving themselves, and a vestige of their property is lost there is believed to exceed the loss of which was insured.

They acknowledge the many liberal offers, cannot but feel that the support cannot be of that general nature as the case deserves, and as the whole is inadequate to afford more than a earnestly call upon all those who are willing to forward promptly to the assistance of the poor.

placed 4,000*l.* at the disposal of the Governor of the Province, whose anxiety to give a satisfactory assurance of the appropriation.

be received by the Chairman, at the Bank of England; at Lloyd's, and the Office-houses; and at the following Messrs. Dorrien, Magens, and Co.; Smith, Payne, and Co.; Fry and Chapman; Barnetts, Scott, and Co.; Messrs. Hoare, and Co.; Sir Claude Scott and BERT CARTER, Hon. Sec.

street.

ER REVIEW, No. VIII.

ains.—I. The British in India.—Sabine's Account of the Expedition of the Earth.—IV. Administration.—V. Dupin on the Commercial Life of Sheridan.—VII. The Arab Tribes inhabiting the Palestine.—VIII. Granville Penn's Mineral and Musical Geologies

aldwin, Cradock, and Joy. published in January.

ENTS for the NEW YEAR, MARSHALL announces a new edition of himself is worthy a portion of

precisely. Gentlemen who intend to dine are requested to leave their names at the Bar of the Tavern by four o'clock on the day of Meeting.

J. RUSSELL, Treasurer to the Society.

NEW CROSS TURNPIKE ROADS.—A

GENERAL MEETING of the TUSTEES of these Roads is appointed to be held on SATURDAY, the 31st day of December instant, at the Green Man Inn, at Blackheath, at One o'clock in the Afternoon punctually, at which hour the Chair will be taken, and Business commence.

JOHN BICKNELL, Clerk.

Greenwich, December 7, 1825.

DISTILLATION from POTATOES.—The

Proprietors of the Belmont Distillery hereby give notice, that they have now left a small quantity of their old stock of BRANDY for SALE, at their Rectifying House in Princes-street, Lambeth, ready for delivery in quantities of not less than two gallons, at 1*s.* per gallon, for cash; with an allowance made to the trade. Letters, post paid, to be addressed to Mr. Cooper, on the Premises.

Vauxhall, 13th December, 1825.

THE BURSTING of the BUBBLES.—Above

1000 additional Numbers of THE AGE NEWSPAPER of yesterday, containing this SONG, were sold; and a Third Edition is now selling at the Office, 343, Strand, corner of Catherine-street.

THE PALLADIUM.—In consequence of the

great demand for The Palladium of yesterday, a fresh Edition will be published this afternoon, at four o'clock. It is now printed on the premises, which will ensure the regularity of its transmission in future to all parts of the country by Saturday night's mail. In the next number will appear an article on the grievances of Lawyers' Clerks—Naval Sketches, No. II., Captain Roby—The Equitable Loan Company—Portsmouth Canal—Alvanley, Apley, Austen, Berkeley, Burgh, Chatille, Cross, Fitzroy, Hayne, Hertford, Mazy, Palmerston, Stashope, Somerset, Twiss, and others.—Office, Wellington-street, Strand. All letters must be post-paid.

A COMPLETE BOOK of INSTRUCTION

for the CLARIONET, developing its power and compass, and laying down the most approved and efficient Rules to obtain a perfect knowledge of that beautiful and effective Instrument.—By THOMAS L. WILLMAN, with Scales and Exercises progressively arranged, just published, price 10*s.* 6*d.* Goulding and D'Almaise, 20, Soho-square, Manufacturers of every description of Clarionet, Pianoforte, and other Musical Instruments.

PIANOFORTES.—ROYAL MUSICAL RE-

POSITORY, 55, St. James's-street, opposite Jermyn-

Apricot and other Fruit Pastes, &c. for dessert and presents. Very fine Pudding Fruits; Citron, Orange, and Lemon Peels, &c.—72, Welbeck-street.

MOREL'S CATALOGUE GASTRONOMIQUE.

Foies d'Oies de Strasbourg, Pâtés d'Ortolans, Bécasses, Bécassines, Mauviettes, Faisans, Perdreaux, Poules de Broÿere, Dindes, Poulardes, Veau et Jambon, from 2*s.* 6*d.* each to 3 guineas; Hures de Troyes, Fromage et Pieds de Cochon aux Truffes, Saucissons de Lyons, de Bologne, d'Arles et de Strasbourg aux Truffes, Fromage de Neuchâtel à la Crème, Table delicacies of the choicest description are on SALE at MOREL'S WAREHOUSE, 210 and 211, Piccadilly: Dépôt de Vins de France des plus recherchés, Liqueurs fines and Cognac Brandy, 30 years old.

BENHAM'S PORTABLE BATH, with complete Apparatus for Heating—a valuable article in a

Family at all times; but in cases of sickness, highly important, as it may be brought to the chamber of the invalid, and heated at the bedside if necessary. Warm Baths elegantly fitted up, with improved boilers for heating. Improved Shower Baths, Steam Vapour Baths, Children's Baths of all sizes, Knee Baths, Feet Baths, Hip Baths, and Baths of every description. At J. Benham's Stove, Grate, and Bath Manufactory, No. 19, Wigmore-street, Cavendish-square.

WATERPROOF COMPOSITION FOR

BOOTS, SHOES, &c., a cheap and convenient preparation for rendering them impervious to water and more durable, is prepared at WELDON'S, his Majesty's Chemist, 97, New Bond-street.—Indestructible Iron-stone Cement, for joining broken china, crockery, marble, glass, &c. Chemical Ink, without preparation, that cannot be effaced from linen, &c. Scouring Drops, that remove grease from the most delicate silks or woollens without injuring the colours. Chemical Liquid that readily removes ink or iron mould from all bodies.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH.—Mr. W. BEACALL,

Surgeon Dentist, 13, Newman-street, Oxford-street, having, with unremitting diligence, long made the Science of ARTIFICIAL TEETH, where mechanical contrivance is requisite, his peculiar study, continues to supply the loss of Teeth, with Natural or Artificial, in a superior manner; without the least pain, from a single Tooth to a complete Set, at little more than one-half the usual charges. Teeth cleaned, if ever so discoloured, and rendered white and beautiful, without pain, or injury to the enamel. Extracting, stopping, and every operation on the Teeth and Gums.—Attends at home from Ten till Four.

CURE OF RUPTURE.—PINDIN and

GAWAN'S PATENT TRUSSES, without Steel Springs, 200, Fleet-street, near Temple-bar.—P. and G. beg to inform

of the purchase. For full particulars of the purchase, to Messrs. W. H. Clitors, Lincoln's Inn, who will give

WINTER SILKS to be

The present state of the Market BROWN and HUBBARD to make which they are now RETAILING for decided bargains; amongst them is a Naples in every shade and colour, as they are likewise selling the following Norwich crapes, Cachemeres, velvet gauzes, furs, muffs, and tippets, with a collection of new shawls, and the usual for which their House has been so much to 75*s.*; silk furnitures for drawing-rooms at a price (for ready money) at articles in use for furnishing.—Brown-gent-street (opposite Hanover-street).

NOBLEMEN and GENTLEMEN

fully informed, that J. RADFORD, Air-street, is making the best SUPERFINE first style, from 3*l.* 6*s.* to 3*l.* 12*s.*; Fast 18*s.*; ditto Waistcoats, from 1*l.* 4*s.* to 1*l.* 10*s.*—The best that can be procured. scientific principles and made by experience in a most superior manner; also Military or richly ornamented in the most elegant moderate terms. Suit of Clothes made if required. Servants' Livery, 4*l.* 15*s.* other Hunting Coats, Shooting Jackets, and made to fit every No. 26, Piccadilly, near Air-street.—for Coats, Waistcoats, and Trowsers, season.

PRATT'S IMPROVED

BEDSTEAD, combining strength and convenience. Officers joining their Regiments, and distant climates are informed, that S. P. Pratt, Equipture Maker to his Majesty, has a Patent for a Compound Rod for Portmanteaus, effectually remedying the faults of the Inspection will convince in one moment Breakfast and Dinner Canteens will be complete sets, in a less space, than a Solid Leather Wardrobe Portmanteau to require comment. His Metallic Bedsteads securing Trunks on Carriages against powerful efforts at robbery. And is highly approved of for rooms richly carpeted without raising the dust. To Military Equipture Rooms, 47, New keeps the greatest Assortment of Bed-

NTS for the NEW YEAR,

*... AS Servants, two steady, respectable, middle-aged people, Man and Wife: the Man as Upper Servant, in livery or out; the Wife as Cook and Housekeeper, or a-Cook in a steady Family...
(Morning Post, CLASSIFIED ADS, 1829).*

