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FOREIGN ITEMS.

EXTRAORDINARY ELOPEMENT.

The town of Gravesend was on Thursday last the scene of much bustle in consequence of an elopement which took place between an officer, said to be in the Guards, and the daughter of a General. An attachment had subsisted for some time between the parties; their union, however, was opposed by the family of the young lady, who determined to prevent it by sending her to the East Indies. She was put on board of a vessel lying off Gravesend, in company with her father and brothers, and was to have sailed the following day. Her lover by some means gained information of her situation, and hastened to the scene of action with a determination of making an effort to recover his fair one.—He succeeded in conveying a request to her that she would hold herself in readiness to escape, if a boat with certain marks should approach the ship. About seven in the evening he started in disguise, with four dextrous rowers; and as he neared the ship he perceived with his glass, the lady walking the deck; he boldly approached, and in an instant the fair damsel, in the presence of her father and brothers, who had not the slightest suspicion that such a *coupe de main* was in contemplation, slipped down the side of the vessel, and was carried off. They were quickly pursued to Gravesend, where they were delayed in procuring post horses, and fortune once more appeared against them. The father and the brothers accidentally entered the very house where the fugitives were, and insisted that the lady should be given up. By this time the circumstances of the case were all known in the town, and it was intimated to the captain by some of the resident women, who are always upon the look out for what they term "a lark" that when all was ready he should not be prevented from carrying off the object of his wishes. A chaise and four was soon procured when a determined scuffle took place; might, however overcame right, and again had the friends the mortification of seeing the lady fly before their faces. They were quickly followed to London, and traced as far as Charing Cross where no further clue could be gained to guide pursuit. The lady is young and of very interesting appearance. Her lover was well supplied with money.

CAUTION TO THE LADIES.

YORK ASSIZES, (ENG.) AUG. 16.

Davidson vs Wilson.

Mr. Coleman opened the pleadings. Mr. Scarlett had to state the case opened by his learned friend. The plaintiff now applied to them for the loss he had sustained of being disappointed of a marriage he had contracted and from which he could reasonably expect comfort. A celebrated writer, (lord Bacon) who would be admired as long as the English language existed, and whose observations on manners and human nature, formed the surest authority to which their attention could be directed, had said, "a young man marries for a mistress—a middle aged man for a companion—and an old man for a nurse." This remark was authorised by the high species of philosophy and the justest views of human nature—"It is not good for man to be alone."—Solitude at any age was not good. We were made for communicating and enjoying the pleasure of consolation, by a reciprocity of attention and kindness. He made these remarks because he observed a smile on some faces at the age of his client, who, he admitted was sixty-eight.—(Laughter.) And if he could pro-

vide himself with a nurse, on account of the defendant's conduct, he was entitled to damages, and must feel the loss he suffered, as sensibly as some younger men. The defendant was of an age to be answerable for her promises. She had attained the discretion which years conferred, and was not at a period of life, as in many cases, to make her marriage unhappy; but a steady, discreet, sensible lady, of an age quite proportionable to the plaintiff's.—Miss Wilson, he understood, was sixty-four!—(Peals of laughter resounded through the court, and infected the learned gentleman himself.)

He wished he possessed the genius and eloquence of a celebrated writer, who charmed his readers with a description of love at the age of 60; or that he felt the poetic fire of a writer of his own age, lord Byron, who had made the love of an old man of 80 the subject of a tragedy. The love he had to state to the jury was one of the soberest views which the passion presented. But there was great advantage, after all, in aged love; it possessed the comforts and advantages, of a steady and matured union of sentiments. If there was no real friendship but in a perfect community of interests, a true friend was not to be found by these parties in any state. The plaintiff a seafaring man, by gallantry on board his vessel, had distinguished and advanced himself. He had been married and had a family, and his wife died in 1805. Since that time, he had lived at Ayton, where the defendant resided with her father, mother, and youngest sister. They became acquainted, and were inspired with mutual esteem. Her brother, his particular friend, was now dead, and her father, mother, and sister, followed, leaving her alone. Before that period, there had been great intimacy and constant intercourse between the parties, and now friendship ripened into love. Left destitute, though not in fortune, for she had ten thousand pounds, the plaintiff continued her intimate friend and adviser. Finding the house in which her family had resided too large and inconvenient, she quitted and took lodgings of a Mr. Williams of Gusbrough, leaving the plaintiff to arrange her affairs at Ayton. At this period, he should lay before them evidence of the contract between the parties. She induced him to engage a house, in which they might live together as man and wife. How was it then the union had not taken place? He would shew them. His client had not been so absurd as to despise the additional comforts to be derived from a wife's fortune, but her fortune had not been his object. He had said, "With respect to fortune, I ask not a farthing; settle, it as you please, except what may be necessary for our living comfortably." As matters approached a crisis, he advised her to communicate her intentions to Mr. and Mrs. Dodd. That was the cause of the present action; for one or both of them dissuaded her from fulfilling her arrangement. He would now lay before them the correspondence, which, though it did not contain the strong expressions of a girl of eighteen, predominated in the sober discretion and prudence which were required in a wife.—[The learned counsel here read extracts from several letters, to show her unbounded confidence in her plighted lover, in which the maiden lady made various arrangements respecting her property.]

In the letter of 18th Oct. 1820, she gave the first intimation of her intention to change her condition.—She avowed some views which she was unwilling to commit to paper; these were communicated at a personal interview, but as he could give no evidence of it, its nature must be inferred from the letters. In these letters, she gave directions for taking a house, and expressed a hope that "time would bring all things about." What did that mean but the wed-

ding day? (Loud laughter.) Then she alluded to the month of May, which proved very distinctly what step the lady meant to take. She apologized for not going to Ayton, on a certain day, to drink tea, but named one on which she would go for the electrifying machine (laughter) what was this but a good excuse to meet her admirer, whom she before disappointed, by not keeping her engagement. Then she talked of accepting an invitation to the festivities of York Spring Assizes, of which persons partook, who did not work as hard as he, and those who heard him.—Then May was approaching. That was the happy time that was "to bring all things about."—That was the month celebrated by the poet as the month of marriage.

"Then from the Virgin's cheek a fresher bloom
Shoots, less, and less the live carnation round.

"Her lips blush deeper sweets —
"The shining moisture swells into her eye.
" — her wishing bosom heaves,
"With palpitations wild, kind, tumults seize
"Her veins—and all her yielding soil is love."

(During the repetition of this the court was convulsed.)

"Whenever you marry again gentlemen, May is the proper time."—She intimates to her accepted lover, how gay she would be next week at York, attending concerts and other amusements, suited to her prospect, and directs him to take the house only for six years, which was extremely prudent, as by that time the house might not be large enough. (Laughter.) She corresponded with him after she returned from York, till the merry month of May, and in one letter complained of the inconvenience of getting her epistles into the post office, and of being too much watched; which ladies in her circumstances were apt to think.—(Laughter.) In these letters it was evident that she thought of changing her situation; that she approved of the plaintiff's attachment; and was only waiting till the month of May "brought all things about." On consulting Mr. and Mrs. Dodd, a change of mind took place, and she wrote a cold and doubtful letter. He asked an explanation, and she answered with the same coldness and reserve. He did not blame the Dodds for the advice they had given; every person had his own views of happiness.

Mr. Justice Bailey.—It was kind advice, to prevent them from doing a foolish thing.

Mr. Scarlett.—Another letter was written, to say the house would not be wanted, subscribed, "Your obedient servant, Rachel Wilson," instead of as formerly, "Your's sincerely." From these circumstances they would see the ground of complaint; and if she had thought proper to break her contract, some compensation ought to be made to the plaintiff. After being acquainted with her fifteen years, he was thrown back to all the miseries of solitude, and deprived of his prospects. He should prove the promise from the letters from which he had read extracts.

Mr. Justice Bailey.—And the breach too, I suppose?

(His lordship recommended an arrangement, but the attempt failed)

Mr. George Dodd was examined, to prove that letters passed between the parties, and that a number produced were in Miss Wilson's hand writing.

After another attempt at arrangement,

Mr. Scarlett said, at the recommendation of his lordship, he acceded to the proposition, to take a verdict for a small sum, and proceeded no further.—Considering the ages and situations of the parties, he could not expect such damages as if they were younger, and there was more love and sentiment in the connexion.

Mr. Raine.—I am glad it is put an end to.

Mr. Justice Bailey.—£20 is all

I think, under the circumstances, the plaintiff is entitled to.

The Foreman.—We should have given no more.

A verdict was accordingly taken for the plaintiff—Damages £20.

From the London Courier, Aug. 22.

ROYALTY AND PAGEANTRY.

Extract of a private Letter.

DUBLIN, AUGUST 18.

You will have seen in the papers here a not exaggerated account of yesterday's doings.—They really were magnificent; and to day we had the most beautiful review in the Phoenix Park; the weather became splendid just before the King came on the ground. It is impossible to describe the impression made by the infinite varieties exhibited by the innumerable spectators, in dresses of all colors, on horseback, in carriages of all descriptions, and on foot contrasted with the more diversified regularity of the troops, artillery, dragoons, hussars, and lancers, fusiliers, highlanders, light troops, and the line, and all on a turf of the most beautiful verdure, skirted with trees, and bounded by mountains of the finest forms, and under a sky cloudless, or rather with no more clouds than were necessary to cast their cameo tints on the scenery. I never saw any thing so fine.

"The king rode a white charger, with a grace and dignity well known to you on the other side, but new and transporting to us. When, towards the conclusion of the review, he galloped forward alone to return the final salute, and became thus offered to the uninterrupted and undivided observation of his people, the shouts that arose at once from all that immense multitude, excited feelings which I never before experienced. They say that the human voice is the sweetest of sounds. I am sure we all felt to-day, that when it expresses the cordial joy of a great people, it is touching even to tears, and inspiring even to enthusiasm. The King appeared affected by that acclamation.

"I say nothing of the review itself. Skillfully imagined and finely executed as the manoeuvres and skirmishes were, they were, in some degree lost in the interest of the King's presence. 'A touch more rare (as Shakspeare says) subdues all other feeling; and the splendor of arms was obscured by the Majesty of the King.

"One only detail I will give you. In the 'marching part,' the column of heroes were most of them heroes of Waterloo, and led by a hero of Waterloo, the Marquis of Anglesa, whose fine appearance and graceful management of his horse, at the head of his hussars, would on any other occasion, have been a fruitful theme; the rear of the column was closed by some hundreds of the orphans sons of soldiers, whose exact, but tiny discipline almost rivalled that of the troops, while their tender years, innocent countenances, and orphan state excited a deep and generous sympathy. I was obliged to wipe my eyes as the little creatures passed, and I observed several others (made of sterner stuff than me) who did the same.—This little tender incident, in the midst of the thunder and lightning of the mimic war, was like one of those beautiful gleams of sunshine which sometimes escape from a stormy sky: in short, though I have written you four pages, if you were to ask me what I have seen, and what I had felt, my answer would be but five words: "The King and the children."

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

The school of mutual instruction for Jews, established at Metz, is in a very prosperous state. A great number of pupils have already been apprenticed to trades. We may therefore expect that the spirit of brokerage among Jews which makes them avoid mechanical professions, will soon be entirely done away. The bill for mutual instruction, eloquently defended by the ministers

has at length in the Chamber of Deputies, triumphed over a lively opposition.—In a work published by Girardon, Lamete, and the Marquis of Cordova, of the Chamber of Deputies, and containing many wise and just reflections on the proposal of the Commission of the Budget, to suppress the system of mutual instruction we notice the following facts.

Father Della Salle, who was the founder of Christian Schools, towards the beginning of the last century, met with the same obstacles; and suffered the same persecutions as the founders of the present system. The Brothers were accused of introducing a mode of learning to read and to write too easily, and School-masters denounced them, declaring that their manner of teaching was contrary to the interest of a monarchical government, and dangerous to morals and religion. A bull from Benedict XIII was necessary to maintain the system of the Brothers, who underwent what all who institute new establishments in France must undergo the malevolence of those who pursue the ancient track, and persevere in the old routine. It were well if the enemies of mutual instruction in France, at the present day, would call to mind a part of the bull of the Pope, which runs thus: "Ignorance is the mother of every evil; the cause and origin of every disorder, especially among those who in a low state of fortune, or practising mechanic arts for a livelihood, have no knowledge of letters, and consequently, are unacquainted with the principles of religion." They should recollect the unanimous favors of the Sovereigns of Europe, and the eagerness with which the system has been adopted in Asia and America. It was encouraged in 1806 in one of the provinces of France; it was introduced at Saint Cyr, by M. de Maintenon; the religious congregations, devoted to the education of girls, under the old reigns, made use of its principles; the good Rollin predicted, that it would, one day, become the basis of the instruction of the people. Herbault used it in 1741 in the wards of *la Pitié*; and the Chevalier Paulet, who greatly developed it before the French Revolution, received signal marks of regard from Louis XVI. It is to Education, what the Vaccine is to Medicine; and it is a singular coincidence of fortune, that they, in the first of their appearance, should both have met with equally violent attacks and the confessedly useful intents of both been overlooked by prejudice.

Nothing, however, can be more contrary to divine & human wisdom, than that one class of society should be instructed and another remain in darkness. Not only morality but religion must find a real and palpable benefit in the education of the people. Reading a few useful books will often produce more effect than certain sermons. Savoy is celebrated for the probity of its natives, the children there are all taught to read, write and cast accounts. In Saxony the best administered and most tranquil government of Europe, and the country where the fewest crimes are committed, there is not a single individual to be met with who has not received a good primary education.

EFFECTS OF LIGHTNING.

The Gazette de France contains the following curious instance of the effects of lightning on the human frame. During a violent storm, which visited the neighborhood of the town of Biberach, in Prussia, on the evening of the 16th July, four young peasants, engaged on an eminence in some agricultural labors, had recourse to the expedient of sustaining a bundle of clover over their heads with a pitchfork, in order to shelter themselves from the rain.—The lightning struck the pitchfork, passed along the breast & shoulders of one of the young men; afterwards over the lower part of the belly of the one who stood next him, ran down his right leg till it reached his