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Foreign Miscellany.

[From the Gentleman's Magazine.]

MONKS OF LA TRAPPE IN ENGLAND. The Monastery of La Trappe lies between Lutworth Castel and the sea-coast, but secured from storms and sheltered on all sides; the building stands in a bottom; the scenery about it is enriched with plantations. Soon after the commencement of the French revolution, when the religious of all kinds were obliged to seek this country for protection, some monks of La Trappe found an asylum at Mr. Weld's and as they increased in number, he erected the present building, (under the sanction of government) for their habitation, which may, with strict propriety, assume the name of a convent. This monastery is of a quadrangular shape, with a scullery in the inside, forming the cloisters, and the area a depository of the dead. We observed seven graves, to some of which were added a wooden cross, either at the head or feet; the living may be said to reside with the dead; that they may be continually reminded of their mortal state, a grave is always left open for the reception of the next that dies. The cloisters are used for air and exercise in bad weather, having a large cistern at one end for the monks to wash. The entrance to the monastery is on the west side, near the Porter's Lodge, under a long narrow building, which serves for offices of the meanest kind.—The porter who received us was dressed in the habit of a convent brother, wearing a long brown robe of coarse cloth, and a cowl of the same colour over his head, a leather girdle encircled his waist, from which suspended his keys; he spoke to us in a whisper, and desired us to be silent. As we passed through the first court, we fancied our selves in former days when the monastic orders flourished; and strange and unusual seemed the appearance of the monks, in the full habit of their order, gliding along, intent on meditation, or employed in manual labour; but not a word spoken. From the court we came to an entrance room, on the walls of which were seen figures of saints, a crucifix on a bleeding heart, and other objects of devotion; thence to the cloister are several crucifixes on the walls, to excite adoration. We then entered the chapel, which is not splendid, nor highly decorated, but elegantly neat, the altar having a crucifix on its summit, with the paintings of the Virgin and Child, and of patron saints; on each side are stalls for the monks, with their names inscribed, and in each stall, a large old missal on vellum, guarded at the corners and sides and large clasps; a lamp burning perpetually during the presence of the Eucharist the rood-loft contains the organ. Opposite to the chapel are private oratories, embellished as usual, with paintings of a religious kind, crucifixes, the Virgin and Child, & a whole length of Armand Jean Bouthillier de Rance, who was abbot and reformer of the order.—From another part of the cloisters we entered the chapter house, wither the monks retire when their meal is over, not to beguile away their time in trifling conversation, but in reading religious books, saying vespers and other evening prayers, and in public self-accusation; the walls of this room are covered with religious prints; and at the entrance hung up a board with pgs, on which were suspended bits of wood, inscribed with the names of all the monks that had been and are now in the convent, P. Dionysius, P. Hyacinthus, P. Julianus, P. Barnardus, P. Pius, and others, to the number of eighty six; on another board was inscribed a list of the different officers of the church for the day, and the names of such of the fathers as officiated, set opposite; below an exhortation in Latin and French, pointing out the advantages of devotion, and the importance of self-denial. We were next shown the refectory a very long room, containing a wooden bench, extending on each side; upon the table was placed a wooden trencher, bowl and spoon, with a napkin for each monk, and the name of each inscribed over his seat; at the upper end sat the prior, distinguished from the rest of the convent only by his pastoral staff; during the repast the lecturer delivers a discourse to the poor monks. The dormitory next attracted our notice, which extends the whole length of the building, and on each side are ranged the cells of the monks, in which they recline themselves, on wood with a blanket and a coarse rug; a window at each end to ventilate and air the room, which is dark and gloomy; a clock is stationed at each end, near the entrance to warn the monks of the hour of matins; and the cells ranged together on each side, like so many eaves of a roof, must unavoidably inspire melancholy reflections.

Below is the vestment room, where the vestments of the choir brothers are hung up with the name of each inscribed. The domestic offices surround the monastery and contiguous is the poultry yard, cattle range, & brick yard. The ground attached to the monastery contains about one hundred acres, which is cultivated by the monks, with the assistance of a carter and a boy. The community rise at one o'clock in the morning, winter and summer, the choir brothers then begin their devotions and continue in the chapel till 9 o'clock when each goes to some manual labour, in the garden, on the roads, or on the grounds, till eleven, when there is a short service, which lasts about half an hour, then to labour again, till about half past one, when they return to prayers for half an hour, and they are then summoned to their frugal meal: after this meal is over (the only one which they have during the four and twenty hours) they return thanks to God, and adjourn to the chapter room, where they continue to read or meditate till their day is nearly over, when they once more to prayers, and retire to their dormitories about eight o'clock, having spent the whole day in abstinence, mortification, labour, silence and prayer; and every succeeding day, like the former, continually hastening to the grave that is open. The severity of this rigid order requires no common devotees:—perpetual silence restrains them in the greatest enjoyment of life; perpetual abstinence, mortification and penance, poverty and prayer, seem more than human nature is capable of undergoing; and unless the minds of the religious were buoyed up by the fervor of their devotions, they could not keep themselves alive; they abstain wholly from meat, fish and fowl; and, during Lent from butter, milk, eggs, and cheese; but they seem perfectly content. The monks observe perpetual silence, scarcely even look at each other, and never speak but to their prior, and only on urgent occasions; they never wander from their convent without permission of their superior, but go each morning cheerfully to such work as they are directed to perform. As we passed these poor, humble, unoffending monks at their work, they received us with courtesy and humility, but never spoke. The most perfect silence and tranquility reigned throughout this little vale, nothing to interrupt it but the convent bell, and the whistling of the waves on the sea shore; even the winds of heaven are restrained from visiting this place too roughly, for the Downs protects it from their fury.

FATHER PAUL.

VOLCANIC ERUPTION.

[From the Java Government Gazette of May 20, 1815.]

We are at length enabled to give the public a full and interesting account of the volcanic eruption that has recently taken place on the island of Sumbawa, which has been furnished us from the most respectable authority, and which may be received as an historical fact of undoubted authenticity. The distance of Batavia from the Tomboro mountain is between seven and eight hundred miles, which appears so enormous a space for sound to be conveyed over, that we cannot help supposing the volcano on Sumbawa is in some degree connected with other volcanic mountains on this island. To prove this fact, we now publish an extract from a private letter with which we were obligingly favored, before any eruption was known to have taken place on the dates of the first explosion from the Tomboro mountain behind Bangewangee correspond exactly. "BESUKIE, April 16. "The mountain that has been kicking up this dust is not in Lumojan as was generally supposed but one in the rear of Bangewangee, and in the District of Bandowoso, about thirty-five paals distant from this place, called Goonong Rawoong; it has been volcanic from time immemorial, sometimes smoking, and once or twice has emitted flames; seven months ago four billocks that were near the edge of the crater fell in and choked up the vent. Its first re-opening was about the 4th instant, at which time we had a slight shower of ashes; however, on the tenth, it broke out with louder explosions than were ever before witnessed; we were enveloped in darkness from 4 o'clock P. M. of the 11th—until 2 P. M. of the 12th—The ground here is covered with ashes two inches deep, the same at Probolingo, and at Panaroukan; and through the Bungewangee District, from 8 to 10 inches. The sea was much agitated at the time of these explosions, and on a sudden rose from 5 to 7 feet on the night of the tenth. If it be admitted that any relative connexion exists between these two volcanos, we may reasonably suppose that their influence extended still further to the westward; and that other mountains more immediately in our neighborhood have emitted the sounds that were so distinctly heard on the 11th instant at Batavia, and about the same period at Bancs; we may

probably be wrong in our conjectures upon this subject, but it certainly appears to us that any sound which could be conveyed over a space of six or seven hundred miles must have been insupportable at the distance of 35 paals from the crater. We shall leave the elucidation, however, of this interesting phenomenon to abler pens than ours.—The account we have published is so explicit and satisfactory that hardly any additional knowledge can be obtained, except by personal investigation, and as the convulsions of the Tomboro mountain have nearly rivalled the workings either of Etna or Vesuvius, we trust some curious traveller may be induced to explore its ravages and throw further light upon a subject of so much historical interest to our eastern world.

Foreign.

New-York March 5.

By the arrival of the fast sailing ship Minerva, Captain Sketchley, the editors of the New-York Gazette have received London papers to the 19th, and Liverpool papers to the twenty first of January. They afford very little political news. The Hon. Mr. Baggot, Ambassador to America, was expected at Portsmouth on the 8th of January, to embark in the Niger frigate. Lieut. Gen. R. Wilson, Governor General of Canada, came passenger in the ship Minerva, from Liverpool. The meeting of Parliament was fixed for the 1st February. The transport Betsey was wrecked on her voyage from Plymouth to France—Twentyfour french officers were lost in her, and a number of other persons. The London papers of the 4th of January, contain the President's Message to Congress, delivered the 5th December. The Chesterfield packet, with the official copy of the ratified Convention between the United States and Great Britain arrived at Falmouth in 20 days from New York. The Convention was published in the London papers of the 17th January. Lieut. Gen. Sir George Prevost, Bart. died at London on the 3d of January, in the 49th year of his age. He was Colonel of the 16th regiment of foot, and late governor in chief and commander of the forces in the British Colonies in North America. He has left a widow, two daughters, and a son, (who succeeds to his title) to deplore their loss. Admiral Hyde, Viscount Gardner, died early in

The London papers from the middle of December to the middle of January, give almost daily accounts of the damage sustained in their ports by gales. The French government has announced the perfect restoration of order and tranquility at Nismes, and the free and full enjoyment of their religious worship by the Protestants of that place. There is a good deal said in the French and English papers about the escape of Lavalette, from which it appears that the French Minister of Justice was an accessory. It is asserted, in the last London paper, that Lavalette had escaped into Bavaria. There was to be a general mourning in France on the 21st of January, the anniversary of the murder Louis XVI. On the 12th, a new decree of amnesty was issued by the King of France, which among other provisions, banishes from the Kingdom all the regicides of Louis XVI, who accepted appointments under Bonaparte. London, Jan. 5.—The Eliza Norgway, arrived in the Downs, sailed from Madras 6th September and from St. Helena 21st November. No person was suffered to land at St. Helena from the Eliza. Bonaparte was in the interior of the Island; he had been invited to two parties under the title of general Bonaparte, but paid no attention to the invitations.

January, 15.—We received this morning Paris papers and private letters of Tuesday and Friday. The law relative to the Amnesty has not yet been officially promulgated; but a commission is to be named to point out the Regicides to whom the law is to apply. Barbary States.—The states of Tunis, Tripoli & Algiers, have all in turn insulted the British flag. The Tunisians have detained a Maltese vessel, and made the crew slaves. To this act of injustice against the British, they have added insult and contempt; the captain of his majesty's ship Pilot, was recently treated with the greatest disrespect on shore, and on returning on board, was stoned all the way to his boat. This morning two mails from Holland and four from Flanders arrived. They bring the following intelligence. Brussels, Jan. 6.—The English army which remains in France is to occupy for the present, a line that extends much further than is fixed by the treaty of Paris, by which among others the town of Amiens, that by the convention is not to be occupied, has got an English garrison, which seems disposed to remain there a long time. It is generally believed, that these measures are taken in concert with the French government, in order the better to maintain tranquility. In general, it is indisputable that in many parts of France, peoples minds are still much inflamed by the various distresses that the country has suffered, and that too many precautions cannot be taken to prevent the still fermenting passions from producing new convulsions on the other side. The remaining corps concentrate themselves in the neighbourhood of Cambrai.

The Lord Chancellor, in the Court of Chancery, yesterday, announced to the Bar, the death of Mr. Justice Heath, who died at 19 o'clock last Tuesday morning, at his house in Mansfield street. A caricature of Lavalette's escape is privately circulated in Paris; it represents him escaping in a grotesque female disguise, too palpable to conceal him, and followed by a dog, holding a stick in his mouth, with a lantern at both ends. The dog is called *Un Chien Barbe*, and intended to present Barbe Marbois, the minister of Justice, whose countenance is represented by the two lanterns, with which he lights the prisoner through the passages of the Conciergerie. December 14.—The Paris papers of the 11th, reached town this morning. Generals Drotet and Desbell are the next for trial on the list of conspirators. The preliminary process has commenced in both cases.

London Jan. 17. We received this morning New York papers to the 17th ult. By dispatches received yesterday from Paris we learn, that three English gentlemen have been arrested by the Minister of Police, and thrown into the prison of the Abbaye. They are, sir Robert Wilson, Capt. Hutchinson, a near relative of Lord Hutchinson, and Mr. Bruce, eldest son of Mr. Crawford Bruce, the Banker. The British minister, we understand, to his demand of an explanation upon this subject, was answered, that the parties had been arrested on a charge of aiding in the escape of Lavalette, that they had procured a passport for an officer, two or three days before—that they travelled with General Lavalette all the way to Mons, introduced him under the passport they had obtained to the English military post, procured it there to be countersigned, and passed him on; after which, and having breakfasted with the English officer in command, they returned to Paris. This was the report made to the English Minister, that he may receive their further instructions how to act; its truth remains to be established? It will be observed in the private accounts from Paris, that great agitation prevails in that city, and threatens a new political explosion. New affiliations and watch words, plots and counterplots spread terror and alarm through society, and the government distrusting its own strength, acknowledges that the presence of British troops is still necessary for its security.

January 13. The arrival of the Duke of Wellington is hourly expected at Brighton, on a visit to the Regent. The rumour in the highest Court circle now is, that a marriage is actually agreed on between the amiable Princess Charlotte and the Prince de Cobourg. This union has the perfect consent of the Regent, and the Prince Regent has given his consent. It will have this important recommendation to the British people, that it begets no connexion with any of the principal Powers on the Continent, by which we might be involved in their disputes; and the English people have the proud feeling, that the presumptive heiress to the British Throne neither requires nor could obtain any aggrandizement, torture, or interest by marriage.

Lavalette.—On the 9th inst. the sentence of death against M. Lavalette was executed in effigy. The sentence attached to a gallows on the Place de Greve, from ten to four, was in the following words:—

"The sentence of the Court of Paris on the 22d Nov. 1815, which condemns Marie Chamon Lavalette, Ex-Director-General of the Post, aged 44 years, native of Paris, living at No. 108, Rue de Grenelle St. Germain, to the punishment of death for high treason."

Behind it, upon a carriage, were the materials which serve to form a scaffold for executions. Various stories about Madame Murat are in circulation. The truth is, that she and her family afford very little matter for news; she leads at Hamburg a very retired life, suitable to her situation, and is very liberal to the poor. This may serve to correct many false reports, who, desirous of all feeling, pursue misfortune into its last asylum, and combat the defenceless with the poisonous shafts of calumny.

Calamities at Teneriffe.—In the early part of Dec. a most distressing fire took place at a Convent at Teneriffe. Seven of the nuns were burnt to death. The scene for some hours was dreadful. It was first discovered about 10 o'clock at night; all the nuns were in bed, and it was some time before they could be made acquainted with their danger. The nuns who escaped, were obliged to leave the convent naked, as they never sleep in their clothes. Those that were burnt, were seen at the windows till the flames consumed them. There were no means of saving them, as the windows were strongly grated with iron, and only one door that they could get out of, which was entirely enveloped in flames. The next night, there was a tremendous fall of rain; the water courses were filled and run a different way; in consequence of which fourteen persons were drowned in their houses.

A curious man.—Mr. Eusebe Valley, known for his zeal, and various experiments of the highest importance, in Medicine, intends to visit America, for the purpose of making a new one.— It is well known, that in 1806, this physician repaired to Constantinople, with the intention of taking the infection of the plague, and trying upon himself the means proper for curing it. He combined that disease with the Small Pox, inoculated himself with both at once, and obtained successful results.— Mr. Valley also once coolly drank the venom of a mad dog. He is now going to the United States, with a view to catch the Yellow Fever, and to discover the means of curing that fatal disorder. London paper, Dec. 15