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## REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

*Memoirs of Robert William Elliston, Comedian.*  
By George Raymond, Esq. With Illustrations by Phiz. Concluding series. 8vo, pp. 554. London, J. Mortimer.

WE are glad of a work of this kind to enliven the season; and perhaps we may add, on looking at the moral, to season our liveliness. Much have we here of Elliston, and much of Kean; both brilliant in their professional career; both dimmed in their lustre by errors which the sternest must compassionate, whilst the most benevolent must condemn. The one starting with the rank, manners, feelings, and education of a gentleman; and the other from the meanest condition of society, into the highest range of theatrical success; it is melancholy to trace the parallel resemblance of their courses: inflation, recklessness, dissipation, sufferings in fortune and fame, premature destruction of physical energies, and death; as if there were a peril attendant upon the exercise of dramatic genius, out of the meshes of which few, if any, of the votaries of the stage can extricate themselves. It is pitiable to contrast the vivid brightness on one hand with the gloomy darkness on the other.

Elliston was exactly such a person as to supply matter of the most varied and curious kind for dramatical biography; and Mr. Raymond has availed himself of it in this instance to concoct an exceedingly entertaining memoir. His hero was what he has faithfully represented him, a creature of excitement, and sometimes of folly and vice, capricious, full of humours, gentlemanly, speculative to his heart's core, elated beyond measure with his pursuits, vain-glorious, dissipated, rambling, never passing gravely through scenes even of deep adversity, king or player, gamester, yet honourable, generous, and philanthropic—such a compound was Elliston; and his freaks and oddities, as well as his better parts, are playfully illustrated or truthfully impressed in the volume before us.

As it is hardly possible to fancy any life more miscellaneous, the wheel of fortune ever turning rapidly round about, and the incidents bringing continually other well-known names within the comet-sphere of this eccentric luminary into our notice, we shall only experience a difficulty in drawing up as many buckets or spoonfuls from the amusing and bubbling well as will serve to afford a tolerable idea of the character of Mr. Raymond's performance.

Among the strange things related in the narrative is the frequent recurrence of anonymous letters, under the signature of *Invisibilia*, to Elliston; apparently from a female, and marked by the most friendly interest, and a severe testing of the immediate affairs in which he was engaged, implying at the same time advice of an invaluable kind. The party was never discovered. We quote a specimen:

"My friend,—The report of your having poisoned the queen was a strange one; but another equally strange is going about, namely, that the report was of your own raising. I can believe almost any absurdity of you—to be accused of poisoning a crowned head is no common piece of reputation, and will make another glaring

patch in your harlequin jacket. Is it possible you do not see clearly the true character of your city friend, with whom you are becoming more and more intimate? or are his personal qualities so dazzling, that you forget he is little better than a rogue, and will some day prove it in your own case? He offers very fairly, and you fancy he is liberally trusting you, while, in fact, you are all the time putting too much confidence in him. How can you select for your bosom friend a man whom your excellent wife abhorred, on such good grounds? If you deem this letter harsh, remember, at the same time, it comes from one who daily prays for your happiness.—These repeated mysterious communications from this unknown correspondent, as we have had occasion elsewhere to observe, frequently hurried poor Elliston to a state of frenzy. The accuracy of her statements puzzled him exceedingly, whilst the pointed accusations, though having, perhaps, but a momentary effect, yet touched his conscience nearer than any reproaches he was elsewhere in the habit of meeting."

The cheapness of good advice, and its almost invariable destination, to be thrown away, was not, however, counteracted in the case of the careless Elliston; and indeed, when we reflect on the enormous supply of the article in the hourly and daily transactions of human life, unaccompanied as it generally is by any proof of a liberal disposition in any other respect, we are not so much surprised that the wisdom of the most accomplished advisers should be lost upon those who are favoured by a superabundance of the raw material, which they have not the power of working into practical serviceability or usefulness. What signifies teaching how to shut the stable-door, if it is not shewn, or you are not helped, at the same time, to get back the steed? But to return to our task, and run lightly over these shreds and patches of gossip, anecdote, witticisms, and adventure.

"On one of the pantomime nights, at the Surrey in this season, the harlequin, in jumping through a window, fell, with considerable violence, on the other side of the scene, owing to the neglect of the carpenter, in not having placed the wadded bedding to receive him. The unhappy pantomimist uttered a tremendous cry, but was not materially injured. On Elliston being apprised of the circumstance, he observed, 'Ay, there was much cry, and little wool.'

"Mrs. Bland's maiden name was Romanzini. She appeared first, we believe, at Liverpool, about the year 1789. She was a Jewess. Miss Romanzini was a great favourite with the Liverpool people, amongst whom were many Roman Catholics; and the mother of our vocalist, for the purpose of persuading the inhabitants of Liverpool that her daughter was not of Judah, compelled her to sit at her open window on every Saturday, occupied in needle-work; and, in addition to this, she was usually sent by the politic parent into the public market to buy a pig, and was compelled to carry it home herself, to give further confirmation as to this desirable point. To such an extent did the mother employ this sort of evidence, that in the instance of her daughter taking a benefit,

an advertisement announced that tickets were to be had at Miss Romanzini's residence, and also at a pork-butcher's, near the market."

There is a remarkable story of this sweet ballad-singer being driven from the theatre one night, through many streets, by a dead coachman.

After the famous crisis of the rejected addresses and opening of Drury Lane, we read as follows:—

"Elliston was acquainted with (and amongst public men, at this period, who was not?) the eccentric John Taylor, or Jack Taylor, or Sun Taylor, or Oculist Taylor, or Taylor the Punster, with sundry other *cognomina*, all of which he had well earned by his versatility of fancy and employment. Of the 'Sun' newspaper Taylor was proprietor and editor, and had consequently ample opportunity for the indulgence of his wit in stanzas 'pastoral, pastoral-comical, historical-pastoral, tragical-historical, or tragical-comical.'"

This is not exactly true: for Mr. Taylor was at that period the proprietor of one-tenth share of the *Sun* only; and its despotic editor (with whom he, unfortunately for himself and the concern,\* got into a bitter quarrel on questions relating to these very, not ample enough to content him, opportunities) held a similar amount, eight-tenths belonging to the original projectors and proprietors of the paper. Taylor's conversation—though often surcharged with puns—was very entertaining; and he said a thousand things as good as the following:—

"Going into the green-room of the Haymarket theatre on one occasion, he was requested to subscribe a small sum to a distressed chemist, who had lived in Pantion Street, and had been well known to Colman. 'A broken chemist, is he?' said Taylor. 'Well, there's half-a-crown for the exhausted receiver.'

"On a subsequent occasion, Taylor dining with Colman, the latter holding up the decanter, which had just been replenished, observed, 'Gad! small bottles these, I fancy;' to which Taylor answered, 'Ay, ay, as a poet, Colman, you ought to know better than to give us a false quantity.'"

Colman's own name for Taylor was not the worst joke between them. Taylor's form of head and countenance were not unlike a *memento mori*, covered with natural integuments; and Colman called him Meredith-Merrydeath. He was truly a harlequin in the conical circle; and of this original personage we are told by Mr. Raymond:

"In the Italian comedy, Harlequin is an intellectual buffoon. The name we understand to have been taken from a comedian who came to Paris under Henry III., who, frequenting the house of M. D. Harley, was called by his companions, 'Harlequino'—'Little Harley.'

We pass by Kean, Dignum, Harley (not Harley-quin), the Young Roscius, and many others, to indulge in a characteristic description of a less-known performer:

"Amongst the heavenly bodies which at

\* Nearer the close of his day, Mr. Taylor, ruined by his misleader at the period alluded to, and a false friend to the end, was fervent in publicly proclaiming this great mistake in his life.—*Ed. L. G.*

this period were noticed in the Brummagem hemisphere, was the luminary Allsop, daughter of Mrs. Jordan. The lady certainly possessed dramatic talent, displaying

\* The whole manner  
And copy of the mother—eyes, nose, lip,  
Trick of her smile.\*

A copy which nature herself had designed, rather than the result of laboured imitation. In one particular, however, Mrs. Allsop was an original, as respects the parent, for she was one of the most thoughtless and extravagant women in a profession never remarkable as a school of prudence. During her sojourn, in the spring, at the above town, Mrs. Allsop took up her quarters at the 'Hen and Chickens,' and, at the expiration of three weeks, her 'little account' amounted to 40*l.* Feeling 'astonished beyond measure' at this sum total for the mere necessaries of a lone woman, Mrs. Allsop applied to Elliston to tax the bill. On investigation it appeared that the *ménage* had been ordered as follows:—Breakfast, composed of a roast chicken (one perhaps especially picked from the firm), ham, eggs, boiled mushrooms, honey, and Scotch cake; this was followed by a meridian luncheon of cold partridge and noyau, which two meals constituted the first act of the Lenten day, before rehearsal at the theatre. At four o'clock Mrs. Allsop dined—a repast, whereof 'the order of the course' consisted of all delicacies of the season, and expensive specialities. The hot lobster was charged six shillings; the cool cucumber, four; the diurnal bottle of Madeira, ten; and the port wine, seven; fresh strawberries and preserved cherries had due consideration. After the play, Mrs. Allsop supped—supper was her 'favourite meal,' for she had more time for its discussion. Broiled kidneys, grilled bones, and brandy and water, were deemed sustaining after the excitement of acting; and, on one occasion, Mrs. Allsop having found herself indisposed, a few extra articles were in requisition. The Hen and Chickens had also occasionally produced a coach and horses for jaunts and excursions. Mrs. Allsop's chamber was daily supplied with exotics of the rarest quality, amidst which were scattered—

\* Violets dim,  
But sweeter than the lids of Juno's eyes,  
Or Cytherea's breath;\*

and at night the wasted actress entertained the blue devils of indigestion

\* On a bed,  
On purpose trimmed up for Semiramis.\*

On a review of these things Elliston looked rather gravely at the question of appeal, but, as he never left any undertaking altogether bootless, he sought an interview with the landlord, with whom, if he did not raise any demur respecting Mrs. Allsop's debt of 40*l.*, he, at least, took the opportunity of securing a reciprocity of patronage for the lady's coming benefit; in which the manager himself would share equally with the fair appellants. It would be unjust perhaps to charge upon Elliston any participation in these sumptuary offences, from the fact of being on one occasion the lady's guest, by invitation, at supper, a friendly *tête-à-tête* after their mutual exertions in the *Honey-moon*. The supper service was in all particulars multiplied by two; one dish actually containing ten lamb chops. Elliston, who was never a great eater, however he might have distinguished himself in the more generous department of conviviality, was soon satisfied, and, although nine-tenths of the dish fell to the lady's share, he bore a more gallant part in the Madeira and punch *à la Romaine*. Wine

and the witching hour seldom failed in their effects with our hero, and though he and the lady might differ in their peculiar notions of substantial bliss, yet they mutually agreed the moment was happy, and seemed equally of the same mind to prolong it. With a lady so liberal in her favours, it was scarcely possible to ask too much; and Elliston, who was inclined rather 'to feast on the white wonder of dear Allsop's hand' than the fricassee chicken, was beginning to carve for himself. But the lady had been taught better; and some conversation having passed respecting dramatic operations to come, she rose up, and with considerable stage-effect pronounced, 'When you are eligible, Mr. Elliston.' 'Eligible, madam!' replied our hero; 'love is impatient of all distinctions, and makes a footman speak with the eloquence of Pœbus. Eligible!' 'When you are manager of Drury Lane Theatre.' 'Of that, madam, now know I'm resolved. In the mean time, take the security of my affections.' 'You must first clear off some of the mortgages on that estate,' replied she, laughing. 'Of the two, I'd much rather take the first chance.' 'Take it, then, and as I live—' 'I may trust you?' 'You may indeed,' repeated Elliston, passionately, as he again seized the hand of the lady. 'Then it were ungrateful, were my pledge to you less warm. You, sir, may trust me. Will you lend me ten pounds?' 'Madam!' 'Let us open the account with that. Nay, nay, no consideration!' 'The consideration, madam, is positively indispensable,' added he, with a twinkle. 'Well, then,' said she, laughing at the rich comedy he threw into his address, 'you will have more leisure to reflect, the sooner you advance the money. Recollect,' added she with great gravity, 'my credit has been at a greater risk in your company than a ten-pound note is likely to be in my pocket. But, look you—here is your security,' saying which, Mrs. Allsop produced a letter addressed to her by a gentleman, at that time highly distinguished in the brilliant world, announcing that a remittance of cash would be at her disposal within a few days. This promised despatch Mrs. Allsop empowered Elliston to open after her departure from Birmingham, and thereby repay himself. On these terms, the ten pounds were served up, with one more rummer at parting. Mrs. Allsop quitted Birmingham. The expected letter duly arrived, and Elliston, availing himself of the permitted mode of recovering his money, broke the seal, and having satisfied his debt, forwarded the remainder to the lady at Worcester. Mrs. Allsop made her first appearance at Covent Garden Theatre in 1815, and in 1817 she signed articles with the Drury Lane proprietors for two years, at 12*l.* per week. When Elliston became manager of Drury Lane Theatre, as he had prognosticated, he had no great desire to engage Mrs. Allsop as an actress; and as he now felt an inclination even less for availing himself of those immunities to which he had now become 'eligible,' Mrs. Allsop was seen no more in London. In the year 1820, this lady proceeded to New York, the American journals stating her to be the 'granddaughter of the king of Britain.' On the following year Mrs. Allsop died in the same city, by incautiously taking an over-portion of laudanum.

But we must give something more distinct of the hero himself. He had become the lessee of Drury Lane Theatre, in addition to the Surrey, Wych Street, and Birmingham, besides being in treaty for Dublin and Edinburgh; and we are told:

"Elliston, now the 'Great Lessee,' as he was

went to be saluted, immersed in the spring-tides of accruing consequences—letters, applications, contracts, appointments, &c. &c.—found yet opportunity for visiting his favourite Leamington, where he had, some time before, opened a circulating library, in the name of his sons, William and Henry; and in the upper apartments of which Mrs. Elliston occasionally resided, transferring for a time her professional engagements to this rising place of fashionable resort. Here, in his baby theatre (for verily, like St. Lawrence Church, in the Isle of Wight, it was the smallest of its kind in England) the great lessee felt peculiar pleasure in exhibiting himself. Like an emperor visiting the obscurest nook in his dominions, he pleased his imagination with the prospect of the future by the strong contrast with the present; while a consciousness that his coming was looked on as a kind of condescension at this epoch of his fame, flattered his vanity, and suggested opportunities for playing off some of those eccentricities so peculiar to his disposition. One morning, *en plaisantant*, he descended early into his shop, and looking round with the irresistible humour of *Tangent* himself, 'It is my cruel fate,' said he, 'that my children will be gentlemen.' And, on his two sons making their appearance, they beheld their father in an old dapple-grey frock-coat, dusting the books, arranging the ink-bottles, repiling the quires of Bath post, and altering the position of the China mandarins with the veriest gravity in the world. One of the first customers that came in was a short, dirty-faced drab of a maid-servant, who brought some books to be exchanged; and nearly at the same moment a snivelling charity-boy, with a large patch of diachylon across his nose, placed himself at the counter, demanding other articles. 'One at a time,' said *Octavian*, with petrifying solemnity. 'Now, madam?' pursued he, turning to the runt. 'Missus a sent back these here, and wants summut quite new.' 'The lady's name?' demanded Elliston. 'Wyse,' grunted the girl. 'With a V or a W?' asked Elliston, as he referred to his list of subscribers; but the wench only grinned; when up mounted *Sir Edward Mortimer* the ladder placed against his shelves, and withdrawing two wretchedly torn volumes (contents unknown) clapped them together, according to the trade, to liberate the dust, and placing them in the grubby claws of the half-frightened girl—'There,' said he, 'a work of surpassing merit, and the leaves uncut I declare! And now, sir, (turning to the boy,) I will attend to you.' The lad, who, by this time, had nearly pulled the plaster from his visage, owing to the nervous state of agitation into which he had been thrown, could not at the precise moment recollect his mission; when again Elliston exclaimed, with the intonation of a 'Merlin,' 'And now, sir, I will attend to you.' 'Half-a-quire of outsides, and three ha'porth o' mixed wafers,' screamed the urchin, throwing four-pence-halfpenny on the counter. 'Outsides,' repeated Elliston to his son William; 'mixed wafers,' said he, in the same tone, to Henry. The young men, convulsed with laughter, instantly obeyed. Elliston now demanded the paste-pot. Taking the brush, he first deliberately dabbed the lad's nose, thereby replacing the fallen diachylon; and, having sent him about his business, commenced fastening the dog-eared labels on the backs of sundry volumes, and knocking in a fresh nail against the wall, to support a huge advertisement of 'Macassar Oil.' He then seized a watering-pot, and, much to the merriment of a few strangers who were by this time collected about the shop,

began sprinkling the steps of his library door. Having played a few further antics, the 'Great Lessee' retired to answer his London correspondents on the stupendous affairs of Drury Lane. Elliston, at this time, acted parts nightly in his pet theatre. It was here that he told his audience, on taking his leave, that he had reason to believe it was the gracious intention of his royal highness the Prince Regent to confer on him the honour of knighthood; and when next he should have the pleasure of playing before them, it would be the part of *Sir John Falstaff* by Sir Robert Elliston."

At an after date, a seat in parliament was contemplated with equal intensity!—but we must try to get through with our illustrations. The annexed comes home to our brethren of the press:

"The newspaper and 'periodical' applications for free admissions were more than usually pressing—one of them curious enough, which was as follows: 'Sir,—Wishing well to you, and the vast concern you have undertaken, I really wish you *did* know Dr. Rose, whose *paraphrased* capabilities would be invaluable to you. He is a great card at Covent Garden, to which theatre he has a nightly admission for himself and four friends, independent of the privilege always given to the paper with which he is connected.' In Garrick's time, 50*l.* was yearly remitted by the press to the manager for the privilege of inserting his advertisements; while in this day, far more than that sum multiplied into itself is paid by the converse party, and frank admissions also granted, equal to the demands of a corps of yeomanry."

Save the theatres from "paraphrased" friends! An anecdote of the infamous usage by which Mr. Peake, the worthy treasurer of Drury Lane theatre for forty years, was plunged into distress, and obliged to seek a home across the Channel, leads to the following:

"Such was the drought in the exchequer at times, that it was considered vexatious in an actor to apply, on two consecutive weeks, for his salary. In the old, or 'Garrick's Theatre,' as it was called, there was no retreat from the apartment of the perplexed treasurer, under circumstances of cash clamour; and Peake has often been kept a prisoner in his own insolvent territory for hours together, not daring to unbar the door on the rush of his assailants. But in the new theatre of 1794, matters were ordered more wisely; the window of the treasury was constructed to open on the colonnade, in Little Russell Street, so that on blank Saturdays, when there was no money, the *sinicure* cashier might make himself equally scarce, and leave the besiegers to do their worst, on the other side of the double-locked entrance. When not under parliamentary protection, Sheridan constituted the houses of his treasurer and solicitor his sanctuary, where for weeks together he has remained concealed. At the residence of Peake he not only took up his own quarters, but invited his acquaintances to the same indulgence; it being a sorry joke with him to offer his friends a dinner at 'THE Treasury,' where, beyond all doubt, he was first lord. Peake, in his official capacity, had almost daily applications for money from the Sheridans, father and son, to whom, at times, a guinea was indeed an object. For example—

'Dear Dickey,—To-morrow I purpose setting off for Stafford town, if I can raise the supplies. I want 20*l.* to start with, and on the road I have a hoard lying *perdue* that will carry me through. Write me an answer; but, above all, don't disappoint me as to cash—my father gives me *none*. 'T. SHERIDAN.'

"The father's letters were always for money—very short; and though scarcely legible, yet intelligible enough for that purpose; and (except when very angry) signed with his initials only.

'Dear Peake,—Thirty pounds by return of post, and I am with you in seven hours.

R. B. S.'

'Dear Peake,—Beg, borrow, or steal; but let me have thirty pounds, and send them by return of post. Fear nothing, be civil to all claimants. Shut up the office, and write to me directly.

R. B. S.'

'Dear Peake,—Without fail and immediately give the bearer five guineas to buy hay and corn for my coach-horses; they have not had a morsel of either since last night. I shall be with you presently.

R. B. S.'

'Dear Peake,—Give Johnston a little money to go on with—keep as punctual with Kemble as you can—borrow, and fear not. Put 60*l.* in your pocket, and come to me directly.

R. B. S.'

'Twenty pounds more will not break our backs. Let them go by nine in the morning to Hammersley's, to answer my draft given to-day to the St. Patrick's Society.

R. B. S.'

'Sheridan was very anxious that no disappointment should take place respecting his check given to St. Patrick's Charity. Peake was therefore told to have a person in waiting, who remained at the banker's counter till the check was presented, that the money, if paid in, might not be appropriated to the overdrawings.

'Sheridan's indolence was hardly to be credited. In the affair and duel between Mathews and himself, at Bath, respecting Miss Linley, through the influence of his antagonist with certain newspapers, Sheridan's character was greatly injured by the most gross misrepresentations;—he was strongly urged by a much-valued friend to reply to the attacks made upon him almost daily. 'They are not yet sufficiently strong,' said he, 'for me to crush them; but, from the rapid progress they are making, they will be very soon.' 'Then why not,' said his friend, 'do that yourself?' 'What mean you?' asked Sheridan. 'Why, abuse yourself, and then answer it.' 'A happy thought!—I'll do it.' He instantly sat down and wrote a letter, abusing himself most abundantly. To his great delight, this appeared the following day in the paper: it was now 'sufficiently strong'; but such was Sheridan's indolence, he could never find time to make the reply."

At page 285 we do not think the critic, Mr. R., does justice to Mackay's Storm in *Elia Rosenberg*; it was a fine and effective piece of acting, and his Scotch characters of Dominic Sampson and Nicol Jarvie were only too genuine for a London audience, led away by the rich over-colouring of Liston, which was better understood by Englishmen than the purer Caledonian. Mr. Raymond quotes a letter of introduction for Mackay from Sir W. Scott, to Mrs. Coutts; we had the pleasure of one also, and in it, as Mr. Mackay will remember, Sir Walter let out the then mighty secret of his being the author of the Waverley Novels: for he stated a fact only known to Mr. Mackay and the author of these renowned works.

At p. 456 Mr. R. is also erroneous in mentioning Mr. Garrick as sponsor for "the first-born" Beef-Steak Club; the great and festive society under that glowing name having been founded in 1735 by Mr. Rich, the most popular of harlequins, and yet subsisting at its residence in the Lyceum Theatre in the full enjoyment of

"The feast of reason and the flow of soul."

In conclusion, we have only to mention (be-

ing nothing if not critical) that our author has indulged in about half a dozen most magniloquent words; and gone over some rather delicate ground [vide p. 261] something in the manner a Scotch horse, used to it, traverses a bog.

*The Despatches and Letters of Vice-Admiral Lord Viscount Nelson.* With Notes by Sir Nicholas Harris Nicolas, G.C.M.G. Vol. II. London, Colburn.

At a late hour for us we have received this continuation of a work, the appearance of which has created so much interest, that we seize the brief time and space we can spare for it, to announce its issue. It is one of those publications of which (as of two others mentioned in this *Gazette*) we may say *Ex quo vivo ligno fit Historia*, and which must always be welcome to the literature of a country. And such being the case, we the more regret the statements put forth by Sir H. Nicolas in his preface to this volume. Anxious as the editor of a work of so important a description must be to impart to it the utmost value of authenticity and correctness, he has, it seems, used every effort to obtain the best information he could from parties mentioned in the following extracts. But before coming to them, we must quote what is said of the contents of the volume.

"This volume contains the despatches and letters of Nelson from the beginning of the year 1795 to the end of the year 1797. They relate principally to Admiral Hotham's actions with the French fleet on the 13th and 14th of March, and 13th of July, 1795; to his proceedings when in command of a small squadron on the coast of Genoa, acting in co-operation with the Austrian General de Vins; to the blockade of Leghorn; to the capture of Porto Ferrajo in July, and of the island of Capraja in September 1796; to the evacuation of Corsica; to the action with, and capture of, a Spanish frigate in December of that year; to the battle of St. Vincent in February, the bombardment of Cadiz, and engagement with the Spanish gunboats, and to the unsuccessful attack on Santa Cruz in Tenerife, in July 1797, where he lost his right arm. Some of the events described in these letters are among the most brilliant and interesting of his life."

Agreeing that the period referred to is extremely interesting in regard to the personal character of Nelson, and the naval history of England, we read the annexed passages with much dissatisfaction: for they in the first place invalidate the publication of M'Arthur and Clarke; in the second place, they impeach the received memoir of Lord St. Vincent's services; and in the third place, they shew that the present work is neither so full, certain, and complete as it might have been. Sir H. N. has done all he could; but the holders of the necessary documents will do nothing but hold a rod over his head, should he fall into any error which they may have it in their power to expose, for the sake of supporting, not the whole truth, but the representations they have thought fit to lay before the world.

"Although it is by no means wished that the notes to this work should be of a controversial nature, it has nevertheless been thought expedient to shew that the statement in James's 'Naval History of Great Britain,' respecting the proceedings of the 'Agamemnon,' Nelson's ship, in Admiral Hotham's action on the 13th and 14th of March, 1795, is both imperfect and unjust; and that his implied derogation from the merit of Nelson's exploits at the battle of St. Vincent is altogether unfounded. \* \* \* \*"

"After making application to various mem-

bers of the late Earl of St. Vincent's family, in reply to which he was assured that the papers were not in their possession, he learned that they belonged to the Countess of St. Vincent's nephew, Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, Bart. G.C.B., and that they were in the hands of Jedediah Stephens Tucker, Esq., the author of "Memoirs of Admiral the Earl of St. Vincent." As Sir W. Parker was abroad, the editor wrote to Mr. Jedediah Tucker, stating his wishes, and pointing out the importance of enabling him to verify the letters given in Clarke and M'Arthur's work, in justice alike to the Earl of St. Vincent, to Lord Nelson, and to the public. Mr. Jedediah Tucker's reply, in October last, stated that he was unable to inform him of the address of any relative of Lord St. Vincent, who may have letters from Lord Nelson, except Sir William Parker, 'neither can Mr. Tucker place the letters he may possess from Lord Nelson in Sir Harris Nicolas's hands, for Mr. Tucker does not think it advisable that Sir Harris Nicolas should publish them. Attention is given to the state in which the letter from Lord St. Vincent appear, and should it be thought expedient to take any steps, the proper ones will be resorted to.' From the writer of a note in which little was intelligible except discourtesy, it was obvious that nothing useful could be expected."

Sir H. Nicolas then wrote to Sir W. Parker, from whom he received a courteous answer, but such as "precluded all hope of accomplishing the editor's object, at least until a remote and indefinite period, and compelled him, though with indescribable reluctance, to print many letters of the greatest importance to the fame of two of England's most celebrated admirals, written at the most eventful period of their services, exactly as he found them, well knowing, as he and the possessor of the originals do, that the copies to which he is obliged to trust are interpolated and imperfect."

For the present we content ourselves with stating this case, and leave the correspondence for future consideration.

THE MARLBOROUGH DESPATCHES, &c.—THE HILL CORRESPONDENCE, &c.

[Second notice.]

THE vast mass of correspondence contained in these five thick volumes puts us *hors de combat*, as we acknowledge in last *Gazette*, as regards any attempt to offer an adequate review of them within our limits. It would no doubt be easy for us to take up Sir George Murray's masterly summaries, and abridge and re-express them, so as to make us look like historical oracles; but even this sort of performance must of necessity be most meagre and imperfect; and therefore we decline the task. In like manner we may say, it is quite impossible to condense the intelligence in the Turin correspondence, to compare it with the contemporary Marlborough letters, or even to advert to its striking points, and the important light it throws on the history of the period, in a manner to convey satisfactory information to our readers. We must, therefore, allow these Papers to be Apologies for two productions of such sterling value, that they will be consulted in their own integrity by every reader desirous of benefiting by their intelligence, and consequently needing the less any prolonged report from us.

As we, however, gave some brief samples of the writings of the great duke of the last century, we will now do as much for the ambassador.

After remaining a considerable time at the Hague, ascertaining the distinct ways and

means and views of Holland, Mr. Hill proceeded to Turin: and we soon perceive from all he writes that the *sine qua non* of adhesion to the grand alliance against Louis Quatorze is money—money. The following may serve as a specimen of the tone and tenor of the whole:

"Sir,—I desired Mr. Lowndes to acquaint you, by the last post, that I had ordered the payments of your bills drawn upon Sir James Bateman, and that, by this post, you should have remittances for Savoy, which has been accordingly done to the sum of 200,000 *piastre*, as Galdy words it. You will have a very just foundation of valuing to his royal highness this readiness of the queen in supplying him, the treaty being but just arrived here yesterday, with Count Wratislaw and Count Maffei, not yet signed, nor so much as examined, and, consequently, no authority for issuing this money, nor no other justification for doing it, but that every thing must be ventured to preserve and accommodate an ally so valuable as the Duke of Savoy, from whose friendship England has entertained great hopes of very considerable advantages. The wind has been fair these three days for the King of Spain, but is now changed again; if we don't hear of his arrival within twenty-four hours, I doubt we shall be delayed yet another moon, which is not [at] all convenient. I am, &c.

To Mr. Hill.

GODOLPHIN.

P.S.—If your old acquaintance, the Elector of Bavaria, could be influenced by any assurances you are able to give either to the Duke of Savoy, or more directly to himself, we should not think much to part with a good thumping sum of money to bring him into the interest of the allies, and make his peace with the emperor."

The naval operations at this time occupy much of the correspondence; and there are a number of curious accounts connected with their carrying on, and the movements of our allies. The same may be observed of the land-service, and the particulars of a war raging at once in Spain, the Low Countries, Germany, and Italy. Though somewhat prolix and often repeating the same news, as different parties are advised, these details are of much value and interest, not only as pictures of the age to which they belong, but as remarkable subjects for reference in comparison with the changes since effected and the *status quo* of our times.

The following letters are chosen from the more personal notices of the slippery king and the court of Turin, as being likely to entertain the general reader, and afford a notion of the Hill Correspondence in style and expression, so often such as few readers of grave diplomatic despatches would expect.

"From Mr. Hill to the Lord Treasurer.

Turin, 4-15th January, 1703.

"My lord,—I was willing to stay till I came hither to thank your lordship for the honour of your kind letter of the 23d November, which overtook me at Zurich. I must thank your lordship for the care which you are pleased to take of me, and for the powers which you give me of being welcome and useful to his royal highness. He is a brave mettle prince, my lord, and will deserve, I hope, all that the queen and your lordship can do for him. I shall exactly observe the instructions which I receive from my Lord Nottingham; but since the States have assured the minister of Savoy at the Hague that they had one hundred thousand crowns ready there *à bon compte* for his royal

highness, I am sure they will expect two hundred thousand crowns from me. I see I can find credit here for that sum, and shall, I believe, give bills upon London for the value of that sum. I must draw my bills, I think, upon Mr. How, or upon Mr. Fox, who may receive the money in the exchequer, and account for it in due form. This method, at present, will be easy for his royal highness; but perhaps it may be for the queen's service, and for his royal highness's also, when the subsidies are a little more ascertained, to make *remises* hither, or to pay the subsidies into the hands of Count Maffei. I find the term of a crown here very equivocal: for there is not a good crown-piece in the country. The states pretend to pay their share at the Hague in the money of that country, and to pay 50 stivers for a crown, and leave the uncertainty of the exchange to the duke's minister. Perhaps your lordship may think fit to remit the queen's share to Holland also, and assign it there to the duke's ministers. One Mons. Lullin, of Geneva, is gone, by the duke's order, to the Hague, and from thence he is to go to London, to wait upon your lordship. When you have settled the method and the manner in which you would have the payments go, I hope your lordship will please to let me know it. I am, &c.

To the Lord Treasurer.

HILL."

"I must now give your lordship an account of two adventures which I met in my way through Switzerland. Mons. Huguetan came post all night from Geneva, to meet me at Lausanne. He said it was to see me, and to justify his conduct to me, &c. I received him pretty cavalierly, and chid him seriously, &c. He desired to speak to me privately two words, and then told me he had orders to ask me, if it were not possible to find some way of making some proposals towards an accommodation between England and France? I told him I thought it was not possible. He said he thought it was, and desired me to think of it. I told him no, I durst not, I would not, think of it. He asked me if I would not write to London about it. I said I should be obliged to tell your lordship all that had passed between him and me; because I should scarcely think myself innocent, after such a conversation with him, until I had been at confession; and so I left him. I met another man of a very different spirit and resolution; a Frenchman, a Roman Catholic, a white Camisard, who would engage to raise a revolt in Dauphiné and Languedoc amongst the Catholics, if I would promise him such a protection and assistance as was absolutely necessary to begin the work. I liked the character of the man and his temper so much, a man of figure and family, very well known, that I promised him every thing. He promised to come to me here, and I hope to make something of it; if I do, I shall give your lordship an exact account. \* \* \*

"I shall manage the credit, which your lordship is pleased to say shall be sent me next week, as well as I can, and I am sorry I did not stay for it. But the honour of your lordship's letter to me of the 23d November gave me credit enough to get half the money out of the banks of Amsterdam and Venice. I beg your lordship to excuse me if I have been too forward in my payments. I shall hang myself that hour in which I think you are not satisfied with the zeal and attention with which I am, &c.

HILL."

To the Lord Treasurer.

"From Mr. Hill to the Earl of Nottingham.

Turin, February 1st, 1703.

"My lord,—So soon as his royal highness

came to town, he was pleased to give me a gracious and long audience, without any ceremony, to which the Marquis of St. Thomas, minister and secretary of state, came to invite me; and I could not but think that this was more honourable than to pass by the hands of a formal master of ceremony. I delivered the queen's letter, and assured his royal highness, in the best terms I could, of her majesty's zeal and religion for the support of all her allies; and of the particular care which she would take for the defence and assistance of his royal highness in his present engagements. The duke, who is naturally eloquent, said much more than I could in the queen's honour, and that the confidence which he had in the queen's goodness and protection was what most determined him in the bold resolution which he had taken, with 4000 men, to declare war upon France and Spain, almost in sight of their armies. The rest of my audience passed in a lively description of the situation of his affairs, &c. The next day I had another audience, in which I had leisure to speak more particularly to his royal highness, and to say, that, since the treaty with Vienna is not yet finished, it would be thought reasonable at London and at the Hague to make a short treaty with his royal highness according to the project which I had given to his ministers, and of which I send your lordship herewith a copy. I soon found his royal highness had rather stick to the treaty with the emperor, which he expects to have ratified by the queen and by the states. I was forced to say, that the parliament expects to have such treaties laid before them as the queen is pleased to make, and that I believed the treaty which I had projected according to my instructions would be more proper to be shewn than the other. I then observed, that his royal highness expected no manner of limitation as to the 80,000 crowns per month; nor that he would engage to keep more than 14,000 men; and that the prohibition of commerce with France and the article about the Vaudois would give us some trouble. However, his royal highness will, he said, examine my project a little, and speak more to it in two or three days.

"I have only time to tell your lordship that his royal highness is a very absolute prince, and will have every thing his own way. He says he must have 80,000 crowns per month paid him in advance, and paid in this town of Turin, without any diminution in respect of the acquisitions which his royal highness may make of the places which are to be yielded to him by the emperor. For these subsidies his royal highness will not promise to keep on foot above 15,000 men, though he does propose to himself to have 25,000 in his pay, so soon as he can raise them. His royal highness will not consent to put the interruption of trade with France into any article of our treaty; he only promises to consult his ministers in order to come to some regulation of commerce with his allies. His royal highness does demand that the queen and the states should engage to ratify and confirm by an act of guarantee the treaty which is making with the emperor. His royal highness does consent to come into the treaty of the grand alliance which was made at the Hague in 1701. His royal highness does consent and give leave to the Vaudois to enjoy the liberty of their religion, and to fight for his service. We were a little out of humour, the envoy of Holland and myself, to come so far and make so ill a bargain for so much money. We have therefore taken time to give advice of all this at London and the Hague, and his royal highness has ordered an

account to be sent to his ministers to solicit the queen and the states to be contented with what he is pleased to offer. I do therefore expect your lordship's farther orders, which I shall cheerfully obey whatever they are. I am, &c.  
To the Earl of Nottingham. HILL."

"I am informed, my lord, that there are four battalions of the queen's subjects in the army commanded by the Duke de Vendôme, and six more in the army commanded by the Maréchal de Marcin. These poor devils are put upon the most desperate occasions, where they behave themselves too well; yet they are ill-used in all respects. These battalions are recruited by deserters from my Lord Duke of Marlborough's army; at least all who desert from him are sent thither. I do believe, that if the queen were pleased to issue a proclamation, promising pardon to those who shall leave the French, and a liberty to come home for those who should have come into the service of the allies, it would be easy to disperse copies of those proclamations amongst them, which might have good effect; and yet none of them would get home to do any harm. The physician who came hither from St. Germain is called Sommers. He is a man of learning, an Englishman, he says, from Exeter; but he is of Irish religion and temper, and I cannot be afraid of him. I think we shall hang an Irish monk here, for endeavouring to debauch some of his countrymen out of the duke's service."

This mere taste will, we trust, be deemed sufficient to enable readers to form some estimate of the solidity and great attractions of the substantial repast set before them.

#### THE UNITED STATES EXPEDITION—VOL. IV.

THIS volume, received since our last publication, carries us to the Sandwich group of islands, and the surveys of Hawaii, Maui, Kahoolawe, Lanai, Molokai, Oahu, Kauai, Niuhau, &c. Commander Wilkes severely censures the missionary and consular doings at Hawaii, both on the part of England and France; and warmly eulogises the opposite line of conduct pursued by the American missionary, Mr. Richards.

"As the natives," he says, "under the tuition of the missionaries, emerged from barbarism, instead of deriving encouragement from their intercourse with foreigners, difficulties were thrown in the way. The chief agents in the vexations to which the government has been exposed are the designing individuals who hold the situation of consuls of the two great European powers; and through their baleful influence the difficulties have been continually increasing, until, finally, these islands and their government have been forced upon the attention of the whole civilised world. All the laws and regulations established by the kings and chiefs for repressing immorality and vice, were not only derided, but often set at open defiance, because they clashed with the interests of some of the individuals settled here."\*

\* The following history of a royal family fracas will illustrate the state of things.—On the 7th of May one of the unhappy domestic feuds of the royal family threw the whole of Papieti into a ferment. The queen, followed by all her attendants, with great lamentations, rushed into a foreigner's house to escape from her royal consort, who was pursuing her, uttering dreadful menaces. The facts of the quarrel, as derived from authentic sources, are as follows:—As Pomare was on her way to Papieti from her residence at Papaoa, she was met by Pomare-tau riding furiously. Owing to the turn of the road he did not perceive the queen's party in time to stop, and ran over one of the maids, knocking her down, and bruising her. Pomare attributing the accident to his being intoxicated, began to abuse him in opprobrious terms. Enraged at it he dismounted, and began not only to abuse, but also to

By way of an example, Mr. Wilkes flogged from ship to ship two American marines and a rascally troublesome Englishman, named Sweeny, who had joined at New Zealand—*pour encourager les autres*; but still, "this act," he states, "together with the legal punishment of the marines for refusing to do duty, when their time of service had not expired, was another of the many complaints brought against me on my return"—a poor return for the well-timed and exemplary whipping; as he "ordered the sentence of the court to be put into execution publicly, after the usual manner in such cases; a part of the punishment to be inflicted at each vessel, diminishing very much its extent in the cases of the two marines."

There are very long accounts of a visit to the craters of Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea, and Kilauea; but these, and generally all the rest which is related about the Sandwich Islands, are already so well known, that we need not stop for extract or comment. Dr. Judd and Lieut. Budd signalled themselves by daring descents into the burning mountains; and the former very narrowly escaped the fate of Pliny; but the expedition got off with the loss of a frying-pan (p. 181).

The Porpoise was despatched from Oahu for the Paumotu group and Penrhyn Island; and we select the following as the most novel intelligence respecting them. At the latter isle, "an old and very savage-looking chief made signs for them not to land, threatening them with spears if this was attempted. Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold threw them some presents, and received in return a few cocoa-nuts and two large fish, the smallest of which measured five feet two inches in length, and its greatest circumference was four feet four inches. These proved to be excellent food. They were remarkable for their splendid colour, the great size of the canine teeth in each jaw, and a large protuberance over the eyes; the head was without scales, the body being covered with large circular plates, over which the epidermis was very thick and of a rich blue colour, with regular concentric stripes of yellowish white; the fins and tails were striped with straight lines of alternate blue and yellow; the lips were fleshy, and the jaws strong and bony. The men were of the dark-skinned race, resembling the Feejeans, of fine form and crispy hair, with crowns of matting on their heads: the old man had a silvery beard. They would not permit our people to land, and on an attempt being made by a Sandwich Islander, they stood prepared to spear him. Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold, wishing to avoid collision, ordered him to return. \* \* \* \* \*

strike her. Not content with this, he caught her by the hair, threw her down, and attempted to strangle her; which he was only prevented from doing by the attendants, who held him until Pomare fled for her life. Disappointed in overtaking her, he hurried to her new palace at Papieti, and vented his anger by demolishing the windows, breaking open her boxes and trunks, and tearing her wardrobe and finery to pieces,—thus doing injury to the amount of some two thousand dollars. On the perpetration of this outrage the queen at first declared her intention of summoning the judges and suing for a divorce; but soon changed her mind, and forgave her husband on his promising future good behaviour. Although this may appear extraordinary conduct on the part of the king-consort, yet when one learns that the queen has been in the habit of giving him a sound cudgelling even on the highway, his conduct is not so surprising; particularly as it is said that she administered her punishments with such earnestness and force that he would not be likely soon to lose the remembrance of them. These broils in the royal family may, I believe, be justly charged to the foreign residents whom I have spoken of before as being the authors of them; for they administer to his depraved appetite in order to derive pecuniary advantage from these disturbances."

"Before I close the subject of coral islands, I cannot refrain from making a few remarks derived from my own observations while I was engaged among them. My opportunities have been numerous, and I have had every facility for viewing to advantage, not only those exclusively of coral formation, but also the reefs that surround the high volcanic islands, which afford the most safe and convenient harbours of the Pacific. After much inquiry and close examination, I was unable to believe that these great formations are or can possibly be the work of zoophytes; and the arguments by which it is endeavoured to maintain this theory appear to me to be inconsistent with the facts. I cannot but view the labours of these animals as wholly inadequate to produce the effects which I observed, and I was satisfied that the very appearance of the reefs was sufficient to contradict any such impression. The ingenious theory of Darwin, which has of late been promulgated, and which holds that an equal subsidence and growth are taking place, is alike at variance with the configuration, extent, and general construction of the reefs. In all the reefs and islands of coral that I have examined, there are unequivocal signs that they are undergoing dissolution. \* \* \* The low coral islands, as far as they have been investigated, both by boring and sounding, have shewn a foundation of sand, or what becomes so on being broken up. The elevated coral islands which we have examined exhibit a formation of conglomerate, composed of compact coral and dead shells, interspersed with various kinds of corals, which have evidently been deposited after life has become extinct. A particular instance of this was seen at the island of Metia, and the same formation was also observed at Oahu. The abraiding effects of the sea on all the islands and reefs was evident, for they exhibited throughout a worn surface. Some living corals are indeed found at the surface, but a few inches beneath it the reef is invariably a collection of loose materials, and shews no regular coralline structure, as would have been the case if it had been the work of the lithophyte. All the coral islands lie within an ocean subject to the effects of volcanic action, and we have no reason to doubt that they would be as liable to be upheaved and depressed by it as those of unquestionable igneous origin. With so great and powerful an agent at hand, it seems to me there is no necessity for resorting to a cause inadequate of itself, and at variance with the facts. It seems almost absurd to suppose that these immense reefs should have been raised by the exertions of a minute animal, and positively so to explain the peculiar mode of construction by which reefs of an annular shape are formed, when in nine cases out of ten they are of other figures."

To return to the natives. "The vessel stood off and on all night, and on the 16th, at sunrise, canoes were discovered approaching the brig in great numbers, many of them large. At seven o'clock two came alongside, and others soon followed them. As the numbers of the visitors increased, they became more bold, and clambered up the sides, uttering loud and savage yells. They were the wildest and most savage-looking beings that had been met with, vociferating in a frightful manner, and accompanying their exclamations with the most violent contortions and gesticulations: they seemed frantic with excitement. These natives were quite naked, except a few who had on a small maro of cocoa-nut leaves. The canoes contained from seven to sixteen men each, all equally wild. The noise they made was

almost deafening; every individual talking earnestly in a language not comprehended by our party. The tone of their voices was altogether discordant, at one moment high and shrill, and at the next sinking to a deep gruff bass. In their harangues they slapped their thighs with great violence, and some wrung their hands and cried, protruding their eyes, and making frightful grimaces, reminding one strongly of maniacs in their utmost frenzy. They were not capable of fixing their attention for a moment on any one object, but with fitful rapidity they changed their regards from one thing to another. Although they at first seemed unarmed, yet, upon a close inspection it was seen that they had weapons concealed in their canoes. A few of them succeeded in getting on board, and several articles were pilfered from the poop-deck, among them a pea-jacket, which was quickly and adroitly secreted in one of the canoes. A huge savage, with his eyes apparently starting out of his head, seized the man-ropes, pulled the stanchion out of his place, and was in the act of passing it over the side when it was rescued from him. The islanders now became troublesome, and the order was given to clear the decks, which was quickly done by the crew with their cutlasses, but none of their visitors were injured. The moment they got into their canoes, large pieces of coral and shells were hurled on board with great force: two guns were fired over their heads, but they took no notice of them, and stood up in their canoes brandishing their spears and yelling defiance. As their numbers were constantly increasing, Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold thought it prudent to keep the brig under way, beat to quarters, and made preparations to meet attack, if it should be intended. Three or four canoes were kept towing astern, and after many ineffectual and long-continued efforts, a trade was begun for their arms, necklaces, &c., which they parted with for iron, knives, cloth, and other articles. The first they designated by the name of 'toke,' and the meaning of several other of their words was ascertained. These islanders did not know the use of tobacco, but would receive any and every thing offered: on receiving the articles, they immediately thrust on board the article sold, and appeared fair in dealing, though they proved themselves to be expert thieves. Like other natives of Polynesia, they seemed a half amphibious race, diving for any thing dropped overboard with great ease and unconcern. They are of a light olive colour, though darker than either the Samoans or Tahitians, with fine black hair. The old men had beards and mustaches. They partook of the Samoan cast of feature, and are an equally athletic, erect, and finely-formed race. \* \* \* Only two or three women were seen: they were delicate in appearance, of light complexion, and feminine cast of features, with long glossy hair and beautiful white teeth. Dr. Holmes remarks that their mammae were immensely large. The women from their gestures proved themselves to possess habits fully as unchaste and profligate as elsewhere in Polynesia. From what was seen of these natives, they appeared a ferocious and quarrelsome set, paying little attention or regard to the old men, whom they treated with great roughness. On the occasion of a canoe being overturned by coming in contact with a larger one, and drifting astern, an old man seized hold of the larger canoe to save himself from following his boat; but instead of any assistance being offered him, his fingers were struck until he relinquished his hold, and was obliged to seek his own canoe. Few evidences of rank were observed among them, and but

one was seen who had the appearance of being a chief. This was an old man, who was seated in the centre of a canoe, paddled by fifteen natives, who were striving hard to overtake the brig. He wore a sort of mantle of platted leaves over his shoulders, with a fillet of leaves on his head, and his whole bearing and conduct betokened authority. A bunch of what were apparently cock's feathers was also noticed. Spears made of cocoa-nut wood, from six to eight feet long, were the only weapons seen among them, with the exception of pieces of coral. For ornaments they had strands of human hair braided and decorated with finger-nails half an inch long, and two to each strand. Only two or three of them wore short mantles."

Nisqually and the Columbia river come next on the *tapis*, but offer nothing to detain us, as we have no vocation for the Oregon territory or unsettled settlements; and we have had later and more particular accounts of its Indian tribes since the period of the expedition.

We may therefore, with this short review, take our leave of volume iv., which, like its precursor, is embellished with well-executed and very interesting illustrations.

#### THE IMPROVISATORE; OR, LIFE IN ITALY.

[Second notice.]

DURING his education in the school of the Jesuits at Rome, his devotedness to poetry gradually augments in fervour, and there are some well-told incidents connected with that passion. We can only select, however, an illustration or two of the author, and not trenching upon the progress of events. On *Poetry*, he says:—

"In later years I have often reflected on poetry, that singular, divine inspiration. It appears to me like the rich gold ore in the mountains; refinement and education are the wise workmen who know how to purify it. Sometimes purely unmixed ore-dust is met with, the lyrical improvisation of the poet by nature. One vein yields gold, another silver; but there are also tin, and even more ordinary metals found, which are not to be despised, and which sometimes can, with polishing and adorning, be made to look like gold and silver. According to these various metals I now rank my poets, as golden, silver, copper, and iron men. But after these comes a new class, who only work in simple potter's clay—the poetasters—yet who desire as much to be admitted to the true guild. Habbas Dahdah [the head professor, or master] was one of these, and had just ability sufficient to make a sort of ware, which with a kind of poetical facility he overwhelmed people, with whom, as regarded deep feeling and poetical spirit, he could not measure himself. Easy, flexible verses, and the artistical formation of them, so that they only brought before the eye existences, hearts, and other such things, obtained from him admiration and applause."

A sample of *Criticism* is hardly less pertinent. In spite of the teacher, Bernardo (a friend and schoolfellow of Antonio's) has won the annual garland, by reciting as his own a piece composed by the latter; and is so ashamed of his *Daw* triumph that he quits the school.

"He is gone like a falling star," observed Habbas Dahdah, ironically; "he vanished as soon as one noticed the brightness! The whole was a crack—and so was the poem, too. I shall manage, indeed, that this treasure is preserved! Then, Holy Virgin! when one looks closely at it, what is it? Is it poetry,—that which runs in and out, without shape or con-

sistency? At first, I thought it was a vase, then a French wine-glass, or a Median sabre; but, when I turned it and drew it, there came out the selfsame unmeaning, cut-and-dried shape. In three places there is a foot too many; there are horrible hiatuses; and five-and-twenty times has he used the word 'divina,' as if a poem became divine by the repetition of this word. Feeling and feeling! that is not all which makes the poet! What a combating with fancies,—now one is here! now one is there! Neither is it thought, no, discretion, golden discretion! The poet must not let himself be run away with by his subject. He must be cold—ice-cold, must bend to pieces the child of his heart, that he may understand every single portion of it; it is only thus that a work of art can be put together. Not with all this driving and chasing, and all this wild inspiration! And then they set a garland on such a lad! Flogged he should have been for his historical errors, his hiatuses, his miserable work! I have vexed myself, and that does not suit my constitution! The abominable Bernardo!"

Does not this remind our readers of some critics of our own day and London, who are continually enumerating oracles of the very same kind, as if Habbas Dahdah were their pattern, or they were themselves Habbas Dahdahs!! But bidding them success in their vocation, we proceed to a description of the Carnival, as an example of the writer's powers in another line, and one of the most graphic and lively we ever read.

"The carnival was all my thought. I went early in the morning to the Piazza del Popolo that I might see the preparations for the races, walked in the evening up and down the Corso, to notice the gay carnival-dresses which were hung out, figures with masks and in full costume. I hired the dress of an advocate, as being one of the merriest characters, and scarcely slept through the whole night that I might think over and regularly study my part. The next day seemed to me like a holy festival; I was as happy as a child! All round about in the side-streets the comfit-sellers set up their booths and tables, and displayed their gay wares. The Corso was swept, and gay carpets were hung out from all the windows. About three o'clock, according to the French mode of reckoning time, I went to the Capitol, to enjoy, for the first time, the beginning of the festival. The balconies were filled with foreigners of rank; the senator sat in purple upon a throne of velvet; pretty little pages, with feathers in their velvet caps, stood on the left, before the papal Swiss guard. Then came in a crowd of the most aged Jews, who kneeled down, bare-headed, before the senator. I knew one of them, it was Hanoch, the old Jew, whose daughter had so greatly interested Bernardo. The old man was the speaker, made a sort of oration, in which he prayed, according to old usage, for permission for himself and his people to live yet a year longer in Rome, in the quarter which was appointed to them; promised to go once during that time into the Catholic church, and prayed furthermore that, according to old custom, they might themselves run through the Corso before the people of Rome, might pay all the expense of the horse-racing, together with the offered prize-money, and might provide the gay velvet banners. The senator gave a gracious nod (the old custom of setting the foot upon the shoulder of the supplicant was done away with), rose up amid a flourish of music in procession, and, descending the steps, entered his magnificent carriage, in which the pages also had a

place; and thus was the carnival opened. The great bell of the Capitol rang for gladness, and I sped home quickly that I might instantly assume my advocate's dress. In this it seemed to me that I was quite another person. With a kind of self-satisfaction I hastened down into the street, where a throng of masks already saluted me. They were poor working people, who on these days acted like the richest nobility; their whole finery was the most original, and at the same time the cheapest in the world. They wore over their ordinary dress a coarse shirt stuck all over with lemon-peel, which was to represent great buttons; a bunch of green salad on their shoulders and shoes; a wig of fennel; and great spectacles cut out of orange-peel. I threatened them all with actions at law, shewed them in my book of laws the regulations which forbade such luxuriousness in dress as theirs, and then, applauded by them all, hastened away to the long Corso, which was changed from a street into a masquerade-hall. From all the windows, and round all the balconies and boxes erected for the occasion, were hung bright-coloured carpets. All the way along, by the house-sides, stood an infinite number of chairs, 'excellent places to see from,' as those declared who had them to let. Carriages followed carriages, for the greatest part filled with masks, in two long rows—the one up, the other down. Some of these had even their wheels covered with laurel-twigs, the whole seeming like a moving pleasure-house; and amid these thronged the merry human crowd. All windows were filled with spectators. Handsome Roman women, in the dress of officers, with the mustachio over the delicate mouth, threw comfits down to their acquaintance. I made a speech to them, summoning them before the tribunal, because they threw, not only comfits into the faces, but fire-glances also into the heart; they cast down flowers upon me, as a reward for my speech. \* \* \*

"'Luogi! Luogi! Patroni!' cried those who had chairs to let. I was bewildered in my thoughts; but yet who will think on a carnival's day? A crowd of harlequins, with little bells on their shoulders and shoes, danced around me, and a new advocate upon stilts, the height of a man, strode in above us. As if he recognised a collegian in me, he joked about the humble position in which I stood, and assured them that it was only he alone who could win any cause, for upon the earth, to which I was stuck fast, there was no justice—it was to be found only above; and then he pointed into the higher, pure air in which he stood, and stalked on further. On the Piazza Colonna was a band of music. The merry doctors and shepherdesses danced joyously around, even in the midst of the single troop of soldiers, which, to preserve order, mechanically walked up and down the street, among the carriages and the throng of human beings. Here I again began a profound speech, but there came up a writer, and then it was all over with me; for his attendant, who ran before him with a great bell, jingled it so before my ears, that I could not even hear my own words; at that moment, also, was heard the cannon-shot, which was the signal that all carriages must leave the streets, and that the carnival was at an end for this day. I obtained a stand upon a wooden scaffolding. Below me moved the crowd, without allowing itself to be disturbed by the soldiers, who warned them to make way for the horses, that would soon pass at a wild speed through the street, where no causeway made a determined path. At the end of the street, by the Piazza del Popolo, the horses were led up to

the barrier. They all seemed half wild. Burning sponges were fastened to their backs, little rockets behind their ears, and iron points hanging loose, which, in the race, spurred them till the blood came, were secured to their sides. The grooms could scarcely hold them. The cannon was fired. The rope before the barrier fell, and now they flew like a storm-wind past me, up the Corso. The tinsel glittered; their manes and the gaudy ribands floated in the air; sparks of fire flew from their hoofs. The whole mass of people cried after them, and, at the same moment, in which they had passed, streamed out again into the open mid-path, like the waves, which close again after the ship's keel. The festival was at an end for the day."

With this we must for the present conclude our extracts; and shall only revert for a moment to a poem cited from Andersen, which is given in the memoir. It relates to a hopeless love in humble life; but there are one or two thoughts in it, which we think exquisitely feeling and poetical, thus:—

"In the evening oft so trustfully she sat down by my side;  
We talked so much together, I could nothing from her hide:  
She shared with me my trouble, in my pleasure she had part;  
One only thing concealed I—the love within my heart.  
I think she might have seen it,—if she had loved she would;  
For there needs no word, no word at all, to make love understood!  
I spoke unto my foolish heart, 'Forego it, and be still!  
For thee, poor youth, such joy comes not—comes not, and never will!"

She is betrothed to another, and

"Said I, 'Now let me see the world, and by its joy be blessed!  
But I only meant, forget the world that lies within my breast.  
She looked at me, and said, 'O heavens! what's come to thee!  
We love thee here so kindly, where canst thou better be?  
Then flowed forth fast my tears, this time it was but right,  
'One always weeps at parting!' said she that parting night.  
They went with me for company some distance on my track—  
Now sick—sick unto death—they again have brought me back."

We trust we shall hear more of this Danish poet.

*The Agricultural Magazine, and Journal of Scientific Farming.* No. I. 4to, double cols. pp. 68. London, Scripps and Son.

HERE is promise of a very useful periodical accession to works of instruction in practical agriculture and the inculcation of those scientific principles which are being now so sedulously developed for the improvement of every branch of farming. The contents are very various, and all touch upon subjects connected with the cultivation of the soil and the disposal of its produce. We have accordingly reports of the proceedings of public institutions which investigate such matters, and of agricultural meetings throughout the country—notices of new discoveries—results of experiments in manuring, cropping, feeding, &c. &c.—accounts of improved implements and draining—fairs—and original papers; all tending to one end—to inform and guide the mighty interests engaged in agriculture. The publication cannot fail to be eminently useful.

*The Shipmaster's Guide.* Pp. 148. W. Orr. A THIRD edition of a useful guide containing much information for merchant-seamen.

*A few Plain Words on the recent Proceedings in the Diocese of Exeter.* By the Rev. W. B. Hawkins, M.A., &c. Chaplain to H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge. Pp. 20. Rivingtons. THOUGH the hot water in this diocese has cooled a little, the position of the present writer (throwing a little fresh supply of the boiling into the basin) calls for a passing notice. He upholds the establishment, and abjures laical interference. He limits the right of private judgment, and maintains that every doubt and difficulty can and ought to be solved by the Church of England. But he does not shew (page 9 where he makes this assertion) how it happened that the recent differences respecting doctrine and discipline could either (in that case) spring into existence, or lead to the rubrical schism which has plagued both church and people. Where was the authority to settle these questions?

*The Anatomy of Sleep, or the Art of procuring sound and refreshing Sleep at Will.* By E. Binns, M.D., &c. &c. Pp. 505. London, J. Churchill.

THIS is a second edition of a curious and entertaining work (reviewed on its first appearance in the *Literary Gazette*), with the addition of equally curious and entertaining notes by Earl Stanhope. Hanging up its philosophy, as Shakspeare advised in the Juliet case, and not re-describing the system of poor Mr. Gardner the hypnologist, of whom our readers have often read in our columns; we may briefly say, that for ghost-story, legend, superstition, marvellous circumstance, mesmerism, and other extraordinary matters, there is not a more amusing volume in the English or any other language. Dr. Binns is all in good faith, and so is the noble earl who has here contributed his alliance; and they have together made a whole which overflows with variety and an odd admixture of useful intelligence and imagination, if not credulity.

*Reply to the Press, and its Reviewers reviewed, in Defence of the Game-Laws.* By Grantley F. Berkeley. Pp. 70. Longmans.

A MANLY, straightforward, and clever pamphlet, in which the writer punches the *Chronicle*, *Times*, *Punch*, Mr. Bright, &c. &c. in support of those opinions respecting which we gave our opinion a few weeks ago. We enter into none of the controversy, which is now parliamentary, but simply speak of the production in a literary sense, as one characteristic of the man, a stout defence of his class, and a tolerable sample of ability in carrying the war into the enemy's quarters.

*The Gitana: a Tale.* 3 vols. Saunders and Otley.

AFTER Mr. James, it is dangerous to meddle with gypsies. High-flown and romantic to the last degree, and containing the average number of love-affairs, cruel stern fathers, mysterious events and personages, woes and joys, and winding up with the usual melodramatic finale, the matrimonial felicity of the long-tried and well-nigh despairing lovers,—the present may take its run in the circulating libraries.

*The Antiquarian and Architectural Year-Book for 1844.* 8vo, pp. 456. London, T. C. Newby. THERE never was a year so rich in materials as the last, 1844, for starting an annual of this kind. The Archaeological meeting at Canterbury, and the new spirit of inquiry and research infused into the country, have produced many new and interesting results, the gathering of which into a repository like this is a work of present and permanent utility. In doing so, it appears to us that both diligence and judg-

ment have been employed; and we therefore cordially recommend the *Year-Book* to the lovers of antiquarian information.

*Supplement to the Penny Cyclopædia. Part I.* Double columns, pp. 96. Knight.

THIS supplement bids fair to rival the *Cyclopædia* itself in bulk, for it only reaches the name Amberger in these ninety-six spacious and closely-printed pages. In every respect it so closely resembles the original publication as to require no comment; and those who possess the former had better put themselves in communication with the latter, the object of which is to perfect or complete the work of reference.

*"Effects" and Adventures of Raby Rattler, Gent.* 8vo, pp. 645. London, Saunders and Otley.

*Raby Rattler* is one of that species of familiar and, so to speak, a little slangish tales, which have become the running part of magazines—the thread or staple near which the genuine and distinct periodical papers are hung. It is embellished in the usual way, and introduces characters of every possible description in life.

*Waverley Novels, Abbotsford Edition.* Vol. VII. Edinburgh, R. Cadell.

*The Fortunes of Nigel and Peveril of the Peak*, enriched by a multitude of copper-plate and wood engravings, are contained in this handsome volume, which worthily sustains the great attractions of the Abbotsford Edition.

*Philological Proofs of the Original Unity and Recent Origin of the Human Race, &c.* By A. J. Johns, Esq. 8vo, pp. circ. 275. London, S. Clarke; Llandoverly, Rees.

WITH much learned research, and from a curious analytical comparative tabular view of coincidences between the language of Africa and the languages of Europe, Asia, and America, Mr. Johns contends for the propositions asserted in his title-page. As a repository of much remarkable matter of considerable value to philologists, we can safely recommend it as a literary book; but we must at the same time confess that its arguments, though held to be so conclusive by the writer, have failed to convince us.

#### ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

DISCOVERY OF THE SOURCES OF THE WHITE NILE.

Cairo, Jan. 21, 1845.

WE have received the following letter from Mr. Antony Abadie, dated Adoa, 17th October, 1844:—

"I have just returned from a journey to Kafa and Enarea, and have discovered the sources of the White Nile. They are in the country of the Gmura (Gamora, or Gamru), a people whose language is like that spoken in the country of Kafa. The mountains Bochi, or Dochi, rise by the side of the source; so that, strictly speaking, we might say, Gamru Mountains. As the word 'Gamr' means in Arabic 'the moon,' we have here the explanation of the term 'Mountains of the Moon,' circulated in ancient times. The sources of the Abbey of Didese, or of the western arm of the Abbey, or White Nile, are swamps, which confirms the statement of Ptolemy. As I have a Docko in my service, it was easy for me to correct a report taken up on hearsay, and supported by a passage in Herodotus, which some travellers have recently circulated, of the pretended people of dwarfs (the Docko). My Docko was only 18 centimetres shorter than myself; so that he was indeed rather short, but very far from being a dwarf. All my inquiries to discover such a people were in vain; but the people speak of a race of

dwarf wild elephants in the country of the Docko."

(From another Correspondent.)

Cairo, Jan. 21.

"Mr. Fremel, the celebrated orientalist, and author of the *Mémoire sur la Licorne*, has been here for days past, engaged in the study of the ancient Himyaric inscriptions which Mr. Arnaud discovered in Yemou. Professor Lepsius is prosecuting his successful researches in Thebes, Luxor, and Karnak; and does not think of being here till the summer. Interesting excavations have been made under his direction in the temple of Rhamse; so that it is now, for the first time, possible to give a complete plan of that splendid edifice. In the western royal hall some traces have been found of a king hitherto unknown.

#### ARTS AND SCIENCES.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

HAVING on Saturday week (*Lit. Gaz.* No. 1466) communicated to our readers the particulars of the appointments and the course of the voyage to be pursued by the new Arctic Expedition, we have now to add in regard to its progress, that Captain Crozier has (as was expected) arrived from the continent to take the command of his old ship, the *Terror*; and that volunteers have been flocking in from all quarters. The alterations we mentioned are proceeding with as much speed as may be, and will probably be completed in six weeks; so that the vessels may sail at the best season, *i. e.* the first week in May, at latest. On Tuesday, the *Erebus* and *Terror* were commissioned, and the following list of officers, from Woolwich, appears in the newspapers:—To the *Erebus*: Captain Sir John Franklin, K.C.H., to have the command of the expedition; Commander James Fitzjames (1842), formerly commander of the *Clio*, 16-gun sloop, on the East Indian station; Lieutenant Henry T. D. Le Vesconte (1841), formerly serving in the *Clio*; mate, Charles F. Des Vœux (1844), from the Excellent, gunnery-ship at Portsmouth; second master, H. F. Collins, from the Sheerwater steam-vessel, employed by Captain Washington in the surveying service; clerk, G. F. Pinhorn; gunner, J. G. Robinson; boatswain, J. G. Terry; carpenter, W. Weekes. To the *Terror*: Captain F. R. M. Crozier (1841); Lieutenant Edward Little (1837); Lieutenant G. H. Hodgson (1842); carpenter, Thomas Honey.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

Feb. 21st.—Mr. Griffiths, "On the chemistry of prussic acid," first referred to the elementary or simple bodies which constitute as it were the alphabet of chemistry, their powers of combination both primary and secondary; and selecting only a few, *viz.* carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen, iron, potassium, mercury, and silver, stated that the investigation of their chemical affinities alone opened a field of philosophical inquiry so extensive, that the lifetime of the most diligent, the most assiduous experimenter might be passed in examining its treasures and wonders. He then explained and illustrated the constitution and characteristics of the cyanides, which unite with each other and form double compounds. Prussic acid is a cyanide of hydrogen, or hydrocyanic acid, but familiarly called prussic acid from being originally obtained from Prussian blue, a colour accidentally discovered at Berlin. If cyanide of mercury were heated with hydrochloric acid, cyanogen and hydrogen combined and produced real or anhydrous prussic acid. This is consi-



dered the most deadly of all poisons, causing death upon contact with the tongue, or with any part of the body, and also upon inhaling its vapour. The experiment of forming this anhydrous prussic acid is most dangerous, and should not be attempted excepting by an able operator; the process was in operation during the hour, and about a drachm obtained. The ultimate elements of the compound are, carbon 12, nitrogen 14, and hydrogen 1 part, by weight. The method of producing diluted prussic acid, for medicinal use, from ferrocyanide of potassium and diluted sulphuric acid, according to the directions of the London Pharmacopoeia, was next experimentally shewn, and its theory explained. Such acid should contain only 2 per cent of the real or anhydrous; and the method of ascertaining its strength and fitness for the above purpose, by means of nitrate of silver, was dwelt upon in some detail. Though containing only so small a per centage, the diluted acid is virulently poisonous; and its production by the distillation of bitter almond-cake with water in the form of essential oil of almonds, drew forth many curious and interesting points relative to the chemistry of organic matter. For example, bitter almonds do not contain prussic acid; but when moistened, even as by chewing, the poison is formed by a new arrangement of ultimate elements. The danger of using essential oil of bitter almonds as a perfume for soap, pomade, bandoline, and fixature, was mentioned, as likewise the existence of prussic acid in laurel-water; and then Mr. Griffiths came to the principal part of his subject. He said, since prussic acid has been so largely produced for the uses of medicine and the arts, we have been frequently appalled by lamentable examples in which it has either been accidentally taken by mistake, or resorted to as a means of self-destruction, or wilfully administered as an agent of murder. In all such cases the chemist is called upon to detect and pronounce upon the nature of the poison at the *post-mortem* examination, and it requires the exertion of all his knowledge and skill in manipulation before he can give his opinion with precision and fidelity. The important point upon which he must be guarded is this—to satisfy himself by every possible means that from the suspected matters brought to him for analysis he can *educer* or draw forth the prussic acid therein existent, and to beware that from harmless yet highly suspicious matters submitted to his re-agents he does not *produce* prussic acid by a new arrangement of ultimate elements. From animal matter and potassa was produced cyanide of potassium, and from it was produced prussic acid by the agency of hydrogen. Mr. Griffiths says that the only certain test of prussic acid is binoxide of mercury; and that the chemist could not present an antidote in a case of poisoning by prussic acid.

Feb. 28th.—Prof. Latham, "On the origin of the American races." The observations of the learned professor were directed to prove the affinities of the American races with one another and with other nations, as shewn by the relations of languages, rather than by physical relations of bodily form. In North America eleven groups of languages have been arranged by philologists, which are divisible into many dialects, some composed of as many as thirty-five: these groups, however, are not distinct languages, like the African and English, but are fused and amalgamated one into the other; some have, however, not been classified, their vocabulary being very small. In South America seven groups have been composed in the same way; and the number of languages which may be

classified under these is very great: the Warow is the most isolated; but the Presheray, the language of Terra del Fuego, hitherto unfixed, is, in the opinion of Dr. Latham, of the Patagonian class. The professor next proceeded to the connexion of the languages of America with those of the Old World. In order to shew this, the most distant group was referred to—the Indo-European. This group he arranged in pairs—the Welsh and Gallic, English and German, Latin and Greek, Persian and Hindoo. The oldest forms of the members of this group exhibit the greatest resemblance; it is the best understood of any; but we are not yet in a position to shew its affinities with the American, although Dr. Latham thinks it can be done. The next well-studied class is the Semitic, containing the Abyssinian, Arabian, Egyptian, and those of Tunis, Morocco, and Algiers, allied to the Hebrew and ancient Phœnician. Next come the Negro languages; these also are to be dealt with as distinct from all others. To illustrate the subject, it is important to notice four distinct groups—Central Asiatic, American, Semitic, Indo-European. In the languages of China, the Birmanese empire, and Siam, from China north to Malacca, the differences have been much exaggerated: we may break down these, and fuse them into one general body, called monosyllabic, composed of many languages, which are further reducible into many others. The professor briefly referred to the views of philologists as to primitive languages, which are considered to have been monosyllabic, from which have gradually grown the more compound languages; various simple roots, which differ from one another, being combined to form new words, as in the name "barndoor-fowl." The difficulty in the study of the American languages arises greatly from the very complicated structure of the words, all being polysyllabic, made up often of seventeen syllables, and the roots themselves compound. Thus the elements of these languages are disguised; but philologists have succeeded in decomposing these compound words, and find that their simplest roots are analogous to words of the monosyllabic family—the languages of Asia. As another example of the skill and learning of philologists, Dr. Latham mentioned that the Caucasian languages spoken between the Black and Caspian Seas, which were forty years ago dealt with as thirty different languages, are now reduced to four; and these are proved to have affinities with the distant monosyllabic group; the Georgian is analogous to the Chinese, and the Circassian to the Thibetian. Why, then, asked the learned professor, have we an African, a Polynesian, and a European hypothesis concerning the peopling of America, instead of the common-sense view of the case? for we actually find that the Esquimaux and Greenland languages are mutually intelligible, as much so as English and low Scotch; then the likeness of the Esquimaux to the American is evident, though not till lately insisted upon. In one part of America the Colooch language and the Esquimaux are mixed together; in fact, all the American groups may be traced into the Esquimaux: still further, the Esquimaux may be traced to the Kamskadale, the Aleutian, the Japanese, and even to the Korean, thus leading to the monosyllabic languages: also from Lapland, throughout the whole northern regions to the Esquimaux, there is one linked language. Dr. L. next referred to the Polynesian languages, or the Malay group. Throughout the islands from Malacca to the most eastern island, and even to Madagascar, the same language may be traced; and they are all derived from the

monosyllabic group. Out of the Chinese we can form these oceanic languages, which may be called the Italian of the monosyllabic languages. As interesting subjects for study and research, we were told that in Malacca, Andaman, central Sumatra, Borneo, &c. is found a black race, not negroes, surrounded by Malays, but speaking a distinct language; so in New Guinea, New Ireland, we find the same people, in Australia and Van Dieman's Land the same race. With reference to the affinities of these people and their language, we have as yet no mature theory: it is highly curious, however, that some of the Andaman words are identical with those of languages in the very centre of North America—not universal terms, such as God, life, wind, &c., but those which refer to local objects. It has been conjectured that this language may have existed before the American. Some languages have not yet been connected or fixed to any group, as the Basque—the native language of Biscay, and the Tamul of the northern part of Ceylon and the Dekhan.

## GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 26th.—Mr. Horner, president, in the chair. A paper was read by Mr. Lyell, "On the miocene tertiary strata of Maryland, Virginia, and North and South Carolina." These rocks of the middle tertiary period are chiefly exhibited between the hill country and the Atlantic, and form a band of low and nearly level country, about a hundred and fifty miles wide, and not a hundred feet high. They are assumed to belong to this period because they are seen resting on the eocene deposits, and exhibit the same proportion of recent species. The United States miocene beds consist chiefly of incoherent sand and clay; and the sandy beds, otherwise barren, have often been fertilised by the use of shell-marl. In the suburbs of Richmond, Virginia, there is, however, a remarkable bed of siliceous sand derived from the cases of infusorial animalcules. The paper was accompanied by comparative tables and lists of the fossils.

2. A paper, also by Mr. Lyell, "On the white limestone and other eocene tertiary formations of Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia." The eocene beds extend chiefly to the south of the miocenes described in the foregoing paper, and are very widely spread in the southern states on the shores of the Atlantic. The mineral character of the beds in the north is so like that of the cretaceous series, that were it not for the fossils they might readily be mistaken; but towards the south a new mineral type is put on, and the rocks consist of highly calcareous white marl and white limestone. In point of fact there seems to be as great a chasm between the cretaceous rocks and the tertiaries in America as in Europe. A second part of Mr. Lyell's paper gave an account of a series of rocks called in America the burr-stone, a siliceous rock containing fossil sponges, and belonging, it would seem, to the upper division of the eocene period.

## SOCIETY OF ARTS.

Feb. 5th.—Mr. Joseph Hume, V.P., in the chair. The secretary read a paper by Mr. E. Dalton, "On the construction of models for an ethnographical museum, and the materials best suited for the purpose." The design for an ethnographical museum for the illustration and study of mankind originated with the author more than a year ago; and the object of the present paper is to bring forward the general advantages of such an institution, and the result of inquiries and experiments as to the material best suited for the construction of models suitable for carrying out this important de-

sign. Besides wax, the author mentions papier-maché, the cannabic composition, wood, and a particular description of clay found at a depth of 150 feet below the general level of London, as substances which might be used for ethnographical models; the two former, however, require iron moulds for the casts, which would render their expense considerable; the expense of models constructed of wood is also against that material. Several beautiful and well-executed models by M. Sangiovani were placed on the table, all of which were made of the clay above alluded to, which, in some respects, assimilates to the pipeclay used by modellers, but has more substance, and is less fragile; indeed, when dry it is so hard as almost to resist the file. In appearance it is very similar to hardstone or metal, particularly when oiled over. It takes oil-colours in a permanent manner.

## PARIS LETTER.

Paris, March 1, 1845.

*Academy of Sciences*: sittings of 19th and 26th February.—A commission composed of MM. Gambey, Rayer, Velpase, and Magendie, reported on an artificial arm, presented to the Academy by M. Van Petersen. They had seen the apparatus applied to five mutilated individuals, and amongst them to an invalid deprived of both arms. By means of two artificial arms, he took with the hand a full glass, carried it to his mouth, tossed it off without spilling a drop, and returned it to the table whence he had taken it. He also can pick up a pin, lay hold of a sheet of paper, &c. The report declared the mechanism of the artificial arm to be deserving of the approbation of the Academy.

M. Liouville announced the subject of the mathematical prize for 1846, which may be stated as follows:—to perfect in some essential point the theory of transcendental functions resulting from the integrals of algebraic quantities. The prize will consist of a gold medal of the value of 3000 francs. The papers, with the usual arrangements for the names of the authors, must be sent in before the 1st October, 1846. The subject was agreed upon by MM. Arago, Binet, Poinso, Cauchy, and Liouville.

The shocks of the earthquake at Guiana in August last were not felt in the alluvial districts.

The report on the collections of zoology and botany made in Abyssinia by MM. Petit and Quartin Dillon, in the expedition commanded by M. Lefebvre, expressed a wish that Government, who ordered the expedition, would furnish M. Lefebvre with means to publish the valuable scientific results. The Academy coincided in this wish; and a copy of the report will be sent to the minister of marine.

M. Dezeimeris' views in regard to the agriculture of France were, that too much of the land was devoted to corn-culture, and not enough to pasture: he sought to prove, by examples from all ages and all countries, that the revenues of the soil would be greatly increased by an opposite course.

M. Langlois' paper on the action of sulphurous acid on the alkaline mono-sulphurets concluded with several facts which he had observed relative to the action of some strong acids on hyposulphites, sulpho-hyposulphates, and bisulphuretted hyposulphates. When these salts are dissolved in water, sulphuric and chloro-hydric acids, as is known, decompose the hyposulphites, and have no apparent action on the others. But if their crystals are treated with the same acids, a disengagement of sulpho-hydric acid under certain conditions is observed with all. The chloro-hydric acid, in order to act, requires a slightly elevated temperature.

The cause of the production of sulpho-hydric acid is easily found. In the decomposition of these sorts of salts by the acids, there is constantly a deposition of sulphur and a formation of sulphurous acid; these two bodies in the nascent state readily react on the elements of water, producing "sulpho-hydric" acid and sulphuric acid.

M. Thirlet wrote, that digging the foundation of a house at Belnay, about a kilometre from Tournus, he has found a bed of marine shells in a greenish grey soil; two of the species were *Ostrea hippopus* and *Murex trunculus*, both of which still live on the oceanic and Mediterranean coasts. The preservation entire of most of the oysters denies the supposition that they were carried there, and he concludes they were deposited by the sea. The town of Tournus is more than 500 kilometres distant from the Mediterranean, and the bed of these fossils about 175 metres above its actual level.

*French Antiquarian Intelligence*.—A curious document has been lately published by the Comité Historique, concerning the completion of the Louvre and the Tuileries. It belongs to M. A. Lenoir, and was once in the office of the Grand Provost of France. It appears from this paper that all masons and other handicraft men could be forced to work upon the king's buildings, by order of the provost, to the exclusion of all other buildings, which they were obliged to abandon for the time being. The king (Louis XIV.), after ordering all due preparations to be made for the collecting of stone, &c., commands that, while these palaces shall require the aid of a considerable number of hands, no workmen in Paris shall be allowed to work on any other edifices whatever; and further, that no person shall presume to erect any building in Paris and within ten leagues round, under penalty of 10,000 livres fine for the first offence, and the galleys for the second. The committee, in publishing this document, add the observation that "the present Autocrat of Russia and the Sultan could not be more despotic and more savage." This is a gratuitous breach of good manners towards those two monarchs, to whom the word "savage" can hardly be applied. Despotism is not a plant exclusively of Russian or Turkish growth.—It is observed that in certain cemeteries of France—and it is known to have been especially the case within the cloisters of monasteries—there exist lofty crosses of stone, with a stone pulpit attached to them. This cross is styled the Hosannah cross, because on Palm-Sunday a procession was made thither from the church; certain prayers were offered up there, and the "Hosannah" sung.

## LITERARY AND LEARNED.

## UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD, Feb. 27.—The following degrees were conferred:—

*Masters of Arts*.—E. N. Conant, St. John's College; the Rev. W. Richards, New Inn Hall; the Rev. J. M. Dixon, St. Edmund Hall; the Rev. T. B. Green, exhibitor of Lincoln College; the Rev. W. Poole, Oriel College.

*Bachelors of Arts*.—Sir Graham-Graham Montgomery, Bart., Christchurch College, grand compounder; G. Drake, University College; J. Pratt, Trinity College; G. Gordon, Brasenose College.

## THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The first general meeting of the Association was held on Wednesday evening, at the theatre of the Western Literary and Scientific Institution, Leicester Square, pursuant to the advertisement issued by the treasurer (the next officer of the council after the resignation of the president), in consequence of requisitions sent to him, and

signed, as it was stated on the occasion, by no fewer than one hundred and sixty-two members, whose names were read from the chair, and the majority of whom appeared to be men distinguished for antiquarian pursuits, and the most active corresponding and contributing members known in the archaeological proceedings since the formation of this society. There were present about a hundred and fifty gentlemen; and many whose signatures were to the requisitions, either from living at a distance, the inclemency of the weather, or other engagements, were prevented from attending; so that viewed altogether, with the shortness for convening them, this may fairly be considered as an ample and decided manifestation of the opinions of the general body, and their desire to have an efficient and harmonious government, not self-elected, but chosen by and responsible to themselves.

Mr. Pettigrew, the treasurer, having *ex-officio* taken the chair, laid before the assembly a plain history of the transactions of the central committee since the foundation of the society; from which we gathered, that it originated with Mr. Wright and Mr. Roach Smith, at whose suggestion other parties were successively invited to join in the design; and thus was formed the directing power under whose auspices it had been conducted during its first year of enterprise and struggle, till its success was completely assured by the popular congress at Canterbury. During this progress, in which the association had outgrown any thing that could have been anticipated within so short a space from its first conception, all went on with the utmost unity of purpose, and the council continued its services with reciprocal good feeling and intelligence; but it must be remarked, that the individuals who have since interfered in a hostile manner with its proceedings seldom or never attended, and took no share in promoting the prosperity which had followed the efforts of their more zealous and active associates. Up to the breaking out of these unfortunate dissensions, the committee-business was wont to be done at meetings of from five to eleven members out of the whole number of twenty-two; but so soon as an opposition was stirred up, there had not been a committee at which fewer than nineteen or twenty members had been present, in spite of the excuses of extreme want of time and pressing engagements which had previously put it out of their power to be of any use with their advice or councils. The attack, in the first instance, was so frivolous that it could hardly be thought real; it was, however, put in the front of battle and directed against Mr. Wright, for having undertaken the editing of a new work, called the "Archaeological Album," he having been throughout a most liberal and efficient contributor to the "Archaeological Journal," the recognised organ of the association. This led to various proceedings, and produced such a state of confusion that it became evidently impossible for the direction to go on in managing the affairs they had volunteered to conduct. Divisions ensued in committees and sub-committees, till at length the president, Lord Albert Conyngham, withdrew in disgust, not only from the scene of such unseemly strife, but from membership in the association. This brought matters to a crisis. The malcontents, elated by their small recruited majority, as-

\* It evinced, however, an intense estimation and dread of Mr. Wright's talents; since it supposed that his mere name to a somewhat similar publication was sufficient to swamp the Archaeological Association and its Journal!!!—*Ed. L. G.*

sumed to be the government; whilst the minority, including all the officers, except one honorary secretary, threw themselves and the cause upon the general constituent body, out of which so irresistible a call had issued, the moment it became known that this schism, so fatal to their wishes and the science they loved, existed among the persons who had undertaken the task of guiding them. Mr. Pettigrew referred in detail to the minutes, &c., in which these circumstances were recorded; but we have room for no more than this broad outline of their substance.

A letter from the Dean of Hereford was read, of a most conciliatory spirit, and cordially adhering to the measures proposed for restoring efficiency to the management of an institution of such national interest and importance.

After this, a series of six resolutions was moved, and all adopted unanimously, except one for the nomination of a new central committee, against which five hands were ultimately held up. These resolutions were to the effect—  
 1. That the committee should be elected annually at a general meeting in London in the month of March; when a report of the progress of the association should be read, and its accounts submitted and audited. 2. That Lord A. Conyngham should be invited to resume the presidency. 3. That the committee should in future consist of twenty-one members, including the president, treasurer, and two secretaries; and the following were elected for the ensuing year, viz. president, Lord A. Conyngham; treasurer, Mr. Pettigrew; secretaries, Mr. Roach Smith and Mr. Crofton Croker. And other members: Mr. Amyot, Sir James Annesley,\* the Rev. Mr. Barham, Mr. John Barrow,\* Captain Beaufort,\* Sir W. Betham,\* Mr. Corner,\* Sir Henry Ellis, Mr. Joseph Gwilt,\* the Dean of Hereford,\* Mr. King, Mr. Monckton Milnes,\* Mr. Planché,\* Mr. Emerson Tennant,\* Mr. J. Green Waller,\* Sir Gardner Wilkinson,\* and Mr. Wright. 4. That the association should be divided into two classes, those paying one guinea or upwards per annum, or a subscription of ten guineas, to be denominated Associates, and be entitled to receive the Journal quarterly, and vote for the election of officers; and the rest to be named corresponding members, without any payment, or a vote in these elections. 5. That the Journal should be published in London at the expense of the association, and the profits to be added to its funds for general purposes. 6. Sir James Annesley having taken the chair, thanks were voted to the treasurer for his great services to the association, and especially for having called the present meeting agreeably to the requisitions addressed to him.

A tone of moderation and conciliation marked the whole proceedings; and a hope was expressed that some of the dissentients in the late committee would ere long rejoin the ranks they had been induced to quit.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

Feb. 20th.—Mr. Hamilton in the chair. Mr. C. R. Smith exhibited a coloured drawing of a very beautiful Roman glass bottle, recently found by Mr. Thomas Inskip about six miles from Shefford, Beds. The body of this relic is cone-shaped, the neck very long; from the top of the neck to the upper part of the bulb is a handle, which terminates in a twisted ornament. The colour is very remarkable, and was compared

\* These marked \* are new members, and most of them so well known by the reputation they have won in the literary, scientific, and antiquarian world, that no comment on their names is necessary.—Ed. L. G.

to that of a glass of pale port wine when held to the light, with a shade of purple. With it were found several other bottles in glass, some red patena, an iron lamp-stand, and two skeletons. Mr. Inskip is prosecuting his researches in the neighbourhood where this discovery was made. Mr. Smith also laid before the society a variety of large and small Saxon fibulæ discovered some years since at Badby in Northamptonshire, and now in the possession of the Rev. E. G. Walford of Chipping Warden. They are of speculum-metal; the largest, which is richly ornamented with grotesque heads and interwoven work, is gilded. These objects were discovered together with a large quantity of weapons of various kinds and other ornaments, all of which were dispersed without any account or description being published. Mr. Smith further communicated an account, by Mr. Fairless, of a stone altar in Hexham Church, hitherto but little noticed and improperly described.

Mr. Solly contributed a paper on barrow antiquities in Wiltshire. It was illustrated by a drawing of a bronze sword with ivory handle, discovered in one of the barrows. This remarkable weapon was a few years since exhibited at one of the Marquis of Northampton's soirées, but is now no longer extant, having been consumed by a fire which destroyed Mr. Solly's house and much valuable property.

Dr. Lee then gave notice of the following motion: "An ordinary meeting of the Antiquarian Society of London having been suspended on the evening of the 30th January last, in consequence of the celebration of the fast of the commemoration of the death of King Charles I. on that day; and no statute or by-law of the society having reference to this subject, it is moved, That in future, no meeting of the Antiquarian Society of London be suspended out of deference to the above-mentioned event."

Feb. 27th.—Mr. Amyot in the chair. Dr. J. Lee brought forward the above motion; and urged in favour of it, that at the Exchequer all holidays are now abolished except Christmas-day and Good Friday; at the Custom-house and Excise-offices, all except Christmas-day, Good Friday, and the Queen's birthday; at the Stamp-office and Tax-office, all except Christmas-day, Good Friday, the Restoration of Charles II., Whit-Monday, and Whit-Tuesday; that the so-called martyrdom of the blessed King Charles I. is not observed at any of the public offices any longer, and that even the Royal Society now pays no respect to it. It had been remarked by a fellow of the society, that the non-observance of this fast would be an insult to the crown; but so far from that being the truth, the society would be only following the example of the crown by abolishing it. That it is only held in respect by certain members of the established church, and as this society has the honour of possessing members eminent for literature, who are members of the established church, and dissenters of various denominations, and Roman Catholics, it is desirable that this mark of respect to a day which few hold in esteem should be in future dispensed with.

Sir H. Ellis said there was no particular reason why the observance of the day should be continued if objected to by the members, but he believed it was still respected by the Royal Society; with which the Society of Antiquaries in many of its usages had gone *pari passu*.

Mr. Kempe said he would uphold the observance of the day out of respect to the crown, and from loyalty to it. It was a good old cus-

tom to mark the nation's sorrow for a national disaster; and should the observance of the fast be abolished, he would retire from the Society.

Mr. R. Taylor said, they might, with equal propriety, and perhaps with greater consistency, from its greater antiquity, fast and suspend their meetings out of respect to the day of the death of Edward the Confessor; and as for loyalty shewn to the present house of Hanover by observing the fast for the decapitation of Charles I., he could not comprehend how the gentleman who last spoke connected them; he (Mr. Taylor) thought that those who were for abolishing the observance of the 30th of January were the really loyal subjects of her Majesty, and that those who were for paying respect to it, paid no very flattering compliment to the crown.

Mr. Bowyer said he objected to the motion, because it involved a change; he was for things as they were. The 30th of January was a melancholy day for this country; and if its penitential observance was abolished by all the public offices, and by all public bodies, all he (Mr. Bowyer) had to say was, that it was exceedingly improper.

Messrs. Wansey, Windus, Hunter, Britton, Saul, and others, spoke strongly in favour of Dr. Lee's motion; which was agreed ultimately to be referred to the Council.

Dr. Bromet (one of the council) remarked, that he doubted the utility of referring questions to the council, as there were scarcely ever any meetings.

The Rev. J. Hunter said, that certainly the council had been very backward in transacting the business of the society, which through neglect had accumulated, and was now in a complicated state. Heavy arrears were suspended before them; but why had they ever been allowed to go on from year to year? Had common precaution been taken, they might have been easily collected; but now, after such a lapse of time, this enormous sum (from 2000*l.* to 3000*l.*, it was said) would be lost to the society.

Dr. Lee stated, that a member of the council had informed him that there had not been a meeting for the last three months; and that an application to Lord Aberdeen, the president, had been made by this gentleman, a member of the council; but the application was never attended to, nor did the president even acknowledge the receipt of the letter.

Dr. Lee then brought forward the following motions, which were also referred to the council as suggestions to be reported upon at the anniversary:—

2. That the president of the Society of Antiquaries of London be requested to attend at the next anniversary of the society, and to deliver an address to the members, which may comprehend the names of the members deceased during the past year; the number of new members; the state of the finances; the state of the arrears due to the society; the advance made by antiquarian research and science in Great Britain during the past year, and such information as may be available respecting the progress of science in other parts of the world; together with such observations as he may be pleased to combine with them,—such addresses being delivered by the presidents of the Royal Society, the Geographical, the Geological, the Astronomical, and the presidents of other enlightened modern societies of London.

3. That the auditors, in their next annual report, be requested to explain the charge of 447*l.* 10*s.* allowed as salary to the officers of the establishment; and to specify the sum paid

to each of them,—a practice observed by auditors in other societies.

4. That the librarian be allowed hereafter a competent salary in lieu of fees; and the payment to the librarian of 2s. 6d. by each member on receiving each volume of the Transactions be abolished.

5. That a general opinion having been expressed that the office of president should not always be filled by the same individual, however accomplished and erudite he may be; that no person be allowed to hold the office of president in future beyond the term of four years.

Dr. Bromet brought forward the following notions, which were disposed of in like manner:—

6. That after the words "by the society" in the first article of chapter iii. of the Statutes (edition 1837), all the words relative to a bond for the payment of the annual subscription of money be rescinded.

7. That if the authors or contributors of papers deemed worthy of being read be fellows of the society, they be requested themselves to read them (unless such authors or contributors prefer that these papers be read by the secretary); and that immediately after the reading of each paper, the members of the society be invited by the chairman to make observations upon the contents of each paper.

8. That the council do meet for the despatch of the business of the society at the usual place, at three o'clock, on the first Wednesday of every calendar month, except in September and October; and that its meeting be not adjourned unless by the votes of a majority of two-thirds of the members present.

#### LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK:—

*Monday.*—Geographical, 8½ p.m.; British Architects 8 p.m.; Medical, 8 p.m.

*Tuesday.*—Medical and Surgical, 8½ p.m.; Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.; Zoological, 8½ p.m.

*Wednesday.*—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.; Geological, 8½ p.m.; London Institution, 7 p.m.; Graphic, 8 p.m.; Pharmaceutical, 9 p.m.; British and Foreign Institute (lecture).

*Thursday.*—Royal, 8½ p.m.; Antiquaries, 8 p.m.; R. S. of Literature, 4 p.m.; Medico-Botanical, 8 p.m.

*Friday.*—Astronomical, 8 p.m.; Royal Institution, 8½ p.m.; Philological, 8 p.m.; British and Foreign Institute (conversazione).

*Saturday.*—Asiatic, 9 p.m.; Westminster Medical, 8 p.m.; Statistical (anniversary meeting), 3 p.m.

#### FINE ARTS.

AN interesting discussion relative to the fine arts and preservation of national antiquities took place in the House of Commons on Thursday, on a motion of Mr. Ewart for leave to bring in a bill to enable town-councils to establish museums of art in corporate towns. Leave was given; and in the course of the observations made, Mr. Wyse, Sir W. James, Mr. M. Phillips, Mr. Hume, Mr. Bernal, Sir Robert Peel, Lord John Manners, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. M. Gore, Mr. Hutt, Mr. Labouchere, and Mr. Shiel, all spoke in favour and threw out various suggestions for amending or extending its operation. We trust we shall see the results throughout the country in schools of design, collections of ancient and modern art, the preservation of national antiquities, resorts for popular recreations, and other improvements worthy of a great and highly civilised people.

#### DISCOVERIES AT NINEVEH.

THE character used in the inscriptions nearly resembles, if it is not identical with, that found in the middle column of the inscriptions of Hamadan, Van, and (?) Bisutun.\* It appears to

\* In my former remarks I had inadvertently included

be the connecting link between the Babylonian and Persian forms of the arrow-headed character; less complex than the former, and less simple than the latter. It has frequently been termed the Median; but perhaps on insufficient grounds. At Van, where this character occurs singly in inscriptions far more ancient than the trilateral inscriptions of the same place, it has been vaguely attributed to Semiramis. With equal probability it might be assigned to the second Assyrian dynasty, or to a pure Medic epoch. The same character also occurs singly on various monuments in Susiana and Elymais. At Nineveh, on bricks discovered in the foundation of edifices evidently of the very highest antiquity, on cylinders, and on fragments of sculptured stones, generally basalt, we find the character called Babylonian, or a character equally complex. It appears, therefore, that two characters were at different times in use at Nineveh. If the complex were the most ancient form of the cuneiform, which from all discoveries hitherto made we are led to believe was the case; and if it were used in Babylon prior to the Medo-Persic conquest, then we may conjecture that it was employed throughout the Assyrian empire under its earlier dynasties. We should, at the same time, have less difficulty in admitting the title of Median, now given to the intermediate form, as if modifications were gradually introduced, and the character assumed its greatest simplicity when last used by the Persians,\* who combined the three classes in their trilateral inscriptions. This is, however, a question of considerable difficulty, which could only be determined satisfactorily by a lengthened and minute inquiry into the history of cuneiform writing. It is sufficient here to point out the evidence afforded by the exclusive use of what is usually termed the Median character in M. Botta's monument.

Nineveh was completely destroyed by Cyaxares the Mede. Although it appears once more to have risen from its ruins, it never again became the seat of royalty, nor even a place of considerable importance. It is not, therefore, probable, that a palace so vast and magnificent as that of which the ruins have now been discovered, should have been built after that event. Xenophon does not even notice the city,—an additional proof of its subsequent insignificance.†

The absence of columns should indicate a close alliance with the massive forms of Babylonian architecture, in which that elegant as well as useful ornament appears to have been unknown. No fragments of antiquity are more durable than the shafts of columns; and as none have been found at Chorsabad, it is evident that they were not employed in the building. It can scarcely be supposed that this would have been the case had this edifice been erected by those who planned the palaces of Persepolis.

Persepolis; it is the third column to the right of the inscriptions of that place which correspond with those above mentioned. The following classification may be useful to those who take any interest in the cuneiform character:—The first columns to the left of the spectator, in the trilateral inscriptions of Hamadan and Persepolis, resemble in character the first column to the right of Van; the third column to the right of Hamadan, the middle column of Persepolis; the third column to the right of Persepolis, the middle columns of Van and Hamadan; the first column to the left of Van, the third to the right of Hamadan. I have not yet been able to examine an accurate copy of the inscriptions of Bisutun; but I have reason to believe, from a hasty survey with a telescope, that they resemble those of Persepolis.

\* Compare the gradual modification of the ideographic into the phonetic in Egypt. A similar process might easily have taken place in the Chinese.

† Nineveh must not be confounded with Larissa. (?) Resen, the ruins of which, probably, now exist at the junction of the Zab with the Tigris.

The principal arguments in favour of the reference of the building of Chorsabad to the Medo-Persic dynasty of the Archæmænidæ, appear to be, the similarity of its sculptures in general character and execution with those of Persepolis, and with other remains in Persia, usually called Kayanian, and the identity of some of the figures. The sculptures may be included in that class which is usually, though erroneously, termed Persepolitan; but it must be remembered that a generic name has thus been given to a style of art which derives its source, according to the best opinions, from a period long previous to the foundation of the capital of the Persian empire.

Although the extreme minuteness in the details is equally observable in Persepolis, yet the sculptures of Chorsabad are undoubtedly superior in the general elegance and taste displayed in the forms, and in the remarkable spirit and movement of the figures. The entrances to the halls in both places are formed by monstrous animals, identical in shape at Persepolis and Chorsabad,—uniting the human head and breast with the body of a bull and the wings of a bird. Heeren, arguing upon the presumption that the body of the monster is that of a lion, has endeavoured to trace in it the Martichoras of Ctesias, and to bring it, with other symbols, into the system of Indo-Bactrian mythology.\* Admitting even the body to be that of a lion, the other parts of the figure do not agree with the description of Ctesias. But we need not search for its origin in the Indo-Bactrian mythology. The bull with a human head was a pure Semitic symbol. It was found in the temple of Bel, or Baal, amongst other monstrous figures, in the earliest period of Babylon; and at the same time was, perhaps, provided with two or four wings, like other symbols preserved in the same building.† There is, moreover, every reason to believe that the bull was a favourite type in Assyrian worship. It might, indeed, have been employed as symbolical of the Assyrian nation.‡ I remember to have somewhere seen the god Baal himself represented with the horns and ears of a bull. It may, therefore, be conjectured that the Medes and Persians borrowed the symbol from the nations of Assyria or Babylonia, and employed it as an ornament without any mythological reference; and this conjecture appears to be strengthened by the fact, that no other figures have been found at Persepolis combining the human with the brute form. These facts will be of importance when we come to inquire into the origin of the style of art used in the edifice at Chorsabad.

There is a further identity in the attendants of the king, his eunuch and his sword-bearer; in the led-horses, and in the chariots. But it is remarkable that at Persepolis we have no instances of warriors represented in armour and helmets.

The arguments against the reference of the edifice of Chorsabad to the dynasty Archæmænidæ are far more weighty than those in favour of the supposition.

1. The absence of the *feroother*, that inviolable attendant of the king in all Medo-Persic

\* Much discussion seems to have taken place amongst travellers as to the nature of the brute portion of the figure at Persepolis; some contending for a lion with the hoofs of a horse, whilst others discover a bull. The admirable delineation of the animal in the sculptures of Chorsabad can permit of no doubt whatsoever upon the subject. This fact alone would prove the superiority of these sculptures.

† See a remarkable passage in Eusebius, Chron. ed. Aucher, vol. 1. p. 23.

‡ The Semitic word *shour* signifies a bull; the Chaldee form is *tour*; hence, perhaps, the Greek and Latin.

monuments with which we are acquainted.\* The *feroher*, it will be remembered, was in the Zoroastrian faith the archetype of created beings; the pure soul or essence, detached from the human body, which existed contemporaneously with each living thing, both man and animal. In the sculptures of Bisutun and Persepolis it is always placed above the image of the king, in his perfect likeness; the lower part of the body being, however, replaced by wings.

2. No traces whatsoever of Magian worship are to be found at Chorsabad; whilst at Persepolis we have the constant recurrence of the fire-altar of the priests, and of various symbols of Zoroastrianism, such as the sacred cup Havan in the hand of the king.

3. The king is now here portrayed as struggling with monstrous animals, to denote his superior greatness and strength, as at Persepolis.

4. The absence of the simple cuneiform character, which appears to have been always employed by the Medo-Persic kings, and represents the pure Persian dialect.

It will be seen from the foregoing remarks, that whilst valid objections appear to exist against the reference of the edifice discovered at Chorsabad to the dynasty of the Archaménides, equally valid arguments cannot be advanced against its reference to the first Assyrian period. The second Assyrian dynasty has evidently, however, the best claim; and if I could venture to point out any particular monarch to whom the sculptures could with some plausibility be attributed, I would name Sennacherib, or Essarhadon, whose conquests over Jews, Egyptians, and Ethiopians, may perhaps be traced in the physiognomy of the captives and vanquished in the bas-reliefs of Chorsabad.

A.

THE DRAMA.

*Her Majesty's Theatre.*—From the programme issued by Mr. Lumley, and which we annex to this short notice, our readers will understand the grounds on which that liberal and enterprising caterer for the public gratification claims patronage for the ensuing season. New performers of great eminence are announced, and a series of entertainments which, to judge from their continental fame, possess attractions of a very high order. The opera and the ballet, thus supported, has never yet failed to give satisfaction in London; where, in truth, only superior arrangements can expect to succeed at this theatre. We can have mediocrity and imitation any where else; but here we must have the excellence itself. When we have them, great talent and sufficient variety are certain of palmy encouragement; and if Mr. Lumley fulfils the promise he has held out (of which, from the past, and his own experience, we have no doubt), we can only anticipate a year of more than ordinary merit and success.

*Her Majesty's Theatre.*—The nobility, subscribers, and the public are respectfully informed that this theatre will open this evening, Saturday, March 8, when will be produced (first time in this country) Verdi's highly successful new opera, in four parts—1. The bandit; 2. The guest; 3. The pardon; 4. The mask—entitled *Ernani*, with new scenery by Mr. Marshall. *Elvira*, Madame Rita Borio (her first appearance in this country); *Giovanna*, Madame Bellini; *Ruy Gomez de Silva*, Signor Fornisari; *Don Carlos*, Signor Botelli (his first appearance in this country); *Ricardo*, Signor Dai Fiori; *Jago*, Signor A. Giubilei; and *Ernani*, Signor Moriani.

After which a new ballet, entitled *Eoline*; or, *La Dryade*. By M. Perrot. The music by Sig. Pugnani, the scenery by Mr. Marshall. Principal characters—*Eoline* (betrothed to Count Edgard), Madlle. Lucille Grahn; *Rubezaki* (le Gnome), M. Perrot; *Count Edgard*, M. Toussaint (his first appearance); *Prince of*

\* It is even found in cylinders.

*Silesia* (brother of Eoline), M. Gosselin; *Woodcutters*, M. Venafra and M. Gouriet.

Prologue: *Le Palais du Gnome*; La Vision.—Second Tableau: *Le Chêne de la Dryade*, Les Jardins du Chateau, La Métamorphose.—Third Tableau: La Chambre de la Fiancée.—Fourth Tableau: La Forêt des Dryades.—Fifth Tableau: Les Noées Interrompues. La Vengeance du Gnome.—Sixth Tableau: La Forêt Embrasée.

In the course of the ballet, *Waltz Silesienne*, by the coryphées of the corps de ballet; *Pas de la Fiancée*, Madlle. Lucille Grahn and M. Toussaint; *Pas de Cinq* (composed by M. Gosselin), Madlle. Louise Weiss, Madlle. Ferdinand, Madlle. Demelisse, Madlle. Casan, and Mdlle. Moncelet; *Mazurka d'Extase*, Mdlle. Lucille Grahn and M. Perrot; *Grand Pas des Dryades*, by Madlle. Lucille Grahn and the ladies of the corp de ballet.

Applications for boxes, stalls, and tickets, to be made at the box-office, Opera Colonnade; doors open at seven; the opera to commence at half-past seven o'clock.

*Dramatis Personæ.*—Ernani (the Bandit), Sig. Napoleone Moriani; Don Carlos (king of Spain), Sig. Botelli; Don Ruy Gomez de Silva (Grandee of Spain), Sig. Fornasari; Don Ricardo (Esquire to the King), Sig. Dai Fiori; Jago (Esquire to Don Ruy), Sig. Giubilei; Elvira, Signora Rita Borio; Giovanna, Signora Bellini. Chorus of Mountaineers, Rebels, Banditti, Knights, Ladies, &c.—Epoch, 1519.

*Argument.*—The plot is taken from the *Romancero Espanol*, a collection of tales which bears the impress of the Spanish mediæval age, with all its extremes of unbridled passions and of romantic honour. Donna Sol, the heroine, is on the point of marriage with her dotting old uncle, Ruy Gomez de Silva, duke of Pastrana, count and grandee of Castille, who has inherited, with his titles, the romantic vengeful feeling of honour of his ancestors; but Donna Sol has long since sworn eternal love to the young Ernani, to whom in the hour of need she once offered a refuge, and who returns her love with the most ardent affection. Ernani's real name is John of Arragon—he is the son and heir of the duke of Segorba and Cardona, whom the king of Castille had procured his followers to assassinate. Proscribed and pursued, John of Arragon fled to the fastnesses of the Sierras, became the leader of three thousand brigands, and the terror of the land—and has changed his name to Ernani. The king of Castille, Don Carlos Quinto, afterwards the celebrated Emperor Charles the 5th, has also become violently enamoured with his beautiful subject, Donna Sol. He watches her windows, and discovers that when all are at rest in the castle of her uncle, a young cavalier (it is Ernani), gains admission to her apartments by a secret entrance. He imitates the signal of the favoured lover, gets admittance to her chamber, declares his headlong passion, and is about to drag her off with him by force, when Ernani enters, and protects his "ladye love." A violent contention arises, which brings to the rescue Don Ruy Gomez de Silva. To allay his jealousy and anger, the king reveals his august character, and pretends he came in disguise, to consult him about his approaching election to the empire, and on the conspiracy against his imperial promotion and his life. The king and Ernani retire unmolested; but soon after, at the moment of the festivities preceding the solemnisation of the marriage of Don Ruy Gomez with Donna Sol, Ernani, who has claimed hospitality, disguised as a pilgrim, in a transport of jealousy discovers himself; Donna Sol flies to his arms, and Don Ruy dooms him to death. Ernani reveals to Gomez the passion and attempts of the king; and the former consents to release his rival, and that they should for a while combine their vengeance against the common enemy, on condition Ernani will yield up his forfeited life whenever it is demanded. They then join the conspiracy of electors against the future emperor, who, however, discovers the hiding

place of his enemies, and takes them prisoners. Now an emperor, he forgets the vengeance of the king; he pardons Ernani, restores him to his ancestral dignities, and unites his hand to that of Donna Sol. But Gomez demands that the fatal promise should be redeemed—Ernani stabs himself, and Elvira falls down in a swoon. Thus ends the drama.

The *libretto* is founded upon Victor Hugo's celebrated drama, *Hernani*; or, *L'honneur Castellan*. By this drama, the French poet began his first struggle against the classic school of tragic writers. At that period the mad romanticists eschewed those blamable eccentricities which, daily increasing in excess, ultimately brought just disgrace and ruin on this new school of *Dramaturges*. The efforts of the latter, in accordance with the times, were suggested by a wish to revolutionise the French drama; to shake off the despotism of the unities, and of other shackles, which so rigidly chained down the elder tragic writers of France, and rendered their works affected, stilted, and unnatural—particularly when compared with the boldness and freedom, and above all with the delineations to the life of human nature by our immortal bard. By inventing this *quasi-legitimate* drama, with equal contempt for the forms of French classic tragedy and of vulgar melodrama, a style was however elicited, which, with some emendation, is admirably suited to lyrical purposes; and a critic who, at the first appearance of Victor Hugo's plays, would have said, "these are not tragedies, but neither more nor less than *libretti*," might at the present day claim the honours of a literary prophet. The immense improvement of the lyrical drama in our days, which has rendered it by far the most admired and the most popular of all recreations of the civilised world, principally results from music being rendered the interpreter of human passions on the part of the composer and of the actor; and if these be wanting, neither can exert his wonted ascendancy on the audience. The classic tragedies of antiquity, so intimately combined with music, had none of the strict court-mannerisms of the old French tragedy, but displayed human passion unfeathered; and nothing can militate more against success of the vocal drama than tameness of its expression. In the translation, some improvement has been attempted in the style of former opera-books; but like all the translations of the kind, there are numberless defects, both dependent and independent of the translation. Fortunately, the Italian opera not only perfects the amateur in the study of music, but naturally suggests his acquiring the easy knowledge of the most musical of languages, whose literary treasures so amply repay exertion. Therefore this translation will amply suffice as an occasional reference.

*Princess's.*—On Tuesday, Miss Cushman played *Mrs. Haller* in the *Stranger* with the same success that has attended all her previous efforts. She sustained the character with great force, and was particularly effective in the last scene, in which she displayed so much sweet and womanly pathos, that she fairly carried her audience away with her tearful declamation; not a female eye in the theatre was dry, and few of the males could keep their handkerchiefs from their faces: was not this tribute enough to her ability?

VARIETIES.

*Dr. Wolff.*—Capt. Grover has received a letter from Dr. Wolff, dated Erzroom, Jan. 17, in which, after describing the sufferings of his





