

papers under which were directed from time to time to meet; in which there was a clause enjoining that notice of such meetings should be inserted in the county newspaper, if there should happen to be one; and, if not in the London Gazette.

With respect to the death, as little could be learned as of the dead man, it was, it is true, suddenly and awfully sudden; but there was no reason, that alone excepted, to suppose that it was caused by the hand of man, rather than by that of God. A coroner's jury was, of course, summoned; and after an investigation, in which little more could be proved than that which I have here stated, a verdict was returned to the effect that the deceased died by the visitation of God.

Two months after the death of the stranger, a gentleman arrived at the place, impressed with a belief that he was his brother, and seeking for information either to confirm or refute his suspicions. The horse and the clothes of the unfortunate man still remained, and were instantly recognized; one other test there was, though it was uncertain whether that would lead to any positive conclusion—the exhumation of the body. This test was tried; and although decomposition had gone on rapidly, yet enough remained to identify the body, which the brother did most satisfactorily. As soon as it was known that there was a person authorized by relationship to the deceased to inquire into the cause of his death, and, if it should appear to have been otherwise than natural, to take steps for bringing to justice those who had been concerned in it, the reports which had been previously floating idly about, and circulated without having any distinct object, were collected into one channel, and poured into his ear. What these reports were, and what they amounted to, it is not necessary here to mention; suffice it to say, that the brother had before the magistrates of the district such evidence as induced them to commit Mr Smith to goal, to take his trial for the murder of Henry Thompson. As it was deemed essential to the attainment of justice, to keep secret the examination of the witnesses who were produced before the magistrates, all the information of which the public were in possession before the trial took place, was that which I have here narrated.

Such was the state of things upon the morning of the trial. Seldom, perhaps, had speculation been so busy as it was upon this occasion. Wagers to a considerable amount were depending upon the event of the case: so lightly do men think and act in reference to matters in which they are not personally concerned, even though the life of a fellow creature is involved in the issue. The personal character of the presiding judge was not without its weight in influencing opinions as to the probability of conviction or acquittal. That judge was a man whom, living, I so sincerely loved, and whose memory I now so truly venerate, that I dare not, even at this distance of time, trust myself to speak of him as I feel, lest I should be suspected of partiality. He was the late Lord Mansfield.

Lord Mansfield's charge to the grand jury upon the subject of this murder had excited a good deal of attention. He had recommended them, if they entertained reasonable doubts of the sufficiency of the evidence to insure a conviction, to throw out the bill; explaining to them most justly and clearly that, in the event of their doing so, if any additional evidence should at a future time, be discovered, the prisoner could again be apprehended and tried for the offence; Whereas, if they found a true bill, and, from deficiency of proof, he was now acquitted on his trial, he could never again be molested, even though the testimony against him should be morally as clear as light. The grand jury, after, as was supposed, very considerable discussion among themselves, and, as was rumoured, by a majority of only one, returned a true bill.

Never shall I forget the appearance of anxiety exhibited upon every countenance on the entrance of the judge into court. In an instant the most profound silence prevailed; and interest, intense and impassioned, though subdued, seemed to wait upon every word and every look, as if divided between expectation and doubt, whether something might not even yet interfere to prevent the extraordinary trial from taking place. Nothing, however, occurred; and the stillness was broken by the mellow and silvery voice of Lord Mansfield—'Let John Smith be placed at the bar.' The order was obeyed; and, as the prisoner entered the dock, he met on every side the eager and anxious eyes of a countless multitude bent in piercing scrutiny upon his face. And well did he endure that scrutiny. A momentary suffusion covered his cheeks; but it was only momentary, and less than might have been expected from an indifferent person, who found himself on a sudden the observed of all observers. He bowed respectfully to the court; and then folding his arms, seemed to wait until he should be called upon to commence his part in that drama in which he was to form so conspicuous a character. I find it

difficult to describe the effect produced on my mind by his personal appearance; yet his features were most remarkable, and are indolently impressed on my memory. He was apparently between forty and fifty years of age; his hair, grown gray, either from toil, or care, or age, indicated an approach to the latter period, while the strength and uprightiness of his figure, the haughty coldness of his look, and an eye that spoke of fire, and pride, and passion, ill concealed, would have led conjecture to fix on the former.—His countenance, at the first glance, appeared to be that which we are accustomed to associate with deeds of high and noble daring; but a second and more attentive examination of the face and brow was less satisfactory. There was, indeed, strongly marked, the intellect to conceive and devise schemes of high import; but I fancied that I could trace, in addition to it, caution to conceal the deep design, a power to penetrate the motives of others, and to personate a character at variance with his own, and a cunning that indicated constant watchfulness and circumspection. Firmness there was, to persevere to the last; but that was equivocal, and I could not help persuading myself that it was not of that character which would prompt to deeds of virtuous enterprise, or to 'seek the bubble reputation at the cannon's mouth;' but that it was rather allied to that quality which would 'let no compunctious visitings of nature shake his fell purpose,' whatever it might be. The result of this investigation into his character, such as it was, was obviously unfavourable; and yet there were moments when I thought I had noted out to him a hard measure of justice, and when I was tempted to accuse myself of prejudice in the opinion I had formed of him; and particularly when he was asked by the clerk of the arraigns the usual question, 'Are you guilty or are you not guilty?' as he drew his form up to its fullest height, and the fetters clanked upon his legs, as he answered with unflinching tongue and unblenching cheek, 'Not guilty,' my heart smote me for having involuntarily interpreted against him every sign that was doubtful.

(To be concluded in our next paper.)

## GREAT BRITAIN.

[From papers received by the ship Halifax.]

LONDON, June 28.

On Saturday discounts were obtained on more advantageous terms in the city than in the previous part of the week, and the Directors of the Bank of England have, during the week, given great assistance to the holders of bills drawn upon the large American Houses which recently failed. The Directors of the East India Company, have, it is said, renewed bills drawn upon importers of East India and China produce, by the Company's agents in China and India, for advances made on consignments; the amount of bills so drawn is stated to be about £22,000,000 sterling; but the merchants requiring such accommodation are to pay to the Company 20 per cent upon the amount of the bills renewed.

It is expected that a great number of crown debtors will have their liberation by an act of grace on the accession of her Majesty.

MANCHESTER.—The improvement which has been perceptible in the Liverpool markets since the arrangement of the Bank of England to support Messrs. Brown's house, has, we are glad to say, begun to be felt here.

EXTRAORDINARY RISE IN THE VALUE OF HIGHLAND ESTATES.—In the year 1787 the estate of Glengary produced £800 a-year—the present rental is upwards of £7,000. In 1799 the estate of Castlehill in Inverness-shire, was sold under the authority of the Court of Sessions for £3,000; in 1804, it produced £80,000. In 1781, Glenelg, in Inverness-shire, produced an income of £600 a-year; in 1798 it was sold for £30,000; and in 1811, Lord Glenelg gave £100,000 for it, and his Lordship lately sold it for £77,000. In 1777, Fairbairn yielded £700 a-year; in 1824, it sold for £80,000. In 1799, Redcastle, in the same county, sold for £25,000; in 1824, it sold for the large sum of £125,000. The rental of the estate of the gentleman calling himself The Chisholm was £700 in 1783, and at present it exceeds £5,000 per annum. In 1791

the rental of the Orkney Islands was £19,000; now they produce £70,000, and in 1760, the rental of Argyshire was under £20,000, now it is £192,000.—*Aberdeen Herald.*

THE QUADRUPLE ALLIANCE.—It is not a little remarkable that among the parties to the quadruple alliance there should be no less than three female sovereigns, neither of whom exceeds the immature age of eighteen—namely, the Queens of England, Spain, and Portugal. The fact is unprecedented in the annals of diplomacy. Verily the King of the French will have enough to do to keep his young allies in order.

THE NEW QUEEN OF ENGLAND.—We extract the following mention of the Princess Victoria, from the London Chronicle of the 20th of June:

We rejoice to think that the youthful Princess, whom we now hail as our Sovereign, has had advantages which were denied to her predecessor. Possessed of excellent intellectual gifts, which have been carefully and wisely cultivated under the care of a most exemplary mother, she ascends the throne with a full knowledge of all that belongs to the full discharge of the duties of her exalted station. She knows the means by which the happiness of the people may be best promoted, and will no doubt select for her advisers the men who best understand the wishes and wants of the nation, and in whom the nation, in return, reposes confidence. She will support them in those salutary measures of Reform which are still needful, and which the improved system of parliamentary representation is to be considered only as the means of effecting, complete the good work which her predecessor has begun, and render the British constitution in reality, what its greatest enemies have often, for their own sinister ends pretended it to be the most perfect system of government to be found on the face of the earth.

Two hundred pounds of gold, about £350,000 in value, have been shipped at St. Petersburg for England; \$60,000 dollars from Tampico reached England on Wednesday.

A failure to an immense amount took place at Canton, on the 1st of February. The insolvent was one of the great Hongs, and many of our merchants suffered severely by the accident.

## IRELAND.

From nearly every part of the country there are cheering accounts of the forthcoming crops; in this country, the wheat, oats, and other grain, have a most promising appearance; the growth and universal success of the potatoe root, we are happy to say, is once more elating the long drooping heart of poor Paddy, who is frisking like a May lamb in joyous expectation of the thriving state of his favourite esculent. Meadow and pasture land is exuberant; abundance of fodder may be safely calculated on—as may also every description of produce, from the favourable weather lately experienced. Man has reason to be thankful to an all gracious Ruler for his bountiful gifts at a period of apprehension, excitement, and crime.—*Sligo Journal.*

## UNITED STATES.

STEAMBOAT WRECKED.—A ship from the office of the Albany Evening Journal states, that the passengers which arrived in the railroad cars yesterday afternoon, report that the steambot Monroe, which sailed from Buffalo on the 19th June, had been wrecked near the Upper Lakes. She had on board, at the time four or five hundred persons, the greater part of whom are said to have been lost. The Monroe was a beautiful new boat of four hundred tons.