The Mechanics' Register.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1851.

That Little Bill.

What sound in this sad vale of tears
Can conjure up such fiends of woe
As that now pouring in mine ears
Its mournful music soft and slow?
I cannot tear myself away—
It follows me where'er I will—
I hear it through the live-long day:
"Sir, can you pay that little bill?"

When summer's sun pours down its rays,
With fiery scorching boiling power,
I choose to spend the hottest days
In some secluded country bower;
'Mid shady groves I seek repose,
Lulled by the music of the rill,
It comes,—the dearest "foe of foes,"—
"Sir, can you pay that little bill?"

When on the public pave I meet
The beautiful Amelia Brown,
My gentlest bow her fair smiles greet,
And I escort her round the town—
I whisper honeyed words of joy,
And think I feel love's raptures thrill;
Oh, horror! 'tis my tailor's boy:
"Sir, can you pay that little bill?"

The little stars enthroned above
Are twinkling in their mellow light,
Relating each its little love
To other little stars as bright;
Entranced I gazed upon the scene
In all its beauty calm and still:
A voice is heard—what can it mean?
"Sir, can you pay that little bill?"

At ball, at route, abroad, at home,
In waking or in sleeping hours,
When fancy loves betimes to roam
'Mid groves of Amaranthine flowers,
Or floating on her buoyant wings
I soar above Parnassus' hill,
Within my soul that voice still rings:
"Sir, can you pay that little bill?"

The Mind Makes the Man.

An idea is prevalent that those who move in the middle and lower ranks of life should not search deeply into the hidden stores of science and literature. Many adhere, or affect to adhere, to the impression that learning totally disqualifies the labouring part of the community for their various avocations in life, and this false and most absurd opinion has too long wound its detractive and ridiculous coils around them, and been an almost insurmountable barrier to improvement in the mechanic department of civil life. It is from the want of knowledge alone that these branches of science have suffered, and doubt less they will continue to suffer severely, until the death-like lethargy which this opinion and the acting upon it has superinduced among mechanics shall be removed.

Our boastful patriots, and philanthropists, and philosophers, write and prate about *equality*, while the majority of the minds of our citizens remain steeped in involuntary ignorance, and are thereby exposed to the illness and vice which a vacant mind is sure more or less to engender. It is very true that the greatest number of those who follow mechanical pursuits can read, write, cipher, and some may have a slight knowledge of Grammar and Geography; but how can he found who have proceeded any farther? In Mathematics, or entered the rich and varied fields of Natural Philosophy, scanned the deep and hidden wonders of Chemistry, travelled the classic fields of Greece and Rome, or imbibed the glowing sentiments and practical thoughts of ancient times? Yet upon these various sciences are based the mighty fabrics of Mechanics, Agriculture, and Navigation. Such persons seldom imagine that a building, however simple, is never erected without being subjected to some fixed Mathematical rule, which if they do not understand they must remain dependent upon the knowledge of others. While sensible of these facts, should not the labouring classes strive to improve every moment of their time as it passes, and be careful to store their minds with substantial knowledge, which will not only render them respectable and valuable members of society, but will contribute greatly to their individual happiness through life. If all agriculturists, for instance, were intimately acquainted with the study of chemistry, we should soon find that branch of labour reduced to a science. But instead of this, not one in a hundred has ever opened a work upon the subject, or even knows the terms by which its details are designated and explained.

Natural philosophy is connected with both the farming and mercantile interests, and if any one wishes seriously to become eminent in his professional department, he must enter deeply into the study of natural science. By this means he is sure to excel in whatever field of labour he may have chosen to exert his energies.

Pedantitis.
(Continued.)

10. *Action and Reaction.*—A billiard ball stops when it strikes directly another ball of equal size, and the second ball proceeds with the whole velocity which the first possessed, because the *action* which imparts the new motion is equal to the *reaction* which destroys the old. Although the transference of motion in such a case seems to be instantaneous, the change is really progressive, and is as follows:—The approaching ball at a certain point of time, has just given half of its motion to the other equal ball—and if both were of soft clay, they would then proceed together with half the original velocity—but as they are both equally elastic, the touching parts, at the moment supposed, are compressed like a spring between the balls, and by this expanding and exerting force equally both ways, they double the natural motion of the foremost ball, and destroy altogether the motion of the other.

11. *Uniformity of Motion.*—Uniformity of motion is essential to rational conjecture or anticipation as to future mechanical events, because it is by assuming, for instance, that the earth will continue to turn uniformly on its axis, that we speak of *to-morrow* and next week or year, and that we make arrangements for future emergencies, and were the coming day or season or year to arrive sooner or later than such anticipation, it would throw such confusion into all our affairs, that the world would soon be desolate. To calculate astronomical futurities then, or to speak of past events, is merely to take some great uniform motion as a standard by which to compare others, and then to say of the remote event, that it coincided or will coincide with some described state of the standard motion. The most obvious and best standards, are the revolving of the earth round its axis, and its great revolution round the sun. The first is rendered sensible to us by our observing the rising and setting of the sun, which is called a day, and the second is marked by the succession of the seasons, and it is called a year. The earth turns upon its axis about 365 times, while it is performing one circuit round the sun, and thus it divides the year into as many equal parts: and the day is divided into smaller parts by the progress of the earth's revolution, being so distinctly marked in the constantly varying directions of the sun, as viewed from any given spot on the surface of the earth. When advancing civilization made it of importance to man to be able to ascertain with precision the very instant of the earth's revolution connected with any event, various contrivances were introduced for the purpose. Such have been sun dials, on the face of which the shadow travels progressively round the divided circle. Such also are the uniform flux of water through a prepared opening, or the flux of sand in a common hour glass. But the very triumphs of modern ingenuity and art are those astronomical clocks and watches in which the counted equal vibrations of a pendulum or balance wheel, have detected periodical inequalities, even in the motion of the earth itself, and have directed attention to unsuspected disturbing causes important to be known.

12. *The Pendulum a Time Keeper.*—The pendulum is a time keeper, because the times of the vibrations are nearly equal, whether it be moving much or little; that is to say, whether the arc described by it be large or small. A common clock is merely a pendulum with wheel-work attached to it to record the number of the vibrations, and with a weight or spring having force enough to counteract the retarding effects of friction, and the resistance of the air. The wheels shew how many swings or beats of the pendulum have taken place, because at every beat a tooth of the last wheel is allowed to pass. Now if this wheel has 60 teeth, as is common, it will just turn round once for every sixty beats of the pendulum, which beats are sixty seconds, and a hand fixed on the axis of the wheel projecting through the dial plate will be the second hand of the clock. The other wheels are so connected with the first, and the number of the teeth on them so proportioned, that the one turns sixty times slower than the first, fitted to axis to carry a minute hand; and another by moving twelve times slower still, is fitted to carry an hour hand.

A THEORY OF THE AURORA BOREALIS.—According to all accounts, the Aurora Borealis takes place after a thaw. By this means, then, and in proportion to the rapidity of the thaw, the immense quantity of negative electricity bound in the earth and accumulated more over on its warmly-kept snow-covered surface, is liberated, and finds its way into the upper regions by creeping up the sides of the numerous hills and mountains of these places, or is carried up by the rising vapours to the region of the positive electricity floating above our atmosphere towards the equator, as does the negative below. By these means the aurora borealis takes place; it is the union of the positive and negative electricities in a different rising, and under different circumstances, and, no doubt, for different ends. Its sensible effect upon the magnetic needle, before it reaches the point of culmination, must be obvious, considering the disturbance caused by the quantity of fluids brought into action from a state of rest. The shape of an arch may be accounted for by the atmosphere's forming a ring round the earth, and the circumference of the earth being greatly narrowed towards the poles, the arch of the atmosphere at the poles must naturally be more contracted and lower in proportion than the arch which it forms nearer and round the equator; and the electricity of the upper regions floating on the air in the same way, will present to our view the aurora borealis in a curve or arch.—*The Builder.*

PHILOSOPHY OF HEAT.—"Well my little fellow," said a certain principal to a sucking philosopher, whose mamma had been teasing the learned knight to test the astonishing abilities of her boy, "what are the properties of heat?" "The chief property of heat is, that it expands bodies, while cold contracts them." "Very good, indeed; you seem to have a familiar example?" "Sir, in summer, when it is hot, the day is long; whilst in winter, when it is cold, it becomes very short." The learned knight stopped his examination, and was lost in amazement that so familiar an instance should have so long escaped his own observation.

A message from Paris to England and an answer returned in *a minute and a half*, was lately achieved by the submarine telegraph, and it is enough to take away your breath to hear it. Ariel's "girdle round the earth in forty minutes" will soon be "slow."

REVOLUTION IN FRANCE!

HALIFAX, Dec. 20.

The Steamship *Europa*, out 14 days, put in here this morning. She experienced a succession of heavy gales and lost a man overboard. She has 32 passengers.

The Steamer *Canada* arrived at Liverpool on Tuesday, the 2nd; had a very rough and tedious passage.

The *Baltic* arrived at Liverpool at 9, P.M., on Thursday, the 4th instant.

The news from France is most important—the affairs of that country having engrossed attention to the exclusion of everthing else. The long-dreaded *coup d'etat* has been made, and the President having seized the reins of government, has dissolved the Assembly, declared a state of siege, arrested the leading opponents of his policy, and appealed to the people. All this was done as early hour on Tuesday the 2nd instant,—preparations for it having been effected with consummate skill and secrecy during the preceding night—and the whole thing done and completed before any one had the least idea, that it was in progress or in contemplation, and an entire new Ministry was formed during the night of Monday.

Proclamations dissolving the Assembly, appealing to the people, restoring universal suffrage, and proposing a new system of government, were printed by the private printers in the Elysee, and were posted throughout Paris before daytime. Copies of these and other circulars from the Ministry and Prefect of Police, printed in a like manner, were despatched to all the Provinces, announcing what had been done, and appealing to the nation at large, and conveying stringent orders and instructions to all the officers of the Government throughout the country.

The President's proposal is the instant restoration of universal suffrage, the instant election by the people and by the army of a President to hold office for ten years, supported by a Council of State, and by two Houses of Legislature, and during the few days required to complete the election, the Executive power shall remain in the hands of the President. The election fixed to take place in the present month, the President promising to bow to the will of the people, whether they elect himself or any one else, and declares that he holds power only until the will of the people can be made known. Meantime he demands a preliminary vote from both the army and the people, to declare whether they confide to him the Executive power *ad interim*: the army to record their votes within 48 hours: the people being allowed a longer time. The President declares himself to have been forced into the measure, and it is ascertained that Changarnier, Lamoriciere, Thiers, and others of his opponents, had decided to demand his arrest, on impeachment, on the 2nd instant, and were together in the very act of confirming this decision, when they were themselves arrested and conveyed to Vincennes, whence they were next day removed to

The temporary Hall used for the Assembly, has been taken down by government, and whenever members have attempted to meet officially, they have been ordered to disperse, and arrested if they refused. More than 200 have been arrested in all, many, however, being released in a few hours, but all the leaders of the opposition have been imprisoned. Many members of the Assembly have given in their adherence to the President. It is said as many as 300 during the first day. No organized resistance to the movement was attempted, and the telegraph reports from the departments declare the news to have been hailed with enthusiasm by the Provincial Deputations. Subsequently, however, partial attempts at opposition were made in Paris, as rumors reached that city hostile to the alleged unanimity of feeling in the Provinces. Barricades were erected in the more turbulent quarters, but were all broken by the troops. Some of them, two members of the Assembly, taking prominent places, were killed in the conflict. A section of the assembly had continued sitting in one of the Parisian Mairies on Tuesday, and had decreed the deposition of the President and his impeachment for high treason, but the meeting was dispersed by the troops, and the decree ridiculed and disregarded on all hands. In addition to the arrests, the troops were placed in some of the houses of the ex officers of the Assembly, who were exempted from arrest. That of M. Dupin, President of the Assembly, was occupied by troops, and himself put under an order of Surrance, though he was not actually arrested. The full rigour of martial law had been proclaimed against all persons connected with the barricades, and they were accordingly shot without delay.

Up to Thursday night the success of the movement seemed certain, and London advices to Friday night did not vary materially from the same prospect, but new elements were constantly mixing in the struggle. So long as any actual contest continues, not only must there be more or less uncertainty, but the difficulty of obtaining reliable information is very great.

PARIS, Friday morning.—A decree appeared ordering the voting on the 20th instant to be a secret instead of public. There were rumours of fighting being continued to-day, but nothing confirmatory in any of the London papers. The latest public accounts state that the insurgents had been put down after a severe struggle. Provincial reports are satisfactory. It is stated that 700 refugees left London, on Thursday evening, for Paris. It is also stated that the French Government has stopped the transmission of despatches by telegraph. Movement of troops silent and firm during the day. Barricades have been thrown up in earnest. At half-past one o'clock, an immense crowd of about 5000 troops, moving along the Boulevard, was fired on from the neighbouring passages and houses close by. The fire was returned and answered by the insurgents. The combat lasted, briskly, for upwards of half an hour—musketry and cannon shots at the same time. Further down the Boulevard, firing was brisk up to four, P.M., had then nearly ceased in the neighbourhood of the Boulevard des Italiannes, but continued in other quarters. Complete particulars cannot be obtained. Nothing is certain but that this sanguinary struggle has taken place.—Many passers by were injured, and a gentleman and his daughter are reported killed.

7, P. M.—There has been a fight in the streets since mid-day to 5 o'clock, in the Quarties St. Martin and St. Denis. Insurrection quelled in all parts. Cannon required to destroy the barricades. Troops returned to their barracks. The barricades of St. Martin and St. Denis, and the boulevards near the Bastile, have been destroyed.

The Herald and *Chronicle* correspondents state that Gen. Castillian at Lyons, and Gen. Newmeyer, have declared against the movement. Strasburgh and Rheims are also said to have risen. Some doubts are entertained of General Megnan.

The *Daily News* states that General Newmeyer is marching to the North with four regiments.

The *Times* says it learns from the Provinces that an attempt at Drayer Amend was energetically suppressed.

Accounts from the departments in general were satisfactory.

Prussia.

At Berlin the intelligence from Paris has caused great excitement—the business of the Assembly was interrupted, and the Ministry withdrew to hold a Cabinet Council. The representatives afterwards broke up their sitting.

Insurrection in Sicily.

A letter from Palermo, of the 12th instant, states that an insurrection in Sicily has been made by Baron Roye and other noblemen, with a view to procure the independence of Sicily, and to compel the King to abdicate in favor of his son Francis. A portion of the inhabitants of Palermo has declared themselves in favor of this project, and the 13th Regiment fraternized with them; but by the energy of the authorities, the movement was soon checked, and several arrests, including officers of the 13th Regiment, were made.

SOUTHAMPTON, Friday, Dec. 5—10, A. M.

The *Sultan* steamer has arrived with dates from Smyrna and Malta to Nov. 13, and from Gibraltar to the 28th. She brings news of the bombardment of Rabat and Sale by the French fleet, which lasted eight hours, causing great loss of life to the Moors. The French suffered slightly from the return from the Castle of Rabat. It is also reported that the fleet then proceeded to Tangiers for the purpose of bombarding that place, and Her Majesty's ship *Venus* had been despatched to protect British residents at that place. Several men were killed on board the French Admiral's ship.

India.

The Overland Mail reached London on Wednesday, the 3d.

Relations with the hill tribes of the north-west frontier continues in an unsatisfactory state. Sir Colin Campbell was to proceed at once to Peshawur, with a force of 2500 or 3000 men, to chastise a powerful tribe called Momuns.

There has been a serious Mussulman riot at Bombay. It was occasioned by the Parsees publication of an illustrated Guaee, in each section of which is given a life and portrait of some remarkable historical characters, having published in the series, next to one of Benj. Franklin, one of Mahomet. The riot lasted half an hour, but the rioters were dispersed by the Police. Several persons were seriously injured, shops plundered, and Parsee women violated. No means have been taken to ascertain the amount of property plundered. Its value is stated, by Police authorities and their organ, the Bombay *Times*, to be under £1000, and by other local papers to have exceeded £15,000.

English Markets.

LIVERPOOL, December 6.

The news from Paris checked an ascending market and anxiety to realize, which had increased yesterday, has given purchasers an advance of 1-8th.

Flour—There has been a good demand for American Flour, at an advance of 6d. per barrel; Western Canal 19s *@* 19s 6d; Philadelphia and Baltimore 19s *@* 20s 6d; Sour 16s *@* 16s 6d.

Indian Corn—The export demand continues unabated at an advance of 6d per quarter; White 30th 29s; Yellow 26s *@* 26s 6d; Mixed 25 *@* 26s 6d.

Wheat advanced 1d per 70lb. Good qualities of foreign held very firm; American white 8s 10d *@* 9s; Red 8s 6d *@* 8s 10d.

Provisions—Beef unchanged. Pork and Bacon scarce. Hams and Shoulders unsaleable. Lard 1s *@* 1s 1d lower.

The Kaffir War.

A public meeting on the subject of the Kaffir War has been called by the Mayor of Leeds. We have witnessed with gratification the proceedings preliminary to this meeting, and the readiness with which names have been attached to the requisition calling it; for, as repeated articles in this paper have shown, our opinion is very strong, that the honour of England and the interests of humanity alike demand that the people of this country, with whose money the Kaffir Wars are prosecuted, should determine to know the cause of that war. All the evidence which has come before us—and we have seen a good deal—impresses us with the conviction that an unwise and unjust policy on the part of Sir Harry Smith is the real cause of this fresh Kaffir War, and also of the contest into which Great Britain has been brought with other native tribes of South Africa, who were until lately our sincere and hearty allies. A few weeks ago we entered at some length into this question, and noticed particular instances in which the Governor of the Cape and our Resident in the so-called British Sovereignty had recently adopted a course which would not fail to exasperate the native populations of South Africa, and drive them to hostilities against the Colony. We shall not reproduce at length the facts then discussed; but will content ourselves, in view of the public meeting at Leeds, with the striking summary of them which is to be found in Sir A. Stockenstrom's "Brief Notice of the Causes of the Kaffir War," lately published. That distinguished officer, who for several years preserved peace and a good understanding between the Kaffirs and the Cape Colonists, quotes a passage from one of his own letters to Lord John Russell, dated the 26th of July last and called forth by certain charges which Sir H. Smith had made against the tone of his communications. He says—

"When the Governor complains of the tone and temper of my communications, he should remember that the provocation commenced with himself. When in 1847 he began to boast of his wonderful performances in 1835 and 1836, of the happy state in which he had then left the Kaffirs, and talked of the mischief done by those who came after him;—it would have been criminal to have allowed the delusion to go abroad, and not to show that he left the frontier in 1836 in the most appalling state of anarchy and danger. When he put his foot on the neck of one chief, dashed a stick at the head of another, made others kiss his foot, and re-introduced into the Zuurveld the so-called D'Urban system, with all its concomitants of cat-of-nine-tails, cattle pounds, &c.;—When he gave the lands of the Bawaton and Tambookies to the colonists, and then tried to hang the Gingua Council for daring to adhere to their treaty with the Queen;—When he told the emigrant Boers that unless a majority of four fifths declared in favour of submission to British rule, they should not be interfered with, and afterwards had to mow them down with grape shot, and caused a man to be put to death, whose guilt and the legality of whose trial are doubtful matters to this moment; with sundry other exhibitions with which I do not wish to swell out this notice:—When these things I say were transacting no man of the least knowledge of human nature or local information could help foreseeing that South Africa would soon be in the state in which it is, and passive quiescence would have been little better than treason against the colony and against this country."

"Since then (continues Sir Andrew), my predictions have been still more tragically confirmed by our defeat by the Basutos, who, as late as 1846, were prospering on the road to Christian civilization, and so confident of their interests being bound up with ours, that they offered us their whole force in co-operation against the very tribes into whose ranks we have now driven them.

"Now, with all this the colonists have had nothing to do, except as instruments in systems which they could neither institute nor control. Where individuals have done wrong I have never spared them; but, as a body, the colonists are the sufferers as well as the native tribes. The Government alone has produced the present calamities—Lord Grey and Sir H. Smith know this. Our warnings were treated with contumely, so that in the same letter above quoted I was forced to tell Prime Minister—'Lord Grey has pronounced one of my communications to the Governor most improper' (vide Blue Book of 28th March, 1851, page 124). This does not affect me in the remotest degree, and I believe every philanthropist and taxpayer in Britain will adjudge the impropriety to have consisted in neglecting to investigate and do justice until South Africa was soaked in blood, and a couple of millions more of British money apportioned.' And now that the day of reckoning is come, heaven and earth must be moved to deceive this nation! Boldly ask any man with the least knowledge of the facts, whether the above are not the *natural the sure fruits of* causes of the present misfortunes of South Africa?"

Sir Harry Smith and such of his predecessors as have waged war against the Kaffirs, represent that people as irreclaimable savages, with whom it is vain to expect ever to be at peace until their strength is absolutely broken. We believe that race to be both predatory and warlike in their disposition, and to require great judgment as well as great firmness and decision on the part of the British Governor who may have to deal with them in a state of peace. But we wholly disbelieve the assertion that they are incapable of being brought into amicable relations with civilised men. The experiment has, indeed, been tried; and we would it have been for the honour of the British name and the tranquillity of our colony at the Cape, had it not been brought to a premature close. When Lord Glenelg performed that signal act of justice and sound policy which has made his name distinguished in the history of South Africa,—when he restored to the Kaffirs a large tract of country which Sir B. D'Urban had wrested from them,—our Home Government set out to make the experiment of leaving the effect of new principles in the intercourse between British colonial authorities and the Kaffir race. Sir G. Napier was commissioned in 1837 to carry out these principles; and his brother, Sir Wm. Napier, has recently in a letter to Samuel Gurney, Esq., thus described the nature and results of the improved policy:—

"Sir George Napier succeeded a Governor who had just terminated a war, and was succeeded by a Governor who instantly commenced a war; but his Government, of nearly seven years, was one of peace with the Kaffirs. It was a Government conducted on Lord Glenelg's Christian policy, which, he it said, did not fail in Sir G. Napier's hands, though Lord John Russell has thought fit to assume the contrary in Parliament. Sir Geo. Napier had no recourse to the sword, because he deeply felt the awful responsibility of an appeal to arms which absolute necessity alone justifies; he judged that one month of hostilities would be more costly and more hurtful to the colonists than ten years of Kaffir depredations. Yet he did not unjustly neglect the just complaints of the always sought, and generally obtained redress—but peaceably; and often he found the savages more reasonable and just than the civilised man. And while he thus staved off war, he was active in peaceable legislation."

No wonder that "the coloured people looked on Sir Geo Napier as their friend and protector, and that the Kaffirs respected his authority." Most unfortunate was it that his successor found the peace which he had established, and that a ruler like his has never influenced the representatives of Her Majesty at the Cape. Had it been otherwise, public meetings in Leeds and other towns of the United Kingdom, to deplore the relations of the Cape Government with the Kaffirs, would, it imagines as more unsatisfactory than at any former period, and to demand inquiry into the causes of such a state of things, would in all probability never have been required. But we trust that since they are needed, they will be held, and numerously attended. We hope also that their tone will be so decided as to impress both Government and the Legislature with the necessity for adopting measures which may prevent the recurrence of calamities like those which now afflict our fellow subjects and the native tribes of South Africa, or which, if fresh wars should break out, will prove that the fault is wholly with the enemy.—*Leeds Mercury*

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THE COURIER.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1851.

At this festive season of the year, we think we cannot do better than forget for a brief space "who's in and who's out, who ought to be in and who ought to be out, who has practised upon the credulity of that constituency, and who upon the simplicity of this." We at once throw overboard the pros and cons of those who politically deserve, and of those who do not deserve. We hold out our right hand of kindliness to our political antagonist the *Pilot*, and to our second cousins of the *Gazette*, the *Herald*, and the *Transcript*. We also embrace the several Editors of papers published in the French language, and ask them all to forget their little old year animosities, and join with us in Christian fraternity, in the hope that fewer subjects of dissension may occur during the coming year than has agitated us in course of the last.

Let us then walk arm-in-arm through the Bonsecours and other markets of the city; whatever other feelings we may have, we all like good beef,—none of us have any objections to fat geese and turkeys. On that platform at least we all meet with equal *gusto* and with equal sentiments,—and so long as there is enough for all we need not quarrel. We are always disposed to admire the ornamental manner in which the market stalls are disposed at Christmas, not because the display is calculated to tempt the appetite of the gourmand, but because the several stands are always decorated in so attractive a form. Ribbons and branches of evergreens displayed over the contents of the tables, and upon the edible appendages of the walls, have a very attractive artistic effect. We have seen shields of arms, guns, swords, blunderbusses, and trumpets, ranged along the walls and on the ceilings of an armoury; but, however picturesque these death-dealing implements of war may be in their quiescent state, we can never altogether forget the cruel and sanguinary purpose for which they were at first fabricated, nor can we entirely banish the disagreeable idea that they may be the instruments of much slaughter and misery in future time. But no such painful thought or alarming anticipation invades the mind as we walk through a public market previous to so festive an occasion as Christmas. On one side the bulky sirloin, of knightly fame indeed, though that fame has not been gained in deeds of strife, raises his honest face in variegated beauty, displaying his sides to the eager gaze of appetite, as if he were composed of alternate layers of coral and cream. How savoury he looks, and how that old gentleman's mouth waters as he surveys him and sends him home to the cook. With what an aroma of sweets he fills the nostrils of the dinner party, as he is carried into the dining-room smoking hot, and his sides embrowned to a turn; talk of Araby the Happy—all the scents and perfumes ever distilled beneath its cloudless skies are but poor, bodiless, and unsatisfactory, in comparison. But look here at this mountain of geese and turkeys, trussed and ready for the spit. The man who thinks or talks about a goose's proverbial stupidity, when that respectable biped is stuffed, roasted, and ready for mastication, is but a gosling himself. And then the turkey!—oh! dilicious of bird,—not the bird of Jove himself, when he soars in pride of place above the mountain tops, and challenges the sun with his bold, free, sparkling eye, is half so sublime as the proud strut of this domestic gobbler when he majestically leads his feathered seraglio through the oaten and straw-covered mazes of the corn-yard. The first appearance upon the stage of civilized life of this delicious bird is said to have been in Mexico, where he was found by the Spaniards when Cortes invaded that country, and was called a turkey, because of his strutting and proud gait, (*en Turc*,) but his native name is not generally known. Ye accomplished housewives, allow us to remark, that a turkey, to be eaten with gusto, must be roasted—a turkey boiled is a turkey spoiled, say the learned in these matters, and we perfectly agree with them. In carving him to a small party, begin with this slices under the wing, he will thus go very well round the whole table without touching the legs or wings, and will then make a very respectable appearance on the second day. But if the party be large, and the bird is to be demolished entirely, you may mangle him as you please, always taking care that the lady have a slice of the breast, and if a wing at all, the left—don't present her with a leg, as you hope to be saved so long as you live from the imputation of being a vulgarian.

In walking through the markets, the fruit stalls were not the least attractive, either as regarded their contents or their decorations. When Flora and Pomona meet, the grouping is always graceful and attractive. Flora and Pomona! two graces of the purest proportions; but where shall we find a third? The Graces always go in threes—three indeed is the number of nature in every department of the fine arts, and why should it not be so also in mastication? Beef and mutton are as attractive as flowers, even near the end of a dinner, and much more so before it. Geese and turkeys have a much more agreeable flavour than fruits; and why then should not beef and mutton be embodied in a third grace of gourmandizability? We have used a word which does not please us, we therefore wish that some of our classical friends would help us out of our difficulty. Our own imagination is very languid at present, and can conjure up nothing but *carnifex*, a word of very uncertain signification, and by any slovenly enemy to the graces, might be translated butcher or hangman indifferently.

Well then, gentle reader, when to-morrow comes, we wish you a merry and a happy Christmas; and while you sit at your ample board and enjoy the good things which providence has placed before you, remember that many in this very land of plenty, have not wherewithal to satisfy the cravings of nature; they may, indeed, be idle and worthless, but it is not for you, frail mortal, to judge them now! No, rather forgive them their trespasses, as you also hope to be forgiven yours, and give them a part of that abundance with which you are blessed. The poor have their uses of instruction to the Christian Philanthropist. They supply a large and ample field in which he will find exercise for his feelings of benevolence, humility and charity, and for all those sentiments of honour to God, and love to man, which every Christian delights to cherish.

Hungary.—*(Continued.)*

Religion has always had a great influence, indeed it has been the mainspring, of every revolution in Hungary. It is probable, from the little that is told of this Country by Herodotus and some other classical authors, that the Cimmerians, like their neighbours of Thrace, professed the simple form of Pantheism, which, from the first establishment of the eastern nations to the days of Thales and Pythagoras, spread over the greater part of the eastern world. Before the Scythians, however, had effected a settlement in Dacia and Pannonia, the Pantheistic Creed had given way before a moderate Polytheism, which had the sun, moon and stars, as primary objects of worship. When the Magyars obtained possession of the Country, they brought a new religion along with them. Like all the nations then on the Pacific Shores of Asia, they worshipped only one omniscient and eternal God. The name of their Great Spirit was Isten, a word probably of kindred origin with the Persian Izana. The Evil Spirit they designated by the Persian term Arimanes, which, in that language, signifies intrigue.

Before the settlement of the Huns in Pannonia, the Sclavic inhabitants had made some approaches towards the doctrines and discipline of the Greeks.—Charlemagne had made great exertions to introduce the faith of Christ, and the conversion of the Moesians, Bulgarians, Moravians, Bohemians, and other Sclavic Tribes, about the middle of the ninth century, had introduced all to the knowledge of the Cross. Under the reign of the Greek Emperor Basilius, the inhabitants of Sclavonia & Dalmatia renounced their pagan rites, and received teachers from the Greek Patriarch to instruct them in the truth, and they were afterwards received within the pale of the Greek Church. The Greek and Roman Schisms, however, which began in the fifth century, divided the Country into two great parties, and many in the remoter districts, still adhering to several of the ancient pagan rites, it was not till the time of King Stephen, commonly called St. Stephen, that the Country could, with much propriety, be called Christian.

This happy consummation was effected by the religious sympathies of woman. One Sarolta, daughter of a Turkish Chief, who had embraced Christianity, having been bestowed in marriage on Geysa, third in descent from Arpad, brought over her husband to the faith of Christ, and she was zealous and indefatigable in sowing the seeds of truth in the mind of her young son, afterwards the famous St. Stephen. Stephen was the first crowned King in Hungary. This diadem is considered the symbol of Magyar liberty. No King is King of Hungary until he be crowned with it, in the presence and with the authority of the states; nor did ever a King mount the Hungarian Throne without first bending to receive this jewel from the haughty hands of the nation. Stephen, on his death, was canonized, and his name is yet familiar to every mouth in Hungary capable of recognizing with pride a descent from the stout hands which planted the constitution of fatherland.

The idea of Hungarian nationality must date from this age, so far as nationality implies language, costume and government. The nation had now had time to amalgamate, and it could raise its eyes and look around upon the other nations of Europe with a proud sense of independence, guaranteed by its own history, and with a claim to be recognized among the great western nations. The constitution of Hungary as established by St. Stephen, was, in many respects, republican, though a principle of centralization, in the person of a Constitutional King, was recognized in it; and after the death of Stephen, the laws were administered for more than two centuries and a half, by Kings and the higher Nobility. The lower nobles, including the freemen of the cities, though members of the National Assembly by rank, did not claim their privileges till the time of Andreas III., in 1298. This King summoned all classes to meet him on the field of Rakos, and there he asserted the rights of the smaller nobility, and laid the permanent foundation of that democratic spirit which has ever since pervaded Hungary. According to the original customs which were not disturbed by the constitutions of Arpad or St. Stephen, the whole one hundred and eight tribes were entirely independent of each other, and when they were afterwards reduced to fifty-two tribes or countries, they still preserved more the appearance of an assembly of small but perfectly free republics, than merely subdivisions of one common country. They have been held together by a constitutional confederation, each of them exercising the functions of an independent state. The death of Andreas III. concluded the Almos or Arpad dynasty, and the Crown fell to Charles Robert, Duke of Anjou, who ascended the throne in 1307. This Charles Robert was the grand-son of the King of Naples, and the son of one Charles Martel, a French Duke, who was a reputed natural descendant of the famous Mayor of the Palace of the same name. His mother was the daughter of Rodolph of Hapsburg, and here Austrian blood becomes first mixed with the reigning Kings of Hungary. The leading element of this Prince's character was French. He aimed at glory and grandeur rather than liberty and happiness. He wanted to make his kingdom blaze. Under his auspices the people were transformed into cringing courtiers, and the homely old customs banished. The graceful oriental majesty of the magnificent robe was laid aside for the tight fit of the Frenchman, and the French language was spoken at Court, and commanded to be spoken by the people. The historians of the time give a ludicrous account of the changes which were effected. French manners and ceremonies, French fashions, French luxuries, and, worst of all, French ideas of decency and indecency, were exchanged for the purity and simplicity of the native character. With fashion, vice came as a ready associate, and so changed was Hungary at the close of this Prince's reign, in 1342, that the people did not know whether they were Magyar or French. Their language, books, and very ideas, were all French. Simplicity there was none. French cookery had transformed the simple repasts of a frugal nation, into *dines*, *soupes* and *dejeunes*. The rich had their balls *pare* and *masque*. Even the small towns boasted of their *assemblees* and *redouts*. Contrary to the old custom, gentlemen played at cards with the ladies, and ladies, covered with *poudre a la Marechale*, took what they called vapours, and had fits, particularly when gentlemen were by to assist them.—Husbands kept an *ami de la maison* for the convenience of their wives, and the wives as pliantly and considerately allowed a *fille de chambre* to their husbands. The cities were swarming with *maitres d'hotels* and cooks; so that no Frenchman could bring the same accusation against the Hungary of that day as one of his countrymen brought afterwards against England, after returning from it. "Savages," said he, "the wretched creatures have absolutely twenty religions and only one sauce." The modern Frenchman has a hundred sauces and no religion at all. Every City of Hungary, at the time of which we are speaking, overflowed with ballets, operas and comic plays; and at the same moment, the country, covered with French splendour, was overwhelmed with degradation, debt and debauchery.

But all this effeminacy was banished during the reign of Louis the Great, the successor and son of Charles Robert. This Monarch introduced the idea of a standing army into Europe. He attacked and conquered Naples twice, recovered Dalmatia from Venice, and in 1370 was chosen King of Poland.

In 1382, Maria, the fair daughter of Louis, succeeded—she was married to Sigismund, Emperor of Germany.

To her succeeded Elizabeth, who was married in 1437 to Albert, of Austria, who was elected King in right of his wife. He was subsequently created Emperor of Germany, and to present a barrier against the Turks, he made his Magyar Kingdom the leading member of the Empire. Hungary was now looked upon as the hope of the western nations, and its brave King fell nobly fighting the battles of humanity.

Uladislaus, grand-son of Louis I., succeeded Albert, who died in battle while waging a foolish war against the Asiatic Turks. He was succeeded by Ladislaus Posthumus, son of Sigismund and Elizabeth, whose reign is immortalised by the heroic deeds of John Hunnyades, the Transylvanian Chief, whose name lives in story and song as the Cid of that age. He was of mixed Greek and Wallacian origin, and had been educated in the wars of Italy. Under the surname of Corvinus, he was made Waywode of Transylvania. In 1453, the followers of Mahomet, assisted by the German Emperor, seized and sacked Constantinople, and, flushed with victory, rushed to the plains of Hungary, expecting an easy conquest. They were met at Belgrade by Hunnyades, and completely defeated, thus saving Christendom. Both he and the King having died soon after the son of Hunnyades, Matthias Corvinus was elected King (1457) at the age of 16. He became a great General and an able Statesman, and his reign was one round of battles and victories. He declared war against Austria, captured their cities, and marched up to the very walls of Vienna, returning to the Seat of Government covered with glory.

Uladislaus II. succeeded in 1490, under whom Hungary maintained a conspicuous position in European affairs; but towards the close of his administration, he committed an error, which Hungary for more than three centuries has had cause to lament. Wishing, after his hostility to the Germans, to strengthen his hands by a friendly alliance, and flattered by the promises held out to him, he consented to form a double union with the House of Austria. Actuated by these motives, he married his son to Maria, and his daughter to Ferdinand, the grand-children of the celebrated Maximilian. While thus linking the fame and fortunes of his country with the Austrian Monarchy, he asked the surrendering of that country to foreign domination. Soon after this unwise act he died, and his son Louis II., the husband of Maria, and consequently the brother-in-law of Charles V., succeeded him. This King, with seven Bishops, 500 Nobles, and 20,000 soldiers, fell at the battle of Mohacs in 1526, which closed the last dynasty of their native Sovereigns. Henceforth she was to be governed by a power as irritating to her people as it has been unscrupulously exerted. Soon after this date, as we shall see, Luther arose, shedding a benign influence upon the oppressed minds of the Hungarians.

(To be continued.)

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