

LABOURERS OF EUROPE, No. 3.

In the province of Naples, or "Campania the blest," as it is called, from the great fertility of its soil and its genial climate, the farms are generally small. The corn returns eight or ten for one, and the land is not left fallow occasionally for a year, but ploughed and sown with something else. Frequently after harvest it is immediately sown with the scarlet trefoil, which, when in flower, looks like a crimson carpet spread over the verdant fields. Rows of elms and mulberry trees, festooned with branches of the vine, divide the various possessions; while the fig the lemon, and the orange, grow in the gardens freely and to their full size. The high ridges of the mountains afford rich pasturage, free from the heat and draught of the plains; the sides are covered with the forests of chestnut trees, which afford an important article of food to the poor; while the lower declivities are occupied by olive plantations yielding a valuable and easy harvest. In this favoured region the inhabitants indolent as they are, can easily procure their daily subsistence. Their cabins exhibit, in many instances, the appearance of slovenliness, but seldom that of indigence. The farmer's rent is paid sometimes in money, sometimes in kind, such as grain, oil, &c. The leases are generally renewed from generation to generation. The farmer is a peasant with no capital; he works his farm chiefly with the assistance of his family. These people have some domestic comforts, good beds, coarse but good linen, a table, a few chairs, and a large chest for their clothes. They eat with their fingers out of one dish, and all the family drink out of the same glass. They are hospitable, however, in their way, but they are coarse and uninformed, having, not like the Tuscan peasants, an opportunity of intercourse with the educated classes. Few know how to read or write, or cast accounts; they sometimes hardly know the name of their landlord. The women dress showily on holidays, and they generally have gold ear-rings, necklace, and cross. Daily labourers are usually paid about two carlins, or eight pence, a day, and somewhat more at harvest time. But they are engaged only a small part of the year, and they employ the rest of their time in cutting wood in the forests, in charcoal making, and other occasional jobs. They offer themselves as guides to travellers, assuming the absurd appellation of *Ciccione*; and sometimes, for lack of other employments, they join the banditti in some excursion, just to try their fortune, after which they return quietly to their native village, and resume their rural occupations. Pot-houses or wine-shops are very numerous, and to these the idlers resort on holidays, after mass, to play and drink. This was once a source of frequent quarrels, ending often in bloodshed and murder. But by the present laws (for the Neapolitan criminal justice is somewhat improved), the vintner is made answerable for any mischief that happens in his house, and there is no longer any asylum for criminals, in consequence of which blows are seldom given. The farmers, however, do not much frequent the wine-shop; they prefer selling their own wine, and remaining at home on Sundays to see their children dance the *tarantella*. Of this dance they are never tired.

The vintage is the season of universal rejoicing. The vines are planted thick and allowed to grow luxuriantly, and to spread high festoons from tree to tree, forming shady alleys into which the rays of the sun can hardly penetrate. At vintage time a man first cuts the middle branches between one tree and another, so as to make a lane for the cart to go through. The cart is drawn by a fine well-fed ox, and on it is a large tub; the men carry long narrow ladders, by which they ascend the trees; and having filled their baskets with grapes, they throw them down to the women below, who empty the contents into a tub. Jokes and joyous songs relieve the vintners' labours, while the farmer looks on in silence, watching the progress, and calculating the produce of the *ricout*. When the tub is full, the ox drags the cart, reeling with grapes, to the vats, the fruit is thrown in, and then being pressed under the feet of a man, the liquor descends into a lower vat, where it undergoes fermentation. These vats are square, built of brick or masonry, and uncovered. When the weather is dry the must is left to ferment five days,—if it should rain, one or two days more. The husks or dregs are then put into a press with water, and a sort of small wine is made, which is the common drink of the labourers. Another sort of wine is made by drawing some of the must or new wine out of the vat after four-and-twenty hours, and pouring it into canvass bags, which are suspended over another vat, into which the liquor distils. The wine thus made is called *lambicato*; it is sweet and pale, does not keep, and, though not wholesome, it is agreeable to the taste of the people. They repeat the process several times in order to clear it and prevent any further fermentation. They use this wine to mix with the old wine, which has turned sour or musty. Some wines are also made by boiling a certain quantity of the must, and then mixing it with the rest: these wines keep longer. The

vine bears fruit two years after it has been planted, and then continues to produce for sixty years or more.

In the other parts of the kingdom of Naples the condition of the rural population varies according to the climate, localities, and nature of the soil. In the mountains of Abruzzo the inhabitants are chiefly shepherds who migrate every year with their flocks to the plains of Puglia. Their families accompany them, and assist them in making various kinds of cheese from sheep, cow, and buffalo milk, for which they are renowned. These mountaineers are an honest, frugal, industrious race: the men dress in sheepskins, and numbers of them are to be seen at Christmas time about the streets of Naples, playing their bagpipes in honour of the festivity.

The inhabitants of the large province of Calabria are another peculiar race. Brave, hardy, and proud, they work but little and live frugally. Although provisions are cheap, wages are too low to allow the labourers to buy animal food, cheese, or butter; a Calabrian peasant will make his dinner of a handful of lupines, a few chestnuts, and two ounces of bread. When he can afford to drink the common wine, he pays for it from one penny to two-pence a quart. The inhabitants near the coast live somewhat better. The Calabrian, however, disdains to beg; he will sooner rob on the high road.

The Sicilian peasantry, especially in the interior of the island, are still worse than the Calabrian. The towns and villages swarm with beggars, and the misery and consequent corruption of the poorer classes are almost incredible. While the coasts of the island abound with populous and luxurious towns, one half of whose inhabitants, however, are in a state of beggary or nearly so, the fertile valleys of the interior are left in great measure unproductive, the few farmers thinking only of getting what is absolutely necessary for their subsistence, and not of multiplying the produce of their lands, for which they have no market. The total want of roads or means of communication, the absence of capital, the indolence of the great proprietors, the injudicious trammels on exportation, and several other causes, contribute to the total prostration of Sicilian agriculture.

The land-tax in the kingdom of Naples is extremely heavy, amounting to about one-third of the estimated rent of the estates, whether cultivated or not.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE LATE ADMIRAL SIR THOMAS FOLEY.—The late Admiral Thomas Foley, who died at the Admiralty House, at Portsmouth, on Thursday last, as we stated on Saturday, was Commander-in-Chief on that station, and whose term of service would have expired on the 1st of April next, had been in a very feeble and declining state of health for some time past. He was one of the heroes of the Nile, where he commanded the *Goliath*, 74, and had the honour of leading the van division (after the *Calloden* grounded, near the island of Bequier, by outailing the *Zealous*, which for some time disputed the point of honour with him), and anchored close to the French ship *Chequerant*. He was one of those who possessed the early friendship of Nelson, and commanded the *Elephant*, at the battle of Copenhagen in 1801, on board which ship Nelson shifted his flag from the *St. George* during that sanguinary conflict. The gallant band of heroes (of which the deceased was one) who commanded the ships which composed the fleet at the battle of the Nile in 1798, which were considered the *elite* of the British navy, are fast quitting the stage of life. We believe the following only now (January 1833) survive:—Admiral Lord De Saumarez, Sir B. Hallowell Carew, Sir George Davidge Gould, Sir D. E. Darby, and Sir T. M. Hardy, who commanded the *Mutine* brig. Admiral Foley was in his 76th year. He united himself July 31, 1832, to Lady Lucy Anne Fitzgerald (youngest daughter of James Duke of Leinster), by whom, who survives him, he had a numerous issue. His remains will be interred with military honours in the garrison chapel, at Portsmouth.—*Globe*.

The *Warspite*, 76, Captain Charles Talbot, with the flag of Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Baker, K. C. B., arrived this morning, in 48 days, from Rio de Janeiro. She quitted that harbour on the 13th January, leaving there only the Algerine sloop, Commander Hon. J. De Roos, refitting in all haste to carry despatches relative to the Belgian disturbances to St. Helena, with instructions that if she found no man-of-war there, to proceed to Rear Admiral Warren at the Cape of Good Hope. The *Clio*, sloop-of-war, Commander Onslow, had been despatched to take possession of the Falkland Islands, and the *Tyne*, 28 Captain Hope, was subsequently sent to the same quarter. This was in consequence of a quarrel between the *Buenos Ayreans* and the *Americans*, both of whom claimed these Islands; but by orders from England, our men-of-war have now taken possession of them, our government having set up a prior right to either. The *Dublin*, *Rattlesnake*, and *Samarang*, were in the Pacific; the latter vessel was daily expected with treasure from

Peru, which would be sent home by packets, and she would be followed by the *Challenger*, 28, Captain Freemantle. The *Py-lades*, 18, was looking after the English trade in the River Plate. The political feeling at the Brazils had very considerably subsided, and a young Princess, a sister of Donna Maria, was so ill that her dissolution was daily looked for.—*Portsmouth Paper*.

MEMOIR OF MARSHAL GERARD,

From the Court Journal.

Field Marshal Maurice Steven Gerard was born at Danvilliers, in the department of the Meuse. As early as his nineteenth year, he became a volunteer in the battalion of that department. He held a commission at the battle of Fleurus, and shortly after was drafted into the 36th regiment of the Lige, with the rank of Captain. Bernadotte, who commanded this regiment, appointed Gerard his Aid-de-camp as soon as he was General; and it was under his command that Gerard, who had reached the station of chief of his staff, obtained his successive promotions.—He was appointed General of Brigade in 1806, at the end of the Prussian campaign. In 1809 he was engaged in the war against Austria, and distinguished himself in the battle of May 5, at Dorfars, near the Pont de Lintz; at the battle of Wagram he commanded the Saxon cavalry, which contributed so largely to the success of the French. When Bernadotte, was called to the throne of Sweden, favours and riches were offered by him to Gerard to follow the new Prince's fortune. Gerard, however, refused these tempting offers, and preferred serving his native land, under the command of a chieftain by whom he was not liked, to devoting his sword to the service of his dearest friend. In 1810, he was employed in Spain, where he served with distinction. In 1812, war having been declared by France against Russia, he was attached to the division of General Gudin. At the attack of Smolensko he displayed great military talents; and Gudin, when mortally wounded, entreated the Emperor, on his death-bed, to appoint Gerard to the division, as the only officer competent to head it with success. He was accordingly appointed, and, as General of division, distinguished himself, on the 9th Aug., at the battle of Valentin, and on the 7th Sept., at that of Moskowa. He was in charge of the rear-guard in the retreat from Moscow, and saved the remains of the grand army at Krasnow, animating, with his personal example, the French troops under his command.—During this retreat, he shared with Ney the perils and achievements of this sad campaign, and with him, too, earned and received the blessings of the army. When Ney was appointed, at Kowno, to the command of the army destined to protect the retreat of the stragglers from the main army, he asked for and obtained Gerard as his second in command. Soon after, the army had reason to rejoice in this appointment. A cloud of Cossacks presented themselves beneath the walls of Kowno: knowing that about ten thousand French, isolated from the main body of the army, disarmed, disheartened, and without discipline, were snatching a momentary repose there, they fancied they were on the point of obtaining an easy prey. The Russians dismounted, and a battalion of young German troops, on the banks of the Lippe, retired in disorder at their approach, abandoning to them the post they had occupied. Ney and Gerard came to their assistance, and, rallying them, actually combated, sword in hand, in the ranks upwards of half an hour; this heroic act saved the whole detachment.

During the remainder of the retreat, General Gerard, by order of Prince Eugene, commanded the rear guard, and with only a few battalions of conscripts, and some Neapolitan troops, achieved wonders. At Frankfort on the Oder, surrounded by a superior force, and with the inhabitants inimical to him, he was summoned to surrender; within three days he cut his way through the besieging force, and conducted his retreat in good order.

As he had the command of the rear-guard in the retreat, so to him was confided, when Napoleon resumed the offensive, that of the advanced guard, as the post of honour. At Bautzen and Goldberg, although he commanded but one division, his dispositions and manœuvres proved his superiority over all the other generals. After the battle of Dresden, the Emperor confided to him the command of the 11th corps of the grand army, and he fought with glory at Katzbach and Leipzig. He was thrice wounded in this short campaign.

The year 1814, so abundant in treasons and disasters, victories and reverses, saw Gerard still faithful, and second in military skill only to his great master, Napoleon.—The bulletins of that year are filled with the name and exploits of Gerard, which shine most brilliantly in the account of the battle of Montereau.

In 1815, Napoleon gave Gerard the command of the Army of the Moselle, with orders to resist the Prussians if they ventured to act in an isolated position. When they succeeded in effecting a junction with the English, the army under him quitted Metz

and placed itself in the immediate command of the Emperor.

At the period of the battle of Waterloo, General Gerard was at Wavre, and when he heard the cannon sound, he solicited to be allowed to march and join the fighting army; but the commands of the Marshal under whose orders he was placed prevented him from carrying his wishes into effect. In one of the few short affairs which followed the victory of Waterloo he was wounded by a musket ball in the breast.

Not wishing to separate himself from his brothers in arms, and heedless of the sufferings from his wound, he caused himself to be conveyed beyond the Loire, and soon after proceeded to Brussels, an involuntary exile.

In 1817, however, he was suffered to return and reside on a small property he possessed in the department de l'Orne, and there, Cincinnatus like, he devoted his time to the pursuits of agriculture until 1822, when he was appointed representative of his fellow citizens to the Chamber of Deputies. He took part, from that time until 1830, in the opposition made to the Court, and he was the first leader of any note who aided the people at the barricades in July 1830.

The celebrated commission sitting at this period at the Hotel de Ville confided to him the portfolio of the War Department. He re-organized the army with the utmost activity; and when his health rendered necessary his retirement from the labours his situation imposed upon him, he was pleased to see one of his old *confreres* in arms, Soult, succeed him.

ESTIMATED VALUE OF THE BRITISH WEST-INDIA COLONIES.—By the report just published from the report of the select committee of the House of Lords on the state of West-India Colonies, we perceive their estimated value (according to the documents produced by Mr. Burge, the agent for Jamaica), amounts to the enormous sum of £131,052,524, as follows:—

British Colonies.	
Jamaica	£58,152,298
Barbadoes	9,089,630
Antigua	4,364,000
St. Christopher's	3,783,000
Nevis	1,750,100
Montserrat	1,087,440
Virgin Islands	1,093,400
Grenada	4,994,365
St. Vincent	4,006,866
Dominica	3,056,001
Trinidad	4,932,705
Bahamas	2,041,500
Bermudas	1,111,000
Honduras	578,760
Ceded Colonies.	
St. Lucia	2,529,000
Tobago	2,682,920
Damerra & Essequibo	18,410,498
Berbee	7,415,160
Total	131,052,434

Mem.—The value of the British Colonies, as stated as above, is £100,014,864 And Ceded Colonies 31,037,560

A Rock, hitherto omitted in the charts, is to be met with in lat. 27, 49. long. 54, 29. 16 miles, N.E. by E. the longitude regulated after making Turk's Islands. These particulars are taken from the log-book of the brig *Erato*, Captain Mossop, from Quebec to Jamaica. When the vessel was within a hawser's length of the rock, no bottom could be sounded with twenty fathom of line; it is forty feet long, cleft in two, the north part being peaked, and the south table-end.—*Naval and Military Gazette*, Feb. 11.

By a parliamentary return (made in 1827) of the stipends of curates in England and Wales, it appears that there are—

6 Curates whose stipends are £10 per annum and under	£20
59 £20 and under	30
173 30	40
441 40	50
892 50	60
389 60	70
415 70	80
458 80	90

There are 4,254 curates in England and Wales, and out of these, 2,833 have not as much as £90 per ann. to support them; 892 curates are living upon less than £50 per ann. Many of these clergymen have expended £1,000, £1,200, £1,500, and upwards (their little patrimony), in qualifying themselves for these lucrative employments!—*Correspondent of the Times*.

MEXICO.—Much excitement has been produced in Mexico by the murder of a British subject in September last, who had been a prisoner in the *Acordada*, for the last two years, owing to some law proceedings with which he was concerned. The circumstances which led to the murder are the following:—On the afternoon of Tuesday, the 25th of September, the prisoners in the *Acordada* (where from 1,200 to 1,300 of the most atrocious wretches existing are confined) made an ill-concerted attempt to escape. Some of them struck down two of the sentinels, but did not kill them. The iron gates were closed upon them. They fired a few shots at the guard through the bars, who returned the