

Miscellaneous.

HINDOO SUPERSTITION.

At the annual meeting of the Dublin Auxiliary to the London Missionary Society, the Rev. Mr. Reeve, Missionary from Ballary, in India, related the following curious circumstance connected with the religious notions of the Hindoos:

"The Hindoos," he observed, "differed in their moral character from other people; they considered all animals as God's creatures, and looked on those persons who eat of the flesh of animals as cannibals. They know no difference between the spirit of a brute which goeth downwards, and the spirit of a man which goeth upwards. They consider the sun and moon to be heroes, and they think thunder is the grumbling of the Gods.—They have thirty millions of idols, and their idols are exposed for sale in the public streets. You will see in the market place baskets of fruits and baskets of Gods alike exposed for sale. The time the Hindoos devote to the adoration of their idols ought to make Christians blush for themselves. Some of their processions hold from five o'clock in the afternoon until three o'clock the next morning, and there are frequently twenty thousand persons in those processions, carrying their idols, with dancing and songs, from street to street. They also go to considerable expense, and a Hindoo temple frequently receives offerings which amount in value to the sum of 20,000*l.* yearly.—Such are their errors, that many of them impale themselves alive on spikes, drown themselves in rivers, and bury themselves alive. It is not an uncommon thing for a Hindoo to run a knife through his tongue, which he lets hang out of his mouth with the knife sticking in it.—They sometimes roast themselves before a large fire, or carry fire on their bare heads; and these extraordinary acts they commit for the purpose of appeasing the anger of some of their Gods, which they had themselves made. It appears by a calculation which had been made, that in every four hours a Hindoo woman is burned. A Prince of the Hindoo tribe, who died some time since in India, had eighteen wives, and they were all burned on the dead body of the Prince, together with the child of one of them. The Hindoos had Gods for every kind of vice; thus, those who lived by plunder had a God who would sanction it. One of their Gods who sanctions stealing, was represented with a pound of butter in one hand, and pot of milk in the other. Another of their Gods was represented as a monkey, and another as half bird and half man.

[Here the Rev. Gentleman exhibited some specimens of the Idols of the Hindoos; they resembled very much wooden toys.]

A Hindoo once mentioned to the Rev. speaker, that he recollected perfectly well when he (the Hindoo) was an old cow, and that he even remembered the marks he had in his ear. He said he gave good milk when he was a cow, and that was the reason of his being changed into a man. The Rev. gentleman instanced the case of the conversion of a native Hindoo woman, who was by trade a weaver; and also the conversion of the father, sister, and mother of this woman, who all, subsequently, became holy followers of Christ. He also mentioned the fact of a gentleman who is resident there, expending all his income, which is 200*l.* a month, in forwarding the object of the Missionary Society, in establishing and supporting native schools, and having preachers appointed in the different prisons.

REVOLUTIONARY RELIC.

Among the interesting articles deposited in the Cabinet of the Antiquarian Society, is a most formidable weapon of destruction, manufactured during the revolutionary contest, and highly expressive of the desperate purposes of its inventor. What name to bestow on a machine so complicated, we know not; the reader, after hearing of the form and shape wherewith it appears, can tax his own invention for an appropriate appellation to bestow on an implement of slaughter so deadly and destructive.

At the extremity of a shaft or handle about eight feet in length, is fixed a head of steel formed in two prongs eight inches long, united like those of a farmer's large hay fork; these, instead of being rounded and smoothed, are formed with sharp edges, so that an assailant who had seized on either with his hands would have been speedily and easily deprived of those members; both are pointed for the purpose of thrusting against an enemy. At the insertion of this fork into the wood, two stout and keen blades of equal length are firmly fixed at right angles with the former, projecting on each side, and whetted like the two first on both edges; beneath is a third of equal length, extending downward, and designed to inflict a death wound, if the holder, in fight, should strike his victim from above. The contriver, after having thus provided five little swords to attack and disable his opponent, in every manner circumstances might make expedient; by thrusting forward, as with a spear, by levelling a heavy descending blow, as with the battle axe; by pushing beyond his body and transfixing the unfortunate wretch with a returning stroke, as with the antique bill hooks sometimes seen;

or by tearing and lacerating him as could be done by no other implement on the face of the earth, seems to have bethought himself of a provision against the loss of this portable arsenal. To prevent the possibility of the weapon being wrested from the possessor, the handle is lined with sharp blades rising about half an inch above the surface, and extending two feet along from the points; so that if the combatant escaped the traps set for his destruction at the extremity, and rashly seized the weapon below the points, with any malicious intention, by the first effort to become its master his hands would inevitably be cut to the bone and disabled from the performance of any further military duty. At the termination of these knives a guard is set to preserve the grasp more securely. The handle is of strong and firm material, and terminates at the lower end in a short and thick point of steel, rounded and adjust for plunging into the flesh: Strengthened and protected as it is by metal, the staff could not be severed, or essentially injured, by the heaviest blows dealt from the sword of an assailant.

Against all engines and implements used in the art of human destruction, excepting always those moved by the "villainous saltpetre," this single instrument would be a most competent defence. The swordman would be kept at bay, or impaled, without being able to print a single bloody mark upon an enemy placed at a distance so great as the extremity of the handle. The trooper would find little benefit from his elevation, for he could not be beyond the operation of the fork and its armament of blades. The infantry might, without the imputation of great cowardice, shrink from an encounter with spears aiming at life in all directions. On whatever side we view them, they look formidable and dangerous. When men should meet hand to hand, either in boarding ships or storming forts, they would do most fearful execution.

[*Nat. Mag.*]

DISADVANTAGE OF PRINTERS.

The man who declines subscribing to a newspaper, but who is not above borrowing it from his neighbor, is guilty of a double trespass—he profits by the labor of the printer without contributing a cent to his support, and he deprives his neighbor of the free enjoyment of his property. It may be argued that the printer has nothing to do with a newspaper after it is delivered into the possession of a subscriber, any more than a tailor has with the coat which he sells to a customer. But we hope no man of common sense who professes to entertain correct ideas of liberality and justice, will argue thus. The press is a common benefit to the community at large, for which all who partake of it are in justice bound to contribute something in return.—The proprietor establishes it at his own risk, and at a heavy expense, and maintains it by a diligence of application and intensity of labor, of which few of those who are benefited by it, have the most distant idea. He asks nothing in return but an equitable remuneration of his services from the community in which he resides. But suppose that community unhappily to contain but a small portion of individuals who are sufficiently liberal and enlightened to appreciate the value of a press, as a public institution, or to make a proper estimate of the services of those who have undertaken the drudgery of conducting it: and suppose a much larger portion so sordid as to withhold their support, because they can, through the liberality of a few, be accommodated without incurring the mighty expense of three or four cents a day—the actual cost of both the papers of this town! Would not such niggardliness deserve to be hooted at as a scandal to the community? Who would not laugh at the idea of one half of the community borrowing coats, hats and shoes from the other, to make a decent appearance in on particular occasions, and at the same time admit that no tailor, hatter or shoemaker could ever hope to thrive among such a people? Yet it is the same injury to the interests of the printer to make one newspaper serve half a dozen readers, as it would be to the tailor, to make a fine dress coat serve the purpose of so many dandies. "We must contrive to do without the expense of a newspaper," (a mere trifle in amount) is one of the poorest and most pitiful resolutions that can be imagined; but it is ten times worse when backed by such a reservation as this—"for if I want to read one, I can borrow it." What would such people say, if the community generally were to come to the determination to do without the articles which they vend or manufacture, or without their services in any way? We like to see a more liberal spirit. All trades, occupations and professions are mutually dependent on one another; and we should encourage every one who contributes his means to advance the welfare of ourselves or that of the community.

[*Norfolk Herald.*]

Female Education.—A young girl was presented to James I. as an English prodigy, because she was deeply learned. The person who introduced her, boasted of her proficiency in ancient languages. "I can assure your majesty," said he, "that she can both speak and write Latin, Greek, and Hebrew."—these are rare attainments for a damsel," said James; "but pray tell me, can she spin?"

Temperance is not one of the virtues of the Irish Highlanders. A gentleman whose rental at one time amounted to £10,000 per annum, and who was in the constant habit of intoxication, took an oath to drink nothing after the cloth was removed; but unable to comply with the spirit, he soon contented himself with adhering to the letter of this rash vow, and keeping the cloth on the table after dinner was over, could drink all night without fear of infringing it. He then swore not to drink in his dining parlor, but again as easily evaded his engagement by adjourning to the next apartment; in the next apartment, however, on some fresh qualms of conscience, the vow was renewed; and so, in each room successively, until he fairly swore himself out of the house. He then took refuge in the summer house of his garden, and there used to dine and drink daily; till, rashly renewing his vow here also, he was reduced to find a new subterfuge, by taking lodgings in a neighboring town.

Another person, one of the second-rate gentry, there called *luckeens*, got a punch-drunk of spirits, which had come ashore.—It was too large to be got in at the door of the house; he therefore pulled part of the wall down; however, it stuck half way. His small stock of patience could last no longer; he tapped the end that was within, and he and wife, with their servants, soon became completely intoxicated. His neighbors, aware of this, tapped the cask at the other end, and the next day, when this worthy personage would have taken his morning, he found the cask was completely emptied!

Indulgence in Bed.—The last No. of the European Magazine contains an ingenious article, showing the way in which lying too long in bed injures the body. This is unquestionably one of the most pernicious habits which can beset poor human nature. Too much bed (and above seven hours is too much) debilitates both body and mind; it causes indigestion, nervous disorders, low spirits, and is as hostile to "good looks" as to strength and cheerfulness. We hear some unhappy and inveterate sluggard exclaim, "But different constitutions require different quantities of rest!" No such thing: seven hours is an ample allowance for young or old, weak or strong, and the softer sex may be assured, that all the cosmetics in the world will not improve their complexions half so effectually as the wholesome, useful, and every way valuable practice of early rising; a practice against which not a single objection can be urged, and which costs absolutely nothing—unless indeed that is an objection.

Anecdote of Mr. Summerfield.—Immediately on his arrival at one of our principal cities, Mr. Summerfield was waited upon by a number of gentlemen of the Protestant Episcopal Church, expressing their desire that he would preach in one of their houses. With this request he stated his willingness to comply, provided the consent of the Bishop could be procured. The Bishop was consulted, but declined acquiescing, stating that he greatly regarded Mr. Summerfield as a man, and esteemed him as a minister, but that the Canon of the church prevented his consent, however much he might be pleased to hear the young man preach. Being informed of this, Mr. S. pleasantly replied, "Well, it matters not, but I have always thought it was usual to *spike the cannon in time of peace.*"

French Anecdote of English Liberty.—In a certain *cité de soie* in London, the houses are propped up by beams across the streets; such a convenience was irresistible to the English *penchant* for hanging, and in the month of November it was no uncommon thing, to see four or five gentlemen suspended side by side; this attracted the notice of the police, who stationed a sentry to put a stop to the practice; he was not long at his post before a gentleman approached, and deliberately threw his rope over the beam, and began to adjust it; the sentinel observed, "Sir, it is not permitted to hang here." "How!" exclaimed the other, "not permitted to hang! Pray, what has become of English liberty?"

A man who had sore eyes, applied to a Physician for relief, who told him, "to leave off drinking Brandy." "Why," said the patient, "you drink Brandy, Doctor, and yet have sore eyes." Aye, but," said the Physician, "I love brandy better than my eyes!"

Inflammatory Rheumatism may be easily cured.—Take 2 oz. of earth worms or fishing worms, 2 oz. of sweet oil or lard, chop the worms in pieces, then put them and oil together, and then place the cup in a warmth that is moderate near a fire, stir the oil now and then.—In about half an hour the worms will be dissolved, then strain the compound, put it into a phial and keep it well corked to prevent, if practicable, putrefaction—though in the putrid state the compound is equally efficacious.—Rub the compound with the hand on the part affected and cover it with flannel. Its effects are to relieve pain very quick, and for all pains such as inflammatory rheumatism, gout, &c. it will be found relieving.

HENRY ALEXANDER.

Baltimore, Sept. 25, 1825.

General Intelligence.

THE GREEKS.

The following is an extract of a private letter received from Corfu. Letters from Zante, also, convey the same intelligence, but in a less detailed manner:

"Corfu, Aug. 11.—I cannot fail to communicate to you the following satisfactory news from Greece. Know, then, that after Missolonghi had been blockaded 105 days, by Romeli, Vasseli, and strictly besieged for some days by land and sea, by all the Turkish forces, they endeavoured, through the means of the commanders of the European vessels at that station, to persuade the besieged to capitulate, promising to leave the inhabitants, not only their arms, but also their effects. The mediators did not fail to intimidate the inhabitants, by saying that if they did not give up the place the enemy would take it by assault, and give quarter to none; and they even represented the Greek fleet as unable to come to their assistance, since the mariners were occupied in transporting their families to places of security in other countries.—And they said, also, that the whole of the Peloponessus was on the point of falling into the power of Ibrahim Pacha.—On hearing this, some timid Chiefs began to hesitate, and a council of war was held. The first who answered the proposition was the brave Nota Bozzaris, who spoke to this effect: 'I and my 500 will sacrifice ourselves, and the enemy shall, at least, not gain Missolonghi without having planted his flag among our bones.' In the same manner the famous Nicetas replied also, and after him all the others, who at first had been inclined to capitulate. The Captain Pacha having heard this, informed Romeli Vasseli that the time was precious, since he expected the Greek flotilla every moment in those waters, and that he would not be able to remain there any longer, and that therefore the order for the assault should be immediately given. That he, in the mean time, would second the assault with his boats. Romeli Vasseli immediately ordered all his troops, who were in great numbers, some say 32,000, to arms; and on the 2d of August, two hours before sunrise, the Turks assaulted the place on all sides by land, and 4000 men in their boats assisted their operations by sea.—The firing lasted four hours; and all the surrounding places were shaken by it.

"The commanders of the European vessels stood on the look out, on the masts of their ships, with telescopes in their hands, but the denseness of the smoke impeded their seeing.—When the carnage had somewhat subsided, they saw, with surprise, the banner of the cross still waving on the walls of the fortress; for they had not doubted in the least of its being obliged to surrender to the assault of so formidable a force. The Greeks fought with indescribable ardour and intrepidity, and filled the trenches with the enemy's corpses. Several thousands found a grave beneath the walls of Missolonghi, and the rest fled, pursued by the Greeks to Kerascova. A great quantity of ammunition, baggage, colours, &c. fell into the power of the Greeks. Nicetas performed prodigies of valour at Vassiladi against the enemy, who attacked that place by sea, all of whom fell victims, as the Turkish fleet fled before they could regain their vessels. An Austrian schooner of war brought this intelligence to Zante. An English frigate arrived here has brought many letters and couriers, which come express from all sides, and confirm this important victory. Our Lord High Commissioner shed tears of joy, and conceded the merited tribute of praise to Grecian valour, and particularly to that of Nota Bozzaris. The same frigate coming in haste with news, passed the Turkish fleet, which was in action with the Greek squadron. A merchant vessel from Ithaca confirms the above, and adds that on Monday and Tuesday the Captain heard a heavy cannonading, and saw the summits of the mountains covered with people with telescopes in their hands. We expect to hear almost immediately the result of the naval engagement. We hope that the Peloponessus will soon convince Ibrahim Pacha of the valour of its inhabitants. He has already lost many of his followers in different engagements: He is surrounded by 20,000 Greeks at Tripotama; who will not permit him to escape.

The following account of a remarkable incident, which lately took place at the Jardin des Plantes, in which a menagerie of wild animals is kept, is copied from a late Paris paper:

"A man had introduced himself into the interior of the menagerie. The keeper perceiving him, ran towards him, to make him go out; but at the same time, the lion *Atlas*, whose cage was not well closed, raised the gate adroitly, and left his cage.—The keeper cried immediately to the imprudent man, 'place yourself against the wall, and keep still, or you are lost!' It is well known that it is necessary to show firmness and courage before the king of animals. The man obeyed; the keeper followed his example. The lion walked forward, and approached first the keeper, but he recollected the friend who brought him his food, caressed him in an affectionate manner, and passed on to the stranger. Arrived before

him, the eyes of the animal sparkled, he raised his enormous paws, and placed them on the man's shoulders.—For some moments, the lion remained in that position; he scrupulously examined the man, who already thought himself his victim, smelt of him from head to foot, and afterwards returned mechanically to his cage. The gate was immediately shut.—But the stranger has not yet recovered from his fright—his life is despaired of."

Canada has been exposed to the same causes of excitement which tore these U. States from the British Empire. A pamphlet is mentioned by the London Times, which sketches the disputes that have arisen for a series of years between the Executive Government of Lower Canada, and the Assembly of that Province.—They are the very same which gave rise to the American Revolution. "The Colonists insist upon the right of British subjects to tax themselves by their own representatives. But the Executive government of Lower Canada, frequently thwarted in its applications for money, has considered *all* the rights of Colonists as subservient to the supremacy of the parent state; and we agree in that construction of the point of right, unless it be conceded, that a right to terminate the relation of parent states and colony exists at all times, and is indefeasible in the latter. Here, too, (says the Times) we are ready to agree, that when the power to shake off that dependence can be successfully exercised, the colony is justified in using it. But it is absurd to talk in the abstract of the privilege of self taxation: it is a question of power rather than of strict justice, and the affirmative can scarcely be predicated of any but the people of a sovereign and independent community."

There is something very curious in this doctrine of the Times. A colony may separate from the mother colony as soon as she can; but while she remains a colony, she has no right over her own money; which is swallowed up in the supremacy of the parent state. It is, in other words, a question of *might*, not of *right*; and Canada has here fair warning to take care of herself. So long as she remains a province of Great Britain, she is a slave; she is to be denied the sacred right of a British subject, not to have his money taken from him without his consent or that of his representative: she is to be treated as we were—and the question is to be brought home to her also—Will she submit, or will she resist?

Richd. Enquirer.

The Juice of the Grape.—In a late valuable work on ancient and modern wine by Dr. Henderson, published in London, it is stated that Persia and North America are the only countries in which the Grape has been found indigenous. Greece, Italy, France and Spain, which are now the finest wine countries in the world, are indebted to the east for that plant whose juices cheer the heart of man, and woman also throughout the world. There are districts within the limits of the United States possessing a similar climate and soil to that of Champagne, Burgundy, or the Bourdeleis in France, and it will require only a little of our usual enterprise, to have American Champagne sparkling on our tables, or American Burgundy lighting the glow of fancy and wit in our bon vivants. From recent accounts in the Washington papers, it appears that several experiments have been made in the culture of the grape in some sections of the middle States, and that the results were extremely satisfactory, showing abundantly that the country can produce it of excellent qualities.

Singular Circumstance.—The Franklin Malone Telegraph gives an account of the execution of Stephen Videts, for the murder of Mrs. Fanny Mosely.—The Telegraph says—

"That while under the fatal tree a paper was read at his request, in which he asserts his innocence, in the following terms: 'With regard to the crime for which I this day suffer, I have only to remark, that I am perfectly innocent. By whose hands the unfortunate Fanny Mosely was deprived of life, I do not know; but I say it was not mine, neither was I aware of the approach of that unhappy event, but at the time was fearful of designs upon my own life.'—A short time after, the rope was fastened to the beam, and the cap drawn over his face, he still protesting his innocence, and the drop fell. But, unfortunately, the knot drew over his chin in such a manner, as not entirely to stop his breath, nor the circulation of the vital fluid; in this dreadful situation, he struggled for several minutes in the agonies of death.

The paper containing his protestations of innocence, he had declared his intention of holding in his right hand, when yielding up his life. This paper he changed from his left to his right hand, when he fell, hung two or three minutes, and waved it to the multitude with apparent design."

FROM THE NATIONAL JOURNAL.

On the Race run on the New-York Course, on the 3d of October, 1825, by Mr. Lynch's filly *Drift* against Dr. Wych's colt *La Fayette*. What wonder that Ariel should beat Lafayette? 'Tis clear, without reasoning, or rhyming, punning, That, whether by foes or rivals beset, La Fayette, young or old, was never given to running.