

SUMMARY.

THE ROADMEN'S PETITION.—The men employed by the Burgh Road Trust, have been refused the prayer of their humble petition for a half-holiday on Saturday afternoons. This raises a question of some moment to the roadmen, and one of not a little interest to all classes of the community. The first idea which the matter suggests to us, may be embodied in the form of a query, Do not these men need Saturday afternoon as a half-holiday, as well as other working-men? Our answer to this is brief, and in the affirmative. It is not a question confined to "the position of similar workmen," as the Road Trust Committee have viewed it, but a simple question as to granting or not granting the prayer of the petitioners, irrespective of the position of other working-men of the same class. If all alike occupy the same position, in regard to hours and pay, it is only confirmatory of the existence of a grievance, of which the men employed by the Burgh Road Trust have been the first to complain. We know of no class of working-men more deserving of our sympathy, than the class of men employed in *mending our ways, and making our paths straight*, nor none more deserving of having had their moderate request considered in a more liberal spirit than it seems to have received. We are, however, not without hope for the roadmen, and would not have them to despair of their petition being reconsidered by their employers, on some early opportunity. Their present anomalous condition, when compared with other workmen, is a sufficient reason that the roadmen should have their Half Holiday.

MR. DISRAELI'S appearance in Glasgow, on Saturday, assumed the form of a kind of political demonstration. On that occasion, he was presented with a congratulatory address, on the part of an Association calling itself "The Glasgow Conservative Association," which gave him an opportunity of justifying, in his own way, the contents of the famous Bath letter. In that matter he boldly took the "bull by the horns," and holds to all he then said (not forgetting its own blundering), as being his own in every way. It appears to us, by his explanation, that he has put his "foot in it," and, like the Claimant, having had his foot measured, he has scarcely left himself a foot to stand upon. He says, that he said no more in that letter than he had done in the House of Commons; yet no one knows better than the hon. gentleman, that the sayings of gentlemen in that House are often of as little moment as the after-dinner orations of a county club. One may be readily pardoned for expressions used in the heat of debate, or under the influence of the jolly god, but to give expression to like sentiments, on any suitable occasion, to some particular purpose, is more than public opinion will tolerate. Ben. knew the audience whom he was addressing; and it is amusing to take notice how gushingly eloquent he grew when he found he was amongst such as were prepared to swallow any kind of mixture he had a mind to mix up for them. "I gave it them," he said, "in a very brief form"—(great laughter)—"in the most condensed, and in the most severely accurate form. (Laughter.) Not an expression, in the description, that was not well weighed, nor a word for which I had not warranty, and for which I could not adduce testimony." (Great cheering.) Jews, we believe, have an hereditary tendency for brazen imagery, but such brazen-facedness as this is not common amongst them. The relations betwixt capital and labour were referred to by the hon. gentleman, but we cannot say in a satisfactory way.