

gently crawled towards it. The friend who stood by, seized the reptile with his hand, and suddenly drew it from its den, in which it had grown to its present almost incredible size. It was then killed, and we understand has been preserved by the Doctor as a wonderful curiosity. It measured four feet five inches in length, is nearly of a bigness from head to tail, and is of a jet black colour.—Williams was with great difficulty restored, and was removed to the hospital where he is now doing well. We hope the case of this man may serve as a warning to any person who may have occasion to slake his thirst from brooks and springs in marshy ground.—*New York Paper.* [Colonel Crockett must hide his "diminished head" now.

MAGNIFICENT PRESENT FROM THE KING OF OUDE TO WILLIAM IV.—On Friday week, the Duke of Argyll, (East Indian), which arrived a few days since in the West India Dock, completed the unloading of her cargo, among which was a variety of articles of the most costly description, from the King of Oude to His Majesty King William. They consist principally of articles for domestic use—viz., a beistead of solid gold and a table of the same metal, two chairs of solid silver, two elephants, two Arabian horses, and two dwarf buffaloes. The elephants are small of stature, being as yet but 11 years of age, and are male and female: they are accompanied by attendants, natives of India, attired in the splendid costume of their country. The male elephant was removed in a caravan to Mr. Cross's establishment, at the Surrey Zoological Gardens, and the female to the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, in obedience to the commands of His Majesty. The two Arabian horses, which are very young and beautiful animals, have been conveyed to Windsor. The dwarf buffaloes are of the size of the common pig in this country. The whole of the presents are estimated at £80,000.

EXPERIMENT WITH LIME ON THE TOP OF THE COLOSSEUM.—Some experiments have just been made on the top of the Colosseum with a newly-arranged lime-light, by Mr. Alexander Gordon. This light consists of four jets of oxygen and hydrogen, (mixed just at the point of ignition,) passed upon a cylinder of lime. The four luminous points upon the cylinder are very minute, each point not exceeding in size the head of a pin. By reason of the refraction of their rays they appear at a little distance considerably larger. If a line be drawn from north-west through the Colosseum south-south-east, spectators on the eastern side of the line will see the light as it appears, unaided by any lens or other contrivances for distributing the rays, whilst to persons on the western side of the line an increased effect will be produced by the arrangement of the glass lenses constructed on this half the circle.—Mr. Gordon, by this arrangement of the glasses, bends up the lower rays of light, which, if it were not for the lenses, would pass downwards, and bends down those rays which would otherwise pass upwards and be lost, and forms them into a sheet or fan of light. The fan extends round the half-circle from N.N.W. to S.S.E., and economizes the light that it may be seen from any point sufficiently lofty at a distance of many miles from the Colosseum.

There existed a famous picture of Charles the First, which had the whole Book of Psalms written in the lines of the face and the hair of the head. This extraordinary conception was imitated by some ingenious artist so late as the time of the First Consul, whose head and bust are entirely represented in writing, recording his victories, &c.

WEST INDIA APPOINTMENTS.—The King has been pleased to appoint John Douglas, Esquire, to be provost master-general of the Islands of Grenada; G. Birrell, Esquire, to be attorney-general of the Bahama Islands, and Stephenson Villiers Surtees, Esquire, to be vice-president of the Court of Appeal in the Island of Mauritius.

SALE OF SHIPS OF WAR.—Last week, the brigs Hardy, Barracouta, Alacrity, Zenobia, and the packets Rinaldo, Sygnet, and Sphinx, were sold by Dutch auction, at the office of the Lord High Admiral, for £4,100.

OXFORD ASSIZES.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE.

John Mounford, aged 51, was capitally indicted, under the 9th Geo. IV. sec. 11 & 12 (one of Peel's Acts), for maliciously carrying loaded arms, to wit, a tin case and tube, containing three pounds of gunpowder and other combustibles for igniting the same, to be delivered to Giles Ladd, with intent to murder him by the explosion.

Mr. Whately stated the case to the Jury. This was one of the most extraordinary cases that had ever been brought before a jury. On Tuesday the 11th of May last, a brown paper parcel was delivered to Mr. Giles Ladd, at his house in Bristol road, Birmingham. Mr. Ladd is a coachman in respectable circumstances. The parcel was addressed to Mr. L. who immediately proceeded to open it. Under the outer cover

of brown was another of blue paper, and this was found to contain an oblong tin box. Mr. L. tried to loosen the lid, and something like grains of seed fell out; he picked some of them up, and on putting them into the fire he found them to be gunpowder of large grain, or blast gunpowder, as it is called. Of this more than three pounds' weight were contained in the box, and half a pound of hard peas. On examining the box it was found to have a tube running through it, also of tin, which was fastened to the lid of the box, and fitted into a shorter tube at the bottom. In this tube were found two long matches, or fuzes, filled with detonating powder, and made on the same principle with the crackers called "Waterloo bang-ups," but much larger and stronger. These exploded by friction, two pieces of paper, containing powdered glass and fulminating powder between them, being pulled against each other. And in this case, this end was answered by fastening one end of the match to the bottom of the box, and tying the other to the tube, so that in the act of pulling open the box, friction would necessarily take place, and the detonating powders, explode in pulling the pieces of paper against each other, thereby igniting the gunpowder.

Giles Ladd examined by Mr. Whately—I reside in Bristol road, Birmingham: I am proprietor of the house where prisoner resided; it was taken monthly; I gave him notice to quit; I went to his house on the 8th of May last to speak to him about breaking the windows of my house; he confessed having done it; I told him if he did not get them mended I would, and make him pay for it; when my wife and I were going away, I desired her to pass through a private door which led from his house to mine; she could not open it; I found it was nailed up; I then said to prisoner, "if you don't unnaill that immediately, I'll nail your head to it;" he then ran away to the house, and came back immediately, with something like a knife in his hand, saying, "Come on, you shall never have possession of your house again;" I said, "Coward—to get a knife!—man to man, and a knife!" I pulled my pocket book out of my breast, and presented it at him like a pistol; he ran into the house; this was on the 9th May; on the 11th I put a distress in his house; on that day when I came home, I found a parcel addressed to me; I undid the paper, and found under the second covering of blue paper, an oblong tin box; I pulled the handle of the box, but could not open it; I then worked the sliding lid backward and forward, and some black grains fell out, which I took to be onion seed; when I opened it, I found two fulminating matches called "bang-ups," in the tin tube, and 3 lbs. of blast powder.

Mrs Partridge examined by Mr. Whately—The Frightened Horse, where I live, is a public house, where parcels are taken in; it is two-and-a-half miles from Birmingham; the parcel addressed to Mr. Ladd was left with me on the 11th May, by a person much resembling the prisoner; it was about one o'clock.

Palmer, a Birmingham constable, examined by Mr. Whately—I searched the prisoner's house on the 10th of June; I found a quantity of matches or bang-ups and some brown and blue paper in the kitchen; on the 18th I found a part of a Yorkshire journal in a basket; I searched for the newspaper in consequence of observing under the blue paper on the parcel; where Mr. Griffiths had scraped it with his knife, part of a newspaper.

The Editor of the Birmingham Journal was called to produce the Leeds Intelligencer of the 5th July, 1832. He stated that on comparing the two fragments, one found on the box and the other in the prisoner's kitchen, were both parts of the Leeds paper of that date.

After some other witnesses had been examined,

Mr. Justice Williams summed up the whole evidence, stating to the Jury that he entertained great doubt, in point of law, whether the offence came within the Act 9th Geo. IV.; but that he should reserve for the opinion of the Judges.

The Jury returned a verdict of—Guilty.

The learned Judge then admonished the prisoner to entertain no hope of life, if the Judges should be of opinion that his offence came within the Act.

PLAN FOR THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL COMPANY FOR CONDUCTING THE FISHERIES.

The Commercial Society of Lisbon, convinced of the many advantages which might accrue to the nation from the establishment of a Company for carrying on the fisheries, embracing in its operations every description of fishery on the coast of Portugal, the transmarine dominions, and on the high seas—a branch of industry and wealth for which our geographical position with other local circumstances so advantageously fit us, and which perhaps, beyond any other, may advance the public and private welfare of our country, furnishing us in its various products with an abundant supply and a large export, lessening our lamentable state of dependency on strangers, giving a decent and useful employment to many, creating also a

nursery for seamen for the naval and mercantile service, and lastly, giving a stimulus to many other branches of national industry—anxious therefore to realize as soon as possible these manifest advantages, in example of the most civilized nations of Europe, amongst whom this very important branch of industry has always merited particular attention and the warmest protection from their illustrious governments, the Society have appointed a committee from their own members with a view to carry into effect the preliminaries of this most important object, which they have now the honour to submit, for the consideration of the public, in the terms following:—

1st. The taking of Whales in such places as may be deemed most advantageous for extracting their Oil, Whalebone, &c.

2nd. The catching of Codfish upon the Banks of Newfoundland, to be salted with our own salt, and not to be cured with any other, nor even with any ingredient which may be prejudicial to health or disagreeable to the palate.

3rd. The manufacturing of Cod Oil—and be it here mentioned that these two articles of extensive consumption are now exclusively supplied to us by strangers, and are powerfully operative in creating the balance of trade against us.

4th. The fishery of Sardinia, Tunny, Hake, and any other fish fit to be salted, which abounded on our coast; as, also, on that of the Algarves, requires for its ample development the necessity of its being undertaken by a powerful company; to act on an extended scale with method and perseverance, and to keep on hand a large stock for consumption and for exportation.

5th. And, finally, the manufacturing of Oil from all the various descriptions of fish.

Rules for the future organization of the Company which are now offered to the consideration of the public for their information and guidance.

The nominal capital of the Company to be 400 Contes des Reis, divided into 400 shares of 100 dollars each.

These shares to be inserted in a book of Registry, and the holders to have a certificate granted to them, shewing the shares entered with their names, numbers, &c.

In the formation of this Company, no subscriber will be permitted to subscribe more than 100 shares.

Any subscriber having 50 shares will be eligible to become a director, but shall cease to be one whenever his number may be reduced to less than that amount.

No instalment shall exceed 5000 Reis on each share, nor shall be required under 30 days previous notice. Any share holder, however, who within the time named, shall not comply with the call made upon him (excepting for some just and admissible cause) shall *ipso facto* be excluded from the Company; shall lose the amount of his first advance, and shall not be excepted from contributing towards any damages which may have been incurred up to the date of his exclusion.

All agents employed by the Company to be Shareholders.

The management of the Company will be entrusted to 12 members, to be elected by Ballot from the majority of votes, by the assembly of Shareholders who may hold 15 shares and upwards.

The permanent executive management to be conducted by 3 managers, to serve in rotation weekly; one of the 3 going out, and another being admitted, until the whole 12 shall have served their turn.

The directors to be elected for 12 months, and may be re-elected.

The Company shall be always represented by its directors.

There shall be one or more Secretaries who are to be elected by the directors, and shall be re-eligible, unless otherwise disqualified.

The Bank of Lisbon to be the depository for the monies of the Company until the general assembly may decide otherwise. The same Bank will transact its receipts and disbursements, and all the checks on the Bank shall be signed by three directors, without which they shall not be valid.

Every six months the managers will lay before the assembly an account of their transactions, with a statement of their proceedings, which shall be submitted for the approbation of the assembly.

The managers may also convoke a special meeting of the assembly whenever they may judge necessary; and the assembly on the requisition of 12 of its members, may in like manner be convoked upon any occasion to discuss matters of general interest to the Company.

On the 31st December in each year, the Books and accounts of the Company will be closed, and shall be exhibited to the general assembly of Shareholders; when upon view of the result, what they show, the annual dividend payable on each share, will be declared.

No Shareholder shall be responsible for more than his nominal capital.

The Company, 3 years after its formation, shall not purchase for their business any Ship or other Vessel of Foreign construction.

As soon as 200 shares shall have been subscribed for, the Company shall be formed, and the Shareholders shall be called together to elect the directors; who shall immediately proceed to the formation of the by-laws, in order that the business of the Company may be commenced as early as possible. The bye-laws shall be made by the 12 directors, and approved by the general assembly; without which no instalment on account of the shares shall be demanded.

As soon as the general assembly of the Shareholders shall be constituted, the functions of the Commercial Society of Lisbon shall instantly cease, and the committee of management shall be competent to demand payment of the instalments as above mentioned. The title of the Company shall be THE LISBON FISHING COMPANY. The committee of management being appointed, they shall forthwith solicit of the Government an Act of incorporation in conformity with the 546 article of the Commercial code. Any person who upon view of the above statement may wish to subscribe for shares in this scheme, will have the goodness (before the end of the ensuing month of September) to address a letter to the Secretary of the Commercial Society of Lisbon, Rua de Arsenal, No. 60, specifying at length the number of shares for which he wishes to subscribe.

The letter besides the above mentioned directions will be also addressed as follows.—"For shares in the Lisbon Fishing Company."

Lisbon, 17th August, 1835.
(Signed)
ANTINO PEDRO DE SALES,
Secretary

THE STAR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1835.

We had the pleasure of seeing, for the first time on the night of the 10th instant, that long expected, and much talked of traveller, "HALLEY'S COMET." By any one who is accustomed to a contemplation of the stary firmament, will have been readily recognized near to one of the "pointers" of *Ursa Major*: two stars in that very remarkable sign so called, from their pointing or forming a line of direction to the north star.

The comet was readily distinguished from a star, by being surrounded with a hazy luminous appearance, at the same time that the star showed a bright twinkling well defined light.

Very little alteration was made in the appearance of either, by looking at them thro' a common telescope fitted to the usual focus; but on drawing the sliding part of the telescope out farther than any of the usual foci, the star appeared increased to ten times its size when viewed with the naked, and the comet proportionably large: the star clear distinct and bright, but the comet still presenting a hazy luminous light. The comet is travelling at a rapid rate towards the sun.

We observed it on the night of the 11th instant: it had then travelled from the proximity of the pointer, to about midway the sign of *Ursa Major*, and on the night of the 12th, it was a little beyond the sign. When it is considered that there are, at least, twenty comets belonging to our system, and that they are moving in all directions, and yet move in perfect harmony with the whole of the heavenly bodies; that they, some of them, leave our system, and in all probability, visit other suns and other worlds, during their long voyage of fifty or sixty years out into space, who can refrain from feeling an inexpressible awe for that Great Being, who created and who guides and rules the whole with as little exertion of his power, as is required to prolong the present transitory existence of mankind, amongst whom, there are some gifted beings, whose aspirations after knowledge, have led them to follow the course of these heavenly bodies—calculate their rate of travelling, and foretell their return almost to a moment. One of these gifted beings was HALLEY, whose name is again lifted from forgetfulness, and again pronounced by the nations of the earth on the re-appearance of the Comet.

Contrasted with his fame, how contemptible appears the fame of kings and conquerors. HALLEY, in the prosecution of his astronomical labours, resided some time in *St. Helena*, about the year 1676. How little this circumstance is known, compared with that of the Island having been the prison place of NAPOLEON: yet will the name of HALLEY be ushered in, once during every coming half century, until the name of NAPOLEON will have been forgotten. HALLEY was born in the parish of *Shoreditch*, London, in 1656, educated at *Oxford*, and