

to look on with my own eyes; for I am one of those who don't believe every thing I hear, I can tell you, and more especially about places in foreign parts. In truth ma'am, I just wanted to be able to say when I got home, 'Why, good people, I've been on the spot, and am up to the whole thing.'"

From the 'Companion to the British Almanack for 1839.'

PROGRESS OF STEAM NAVIGATION.

There are periods in the history of man during which the arts of social life appear to make little if any progress; when society, contented with its former achievements, seems to think only how best and most quietly to enjoy the benefits of previous discoveries and inventions. There are, on the other hand, seasons in which one invention and improvement prepares the way for another, and discoveries in art and science succeed each other with a rapidity the most exciting and surprising. Such a season as this it is the good fortune of the existing generation to experience. That which excited our wonder yesterday gives place to the greater wonder of to-day, which, in its turn, is doomed to be eclipsed by some undreamed-of invention to-morrow. Under this aspect every year as it passes adds that to the sum of our possessions and the magnitude of our hopes, which gives an air of insignificance to the achievements of preceding years; and while in former times it was a characteristic of wisdom and prudence to be slow in accepting the actual discoveries of science, it would now be deemed imprudent and unwise to doubt even her promises. Nothing has so much contributed to bring about this state of things as the incessant improvements of the steam-engine and its adaptation to new purposes, and to processes which owe their practical development wholly to this modern giant. Among those purposes by far the most important to the peaceful and social progress of the world which has yet been attained is the art of locomotion, which, although its beneficent influence is most apparent in the western portion of Europe, and especially within the limits of our own country, has given and is giving an impulse to society which is felt in the remotest corners of the habitable globe.

In the 'Companion for 1838' some tables were inserted which comprised materials for the history of steam-navigation in this country from the moment of its first adoption to the end of 1836. At the close of the remarks by which those tables were accompanied, notice was taken of preparations on a gigantic scale, then in a state of great forwardness, for putting to the test of experiment an undertaking, the accomplishment of which has been the subject of much controversy among the best-informed men. Steam-ships of large burthen, and provided with engines of greater power than any before constructed for the purpose of navigation, were then in progress towards completion; and public attention was forcibly drawn to the inquiry whether in the present state of our knowledge such vessels could be profitably engaged in transatlantic voyages. That experiment has since been made and repeated with the most triumphant success. The voyages between this country and New York of the "Sirius," the "Great Western," and the "Royal William," have been performed since the spring of 1838, free from the intervention of a single obstacle or accident; and transatlantic steam-voyages may now be said to be as easy of accomplishment by means of ships of adequate size and power as the passage between London and Margate. The "Sirius" and "Great Western" arrived back from their first voyages on the 19th and the 22nd of May, and their success has not only afforded encouragement to other adventurers in the same track, but has already proved the signal for embarking in yet more distant undertakings, the successful issue of which seems to excite far less doubt than hung over the experiment of the American voyage when last year we noticed the preparations in progress.

The effects, political, social, and moral, of this practical approximation of the Old and new Worlds, it is not possible to trace or to foresee. There is much wisdom in the remark lately made in one of our daily journals, that between two countries which have for any long time maintained a regular and frequent communication by means of steam-packets it would be morally impossible that war should rise. By such facility and certainty of intercourse connexions are formed, multiplied, and extended to a degree which must soon embrace the largest proportion of the most active and therefore the most influential inhabitants of both countries, and engage them by the strongest of human motives to prevent a rupture. If this remark has a true foundation as regards any two countries, it must assuredly be true when applied to England and the United States of America. The half-century which has elapsed since the separation of the plantations from the mother country has witnessed the removal from this life of all who could have taken an active part in the struggle which preceded that untoward event, but has not sufficed to cancel the remembrance of our common origin, nor to efface the feelings of pride which on either side attend upon the progress and prosperity of the other. Where is the Englishman who does not rejoice at the successive proofs which America continually gives that she remembers and does honour to her origin? and where is the American who does not look to England as to the land of his fathers, whose heart does not glow at the remembrance of her glories, or

who would not tread her shores with a feeling of reverence that no other scenes could call up? Was it only the excitement of curiosity that, when the "Sirius" and "Great Western" entered the harbour of New York, drew the whole population of the city forth to greet them with such heart-stirring acclamations? Would the same enthusiasm have marked the accomplishment of the experiment if it had been made under any other flag than that to which their fathers bore a willing allegiance? Nor have our American friends been slow to profit by the means thus offered for giving an impulse to the intercourse between our countries. Many have already been tempted by the celerity and certainty of the voyage to visit the old country who might otherwise have contentedly continued at home; and it is now no idle speculation to foretell that thousands among the men of intelligence in England and America will respectively be led to spend on the other side of the Atlantic that season of recreation from the toils of commercial or professional pursuits which they have been hitherto contented to pass nearer to their homes. The ties of a common origin and a common language, joined to the attractions of habits, customs and feelings, bearing closer resemblance than those of any other countries, may give a force to this consideration as regards England and America greater perhaps than can be applied to it in general, but the difference is one of degree only, while it is the inevitable tendency of more intimate communication to break down the barriers raised by ignorance and prejudice, to bring about the conviction that many things are disapproved only because they have been misunderstood, and that the points of resemblance between the citizens of different countries—especially those of them which belong to the moral qualities of our nature—are far greater in number and more important in their character than any points of difference that can be presented. Even as regards those points of difference, the man who travels with his powers of observation awakened will in most cases be led to acknowledge that they are well adapted to the circumstances of the places in which they occur, and that to exchange them for the customs of his own country might not in general be productive of greater happiness. It might not be difficult to show that in some respects difference of customs may tend to the increase of the general prosperity. It is only when such differences are suffered to influence our minds so as to engender unkindly feelings that they can be hurtful to us; and it will be found impossible long to entertain such feelings when we shall have enjoyed the opportunity of seeing how much there is of kindness and virtue to be found among every people, however much we may at first have been repelled by habits that appeared grotesque, and customs that might be thought revolting.

BEAUTY AND TIME.

Time met Beauty one day in her garden,
Where roses were blooming fair;
Time and beauty were never good friends,
So she wondered what brought him there.

Poor Beauty exclaimed, with a sorrowful air,
"I request, father Time, my sweet roses you'll spare;"
For Time was going to mow them all down,
While Beauty exclaimed, with her prettiest frown,
"Fie! father Time! Oh! what a crime!"

"Fie! father Time!"

"Well," said Time, "at least let me gather,
A few of your roses here,
'Tis part of my pride to be always supplied
With such roses the whole of the year."

Poor Beauty consented, tho' half in despair,
And Time, as he went, asked a lock of her hair
And, as he stole the soft ringlet so bright,
He vow'd 'twas for love, but she knew 'twas for spite,
Fie! father Time! Oh! what a crime!

Fie! father Time!

Time went on and left Beauty in tears;
He's a tell-tale the world well knows,
So he boasted to all of the fair lady's fall,
And show'd the lost ringlet and rose.

So shocked was poor Beauty to think that her fame
Was ruin'd, though she was in no wise to blame,
That she droop'd like some flower that is torn from its clime,
And her friends all mysteriously said "it was Time!"
Fie! father Time! Oh! what a crime!

Fie! father Time!

BEAUTIES OF LITIGATION.—The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, sitting at Northampton last week, was occupied several days in the trial of a case concerning a title to land, which had been in litigation two or three years. The value of the land in dispute was only about thirty dollars. After running up a bill of cost amounting to six or eight hundred dollars, the parties went home perfectly satisfied of the glorious "uncertainty of the law."

HINDOO JUGGLERS.

BY R. M. MARTIN, ESQ.

One of the men, taking a large earthen vessel with a capacious mouth, filled it with water, and turned it upside down, when all the water flowed out, but the moment it was placed with the mouth upward, it always became full. He then emptied it, allowing any one to inspect it who chose. This being done, he desired one of the party would fill it. His request was obeyed. Still, when he reversed the jar, not a drop of water flowed, and upon turning it, to our astonishment it was empty. These, and similar deceptions, were several times repeated; and so skilfully were they managed, that, although any of us that chose were allowed to upset the vessel when full, which I did many times; upon reversing it, no water was to be seen, and yet no appearance of any having escaped. I examined the jar carefully when empty, but detected nothing which would lead to a discovery of the mystery. I was allowed to retain and fill it myself; still, upon taking it up, all was void within; so that how the water had disappeared, and where it had been conveyed, were problems that none of us were able to expound. The vessel employed by the juggler upon this occasion, the common earthenware of the country, was very roughly made; and in order to convince us that it had not been especially constructed for the purpose of aiding his clever deceptions, he permitted it to be broken in our presence. The fragments were then handed round for the inspection of his Highness and the party present with him. The next thing done was still more extraordinary: a large basket was produced, into which was put a lean, hungry, Paris bitch. After the lapse of about a minute the basket was removed, and she appeared with a litter of seven puppies. These were again covered, and upon raising the magic basket, a goat was presented to our view. This was succeeded by a pig in the full vigour of existence, but which, after being covered for the usual time appeared with its throat cut. It was, however, shortly restored to life under the mystical shade of the wicker covering. What rendered these sudden changes so extraordinary was that no one stood near the basket but the juggler, who raised and covered the animals with it. When he concluded his exploits, there was nothing to be seen under it, and what became of the different animals which figured in this singular deception, was a question which puzzled all. A man now took a small bag of brass balls, which he threw one by one into the air, to the number of thirty-five. None of them appeared to return. When he had discharged the last, there was a pause for at least a minute. He then made a variety of motions with his hands, at the same time grunting forth a sort of barbarous chant. In a few seconds the balls were seen to fall, one by one, until the whole of them were placed in the bag; this was repeated at least half a dozen times. No one was allowed to come near him while this interesting jugglo was performed. A gaunt-looking Hindoo then stepped forward and declared he would swallow a snake: opening a box, he produced a Cobra di Capello, not less than five feet long, and as big as an infant's wrist. He stood apart, at some distance from us, and, like his predecessors, would not allow any one to approach him, so that the deception became no longer equivocal. He then, as it appeared to us, took the snake, and putting its tail into his mouth, gradually lowered it into his stomach, until nothing but the head appeared to project from between his lips, when with a sudden gulp, he seemed to complete the disgusting process of deglutition, and to secure the odious reptile within his body. After the expiration of a few seconds he opened his mouth, and gradually drew forth the snake which he replaced in the box.

The next thing that engaged our attention was a feat of dexterity altogether astonishing. An elderly woman, the upper part of whose body was entirely uncovered, presented herself to our notice, and taking a bamboo, twenty feet high, placed it upright upon a flat stone, and then, without any support, climbed to the top of it with surprising agility. Having done this, she stood upon one leg on the point of the bamboo, balancing it all the while. Round her waist, she had a girdle, to which was fastened an iron socket. Springing from her upright position on the bamboo, she threw herself horizontally forward with such exact precision that the top of the iron pole entered the socket of her iron zone, and in this position she spun herself round with a velocity that made me giddy to look at, the bamboo appearing all the while as if it were supported by some preternatural agency. She turned her legs backwards until her heels touched her shoulders, and grasping her ankles in her hands, continued her rotation so rapidly, that the outline of her body was lost to the eye, and she looked like a revolving ball. Having performed other feats equally extraordinary, she slid down the elastic shaft, and raising it in the air, balanced it on her chin, then on her hip, and finally projected it to a distance from her without the application of her hands. The next performer spread upon the ground a cloth about the size of a sheet. After a while it seemed to be gradually raised; upon taking it up there appeared three pine apples growing under it, which were cut and presented to the spectators. This is considered a common jugglo, and yet it is perfectly inexplicable.—*History of the British Possessions in the East Indies.*