THE

Weekly Chronicle.

Terms—15 shillings per annum ;] "*Nec Rege, Nec Populo, sed utroque.*" [12s. 6d. if paid in advance.

Vol. III. SAINT JOHN, (N. B.) FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1838. No. 10.

The Chronicle,

Is published every Friday afternoon, by Lewis W. Durant & Co. at their Office in Mr. D. M'Millan's building, Prince William Street

Terms—15s. per annum, or 12s. 6d. if paid in advance.—When sent by mail, 2s. 6d. extra.

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Weekly Almanack.

November.	R. Sun.	S. Moon	H. W.
10 Saturday,	6 48	4 40	morn. 5 23
11 Sunday,	6 50	4 39	1 1 6 14
12 Monday,	6 51	4 38	2 4 7 18
13 Tuesday,	6 53	4 37	3 6 8 32
14 Wednesday,	6 54	4 36	4 9 9 34
15 Thursday,	6 55	4 35	5 14 10 16
16 Friday,	6 57	4 34	6 21 10 54

New Moon, 17th. 3h. 18m.

Public Institutions.

Bank of New-Brunswick.—Robt. T. Hazen, Esq. President.—Discount Days, Tuesdays and Friday.—Hours of business, from 10 to 3.—Notes for Discount must be left at the Bank before 3 o'clock on the days immediately preceding the Discount days.—Director next week: L. H. Deveber, Esq.

Commercial Bank.—Charles Ward, Esq. President.—Discount Days, Tuesday and Friday.—Hours of business, from 10 to 3.—Bills or Notes of Discount must be lodged before 1 o'clock on the days preceding the Discount days.—Director next week: D. J. M'Laughlan, Esq.

City Bank.—Thomas Leavitt, Esq. President. Discount Days, Mondays and Thursdays.—Office hours, from 10 to 3.—Bills or Notes for Discount must be lodged at the Bank before one o'clock on Saturdays and Wednesdays.—Director next week: J. T. Hanford, Esq.

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Marine Insurance.—I. L. Bedell, Broker. The committee of Underwriters meet every morning at 10 o'clock, (Sundays excepted.)

Miscellany.

PETER PIVOT'S LETTERS FROM NEW BRUNSWICK TO HIS FRIENDS AT THE DEPOT.

No. XI.

To compensate in some degree for the indifferent shooting, there is excellent fly-fishing both trout and salmon, at the proper season, in most parts of the province. There is a famous salmon pool up the Nashwaak, within three miles of its junction with the St. John opposite to Fredericton, where I have known as many as seven salmon killed by a single rod in the course of a morning. The fish begin to run up the rivers in May, and, from that period to the end of autumn, every wile and weapon that the art of man has yet invented is employed for their destruction. At the spot which I have mentioned there is a large and thriving mill-establishment, and the dam which ensures the requisite supply of water is built in such a way that no fish has any chance of surmounting the impediment. Salmon are often seen in the act of making the attempt; but, although they always leap high enough to clear the perpendicular height, they are almost invariably borne back again by the rush of water on the long and sloping wooden platform that surmounts the parapet wall, and without closing the navigation, forms a rapid, over which the Indian will sometimes hesitate to trust his light canoe. During the whole season this favourite stand is seldom vacant; not a day passes that from dawn till dark officers and civilians, from the neighbouring town, may not be seen flogging the water with a pertinacity that would frighten and disgust any but a New Brunswick salmon, and night has no sooner closed, than the anglers are relieved in the business of destruction by the workmen from the mill, whose nets generally give an account of such fish as may have escaped the persecution of the day. I have often seen them, with a malicious grin, presenting to some novice certain flies of which he had been robbed by the inmates of the pool, assuring him at the same time that he had lost a splendid fish!

If the Provincial Statute Book was held in decent reverence and respect, this "sweeping" mode of proceeding against the finny race would be attended with less mischief: the law prescribes that a third part of the breadth of every stream or river shall at all times be left open for the free ingress and egress of the fish, but the scrupulous "Blue Nose" is amazingly ingenious in devising the means of *conscientiously* evading any Act that militates against his personal interests or convenience; and in the present case a small island in the middle of the river immediately below the dam is credited with the space required by law, while the stream on each side of it is carefully netted; and if report speaks true, worse expedients than these have been resorted to for similar purposes.

The Indians, too, are sad poachers, and such salmon as are lucky enough to escape both rods and nets, are sure to fall a prey to their art and perseverence. It is a pretty sight to watch a party of natives employed on a fine still night in spearing salmon: a bright light burns in every canoe, enabling the quick eye of the Indian, as he slowly and noiselessly glides along, to detect every fin, whether in motion or at rest, as he passes over it, and his unerring spear seldom fails to strike and to secure the prize. The spear is very ingeniously constructed, and well adapted to its purpose; the prong is enclosed between two pliant and barbed pieces of wood which, grasping the fish when struck, prevent him from escaping, and relieve the iron from the weight of the fish, whose struggles might otherwise enable it to disengage itself: the handle of the spear forms the pole by which the canoe is propelled, and its further end is made to serve the purpose of a paddle also; but it requires great practice to manage these frail barks in an upright posture through the different rapids, and among the rocks where the fish are usually found, and it may indeed, be said, that none but an Indian, accustomed to the sport from childhood, can navigate a canoe in these waters and at the same time wield the fish-spear with success

Early in the summer I made an excursion up the Grand Lake, with the double view of seeing a district rich in minerals, and of fishing upon the numerous streams which empty themselves into the Lake. The first part of the journey was speedily accomplished in a steamer, which carried us to the mouth of the Jemseg, as the entrance to the lake is termed, forty miles below Fredericton, and where we found a snug little half decked cutter ready for our reception; the wind favoured us, and we speedily ran through the deep but narrow passage which connects the river with the lake, and is only about six miles in length. Its banks rise in a gentle slope upon the right hand, while on the left the country is flat and obviously subjected to periodical inundations, and on both sides there are some excellent farms. On leaving the Jemseg, a very fine sheet of water lay before us, upwards of thirty miles in length and in many places full ten miles in breadth; the numerous double-masted wood-boats sailing down under a heavy press of canvass, giving a busy and animated appearance to the inland sea. The wind freshened as we proceeded on our voyage, and, being unprovided with a pilot, we for some time prudently kept in the wake of one of the wood-boats, but finding that it carried us considerably away from the point for which we wished to steer, we at length took courage, and allowed our bark to shoot ahead, trusting as many better seamen have done before, to Fortune; nor did the fickle dame forsake us, until losing confidence in her constancy, we, in an evil hour, took a pilot on board, who immediately ran the vessel on a sand-bank, and caused us a world of trouble and vexation. The banks of the lake are tolerably well settled on both sides, and the people generally appeared to be in comfortable circumstances. Great quantities of gaspereaux—a sort of large herring, and other fish are caught here at different seasons of the year, which, when salted, come in well as a winter supply. One farmer, in particular, was peculiarly favoured with the means of securing, with scarcely any trouble, a very large share of this bountiful tribute of the ocean—Nature having formed, just below his house, the most admirable fish-trap that can be well conceived; it consists of a deep but very narrow cut in the bank, leading into a small pool or reservoir, from which there is no other outlet, and it is known proverbially as the gaspereaux-hole. When the fish are running as they do in shoals, the trap lies in the very route which they usually take in their cruise up the lake, and as it is their habit to run up every creek and inlet, which has any tolerable depth of water, it is seldom, indeed, that they pass so tempting a channel as that which leads them to their fate; thousands, indeed, have rushed gaily into that deceitful bourn from which no gaspereaux returns! for as the last straggler has swept past the portals of the entrance a net is dropped across its mouth, and the imprisoned shoal is speedily dragged from its native element, and consigned to the pickling-tubs which stand ready to receive them.

It was night before we reached the head of the lake, where we dropped our anchor, and with the aid of that most portable and excellent travelling conjurer *ne cuique*, a conjurer, we were speedily seated at our evening repast, with appetites whetted by long abstinence and the fresh breeze off the water; we did ample justice to the gastronomic skill which had so well and expeditiously administered to our corporeal wants. No traveller by land or water, no sportsman, or half-pay officer, should be without one of these conjurers; they are so cheap and economical, so expeditious and efficient in their services, and withal so portable, that one calculated for three persons may be carried in the crown of a respectable-sized beaver; containing, moreover, inside of it a kettle, ready to supply either tea or toddy at the discretion of the guests; and this, I will say, that I have often seen as good a mess, whether beef-steak, or mutton-chop, salmi, or stew, turned out of this simple apparatus, as either traveller or sportsman should desire.

At the light in the morning we again got under weigh, and stood for Coal Creek, for the purpose of visiting a mine which had lately been opened by a settler upon his grant. The whole of this district abounds in coal of a superior quality, which at some future day must add greatly to the wealth and resources of the province, but as yet no attempt has been made to work it scientifically, owing, perhaps, to the quantity which is annually imported to St. John's as ballast, and to the capabilities of the Nova Scotia mines of supplying it to any extent, at a very moderate price; the immense capital embarked in these mines, without having as yet produced any adequate return to the share-holders, may also have had its effect in deterring others from entering on a similar speculation, while the abundance of wood, and the preference generally given to it as fuel, have at the same time lessened the demand for coal. The farmers, generally, are too poor to work the coal upon their grants, and the Mining Association, which was formed with a sufficient capital to defray the first outlay of purchasing machinery and sinking shafts, has not yet, I believe, been able to agree with the Government as to the terms upon which they are to be at liberty to work the mineral. We reached the object of our search after a zigzag sail of an hour and a half, and in a chill wet morning landed at the rude pier which the industrious and enterprising settler had made, to enable vessels to take in their cargoes of the mineral produce of his farm.

The ascent of a gentle slope brought us to the spot where we found the adventurer, and four or five assistants, dragging coal with the rudest machinery from a hole of probably fifteen or twenty feet deep, and the first glance showed us that the means employed were altogether inadequate to the end proposed. The poor man was, however, sanguine of success, but I have since heard, that like his predecessors, he has been obliged to relinquish the attempt, after involving himself in difficulty and distress. A large capital, and the employment of scientific men, can alone render this a safe or profitable speculation: and it must be owned that the enormous and hitherto profitless expenditure which has been made at the Sydney and Picton mines, is enough to deter even speculators from entering on another coal adventure.

Having satisfied our curiosity, and received ocular testimony of the mineral riches of the soil, we dropped down the river, and entering the lake, made sail for Newcastle river, which we entered about noon, and anchored in a retired and thickly wooded cove, abreast of the rude log-hut of a recent settler. We were received on landing by a robust and rather fierce-looking Irishman, the sole inhabitant of this lonely spot, whose title to the land was, I believe simply that of occupation; in the phraseology of the country he was a squatter, and had cleared around his den barely space enough to give himself potatoes: he appeared to have no pursuit or any ostensible mode of gaining a livelihood, and in other countries, and under other circumstances, the man's appearance, not less than his secluded and apparently companionless retreat, might have given rise to suspicions not over creditable to our new acquaintance. But whatever may have been his motive for selecting an abode at a distance from his fellows, and removed from any prospect of employment, it was at least certain that he ran little risk of starving while his garden yielded roots and vegetables, and his proximity to the water insured to him at all seasons a bountiful supply of fish; his punt and net lay before his door, and our own short experience fully corroborated his statement, that it must be a man's own fault should he ever want a meal in such a situation.

On the other side of the creek or river stands another solitary hut, the domicile of a half-pay officer who had entered into a contract with the Government for working the coal upon his land. He was understood to possess not only some practical knowledge of the business he had embarked in, but also the means of carrying his plans into effect, and having satisfied himself of the feasibility of the undertaking by some more scientific and certain test than the abundant evidence of coal, which the whole of this part of the country displays upon its surface he had intended to get out from England some skilful miners, with the requisite machinery, for carrying his plans into operation, but he had met with difficulties and experienced vexations and annoyances in a quarter to which he had looked for encouragement and support. By his neighbours his settlement and intended project were viewed with jealousy and dislike, and they daily subjected him to a thousand petty annoyances and interruptions, in the hope of disgusting him with his location, and of driving him from the country; his boundaries were disputed, and he was finally involved in litigation and disputes, which embittered his existence and paralyzed his industry and exertions. This jealousy and unfriendly treatment of strangers, so often shown in the remote districts of the province, is one of the worst features in the "Blue Nose" character, and it is not less illiberal than impolitic, for until this sectarian spirit can be broken and extinguished, it must deter individuals from sitting down in a community so unfavourably disposed towards them, and at the same time so blind to their own true interest as to treat every improvement as an innovation and thus prevent the prosecution of measures from which themselves must eventually benefit; and this, I fear, can only be fully accomplished by such an influx of intelligence and enterprise from the old country, as will neutralize the old leaven of the new, by the best of all means, the force of example and the influence of success.

I would not willingly do the good people of New Brunswick an injustice, but it cannot be concealed that too many of the old settlers view the waste lands as the natural inheritance of their children, and are too frequently disposed to consider those who come among them as interlopers sent to rob them of their birthright; while there is unquestionably a want of congeniality of feeling and of manners, which is nourished and extended by faults on both sides, each party clinging too tenaciously to its own ideas and opinions, and showing too little respect for those of others. These prejudices must, however, give way to time, and as the country becomes more densely peopled all distinctions will be lost in the general march of improvement, and old and new country men will become in taste and manner what they already are by birth and an equality of rights and privileges, not less than by a community of interests—one happy and united people.

Having cut our business short in order to accompany my friend the Irish squatter to convey us in his punt to a mill seat, about four miles above our anchorage, where we were led to anticipate some good fishing. Our course lay up the creek, and our brawny boatman propelled us forward at a good rate, through the intricacies and impediments by which our progress was beset. The water was extremely low in some places, scarcely enabling the punt to float, extensive sand-flats were left completely bare, while in other places we were pushed with great labour through bullrushes, and other aquatic plants, bearing an abundant crop of water lilies, and forming the favourite hiding-places of various kinds of water fowl, which we saw in numbers as we passed along. We were obliged to land a mile and a half below the mills, and had a hot walk through the woods, beset and half eat up by myriads of musquitos and black flies, which, as a facetious friend observed to a patient and unsuccessful angler, are always sure to bite in this country, whether the salmon do or not

We were much disappointed at the appearance of the pool, which it had cost us so much pain and trouble to reach; the lowness of the water seemed to forbid the hope of finding any large fish, while the quantity of saw-dust which floated on its surface must, we imagined, if it did not destroy the finny tribe beneath, at least prevent them from discovering the tempting counterfeits of "martin belley," with which we came provided. Resolved to try, however, I selected two large red hackles, and dropped them cautiously and half despondingly into the water, when an absolute scramble took place among the little cannibals beneath for their possession. The pool seemed absolutely alive, and in little more than an hour I landed between four and five dozen of as fine trout as a fisherman would desire to see; many of them weighed between three and four pounds, and none were under a pound weight. Early in the spring there is no more killing fly than the red hackle, the fish taking it for the blossom of the maple, which grows on the banks of the streams, and of which they are very fond; but to confess the truth, the New Brunswick trout are not dainty in their choice of flies, and science is quite thrown away on them.

It was night ere we reached the yacht on our return, when, thanks to the conjurer, we were not kept long waiting for the meal of which we stood in need: one of our companions had shot some wood pigeons, which, let it be remarked, make no despicable soup: the trout were excellent, and, with the addition of a cold pie and omelette, we contrived to make ourselves pretty comfortable for the evening.

On the following day we paid another visit to the dam, and having actually satiated ourselves with fishing, we spread our canvass to the breeze and glided swiftly down the lake on our homeward voyage.

I have little to add to the details of this excursion, which afforded us much amusement. We reached the St. John early on the following morning, and, jumping on board a steamer proceeding up the river, we arrived at Fredericton in time for dinner.

FUNERAL PRACTICES OF DIFFERENT NATIONS.

From "Hydriotaphia, or urn-burial," by Sir Thomas Browne.

That carnal interment, or burying, was of elder date than burning, the old examples of Abraham and the patriarchs are sufficient to illustrate; and were without competition, if it could be made out that Adam was buried near Damascus, or Mount Calvary, according to some tradition. God himself, that buried but one, was pleased to make choice of this way, collectible from Scripture expression, and the hot contest between Satan and the archangel, about discovering the body of Moses. But the practice of burning was also of a great antiquity and of no slender extent. For (not to derive the same from Hercules) noble descriptions there are thereof in the Grecian funerals of Homer, in the formal obsequies of Patroclus, and Achilles; and somewhat elder in the Theban war, and solemn combustion of Menoceus, and Archemorus, contemporary unto Jair, the eighth judge of Israel. Confirmable also among the Trojans, from the funeral pyre of Hector, burnt before the gates of Troy, and the burning of Penthesilea, the Amazonian queen; and long continuance of that practice, in the inward countries of Asia: while as low as the reign of Julian, we find that the king of Chaonia burnt the body of his son, and interred the ashes in a silver urn.

The same practice extended also far west, and, besides Herculeans, Getes, and Thracians, was in use with most of the Celtæ, Sarmatians, Germans, Gauls, Danes, Swedes, Norwegians; not to omit some use thereof among Carthaginians and Americans: of greater antiquity among the Romans than most opinion, or Pliny seems to allow. For beside the old table laws of burning or burying within the city, of making the funeral fire with plain wood, or qualifying the fire with wine Manlius, the consul, burnt the body of his son. Numa, by special clause of his will, was not burnt, but buried; and Remus was solemnly buried, according to the description of Ovid.

Now as all customs were founded upon some bottom of reason, so there wanted not grounds for this; according to several apprehensions of the most rational dissolution. Some being of the opinion of Thales, that water was the original of all things, thought it most equal to submit unto the principle of generation, and conclude in a moist relentment. Others conceived it most natural to end in fire, as due unto the master principle in the composition, according to the doctrine of Heraclitus; and therefore heaped up large piles, more actively to waft them toward that element, whereby they also declined a visible degeneration into worms, and left a lasting parcel of their composition.

Some apprehending a purifying virtue in fire, refining the grosser commixture, and firing out the ætereal particles so deeply immersed in it. And such as by tradition or rational conjecture held any hint of the final pyre of all things, or that this element at last must be too hard for all the rest, might conceive most naturally of the fiery dissolution. Others pretending no natural grounds, politically declined the malice of enemies upon their buried bodies. Which consideration led Sylla unto this practice; who having thus served the body of Marius, could not but fear a retaliation upon his own; entertained also in the civil wars, and revengeful contentions of Rome.

The Chaldeans, the great idolators of fire, abhorred the burning of their carcasses as a pollution of that deity. The Persian Magi, declined it upon the like scruple, and being only solicitous about their bones, exposed their flesh to the prey of birds and dogs. And the Parsees, now in India, which expose their bodies unto vultures, and endure not so much as *feretra*, or biers of wood, the proper fuel of fire, are had on with such nicenes; but whether the ancient Germans, who burned their dead, held any such fear to pollute their deity of Heaven, or the earth, we have no authentic conjecture.

The Egyptians were afraid of fire, not as a deity but as devouring element, mercilessly consuming their bodies and leaving too little of them; and therefore, by precious embalments, depositure in dry earths, or handsome inclosure in glasses, contrived the notablest ways of integral conservation. And from such Egyptian scruples, imbibed by Pythagoras, it may be conjectured that Numa and the Pythagorean kept their bodies whole and entire.

The Scythians, who swore by wind and sword, that is, by life and death, were so far from burning their bodies, that they declined all interment, and made their graves in the air. And the Ichthyophagi, or fish-eating nations about Egypt, affected the sea for their grave; thereby declining visible corruption, and restoring the debt of their bodies. Whereas the old heroes in Homer, dreaded nothing more than water or drowning, probably upon the old opinion of the fiery substance of the soul only extinguishable by that element; and therefore the poet emphatically implieth the total destruction in this kind of death, which happened to Ajax Oileus.

The old Balearians had a peculiar mode, for they used great urns and much wood, but no fire in their burials, while they bruised the flesh and bones of the dead, crowded them into urns, and laid heaps of wood upon them. And the Chinese without crediion or fire of interment of their bodies make use of trees and much burning, while they plant a pine-tree by their grave, and burn great numbers of painted draughts of slaves and horses over it, civilly content with their company in effigy, which barbarous nations exact unto reality.

Christians abhorred this way of obsequies, and though they sticked not to give their bodies to be burned in their lives, detested that mode after death; affecting rather a depositure than absumption, and properly submitting unto the sentence of God, to return not unto ashes but unto dust again, conformably unto the practice of the patriarchs, the interment of our Saviour, of Peter, Paul, and the ancient martyrs.

The Mussulman believers will never admit this fiery resolution, for they hold a present trial from their black and white angels in the grave, which they must have made so hollow that they may rise upon their knees."

The Jewish nation, though they entertained the old way of inhumation, yet sometimes admitted this practice; for the men of Jabesh burnt the body of Saul; and by no prohibited practice, to avoid contagion or pollution, in time of pestilence, burnt the bodies of their friends. And when they burnt not their dead bodies, yet sometimes used great burnings near and about them, deducible from the expressions concerning Jehoram, Zedechias, and the sumptuous pyre of Asa; and were so little averse from pagan burning, that the Jews, lamenting the death of Cæsar, their friend and revenger on Pompey, frequented the place where his body was burnt, for many nights together. And as they raised noble monuments and mausoleums for their own nation, so they were not scrupulous in erecting some for others, according to the practice of Daniel, who left that lasting sepulchral pile in Ecbatana, for the Medean and Persian kings.

But even in times of subjection and hottest use, they conformed not unto the Roman practice of burning; whereby the prophecy was secured concerning the body of Christ, that it should not see corruption or a bone should not be broken; which we believe was also providentially prevented, from the soldier's spear and nails, that passed by the little bones both in his hands and feet; not of ordinary contrivance, that it should not corrupt on the cross, according to the laws of Roman crucifixion, or a hair of his head perish, though observable in Jewish customs to cut the hair of malefactors.

"I observed, too, in the cemeteries about Cairo, that in every Mussulman tomb is a diminutive arched door-way, by which dogs, jackals, and other animals enter in and shelter themselves at night. On inquiry, I was told it is left to afford the ghost a free passage in and out.—*Egypt and Mahommed Ali, vol. 2.*

The Cedars of Lebanon.—"One of the first travellers who has given any particulars of Mount Lebanon is Belon, who travelled in Syria about 1550. About sixteen miles from Tripoli, a city in Syria, he says, 'at a considerable height up the mountain, the traveller arrives at the monastery of the Virgin Mary, which is situated in a valley. Thence, proceeding four miles further up the mountain, he will arrive at the cedars, the Maronites or the monks acting as guides. The cedars stand in a valley, and not on the top of the mountain; and they are supposed to amount to 28 in number, though it is difficult to count them, they being distant from each other a few paces. These the Archbishop of Damascus has endeavoured to prove to be the same that Solomon planted with his own hands in the quincunx manner as they now stand.' No other tree grows in the valley in which they are situated; and it is generally so covered with snow, as to be only accessible in summer."—(*De Arb., &c., p. 4.*) "About this period paying a visit to the cedars of Mount Lebanon seems to have been considered as a kind of pilgrimage; and, as every visitor took away some of the wood of the trees to make crosses and tabernacles, the Patriarch of the Maronites, fearing that the trees would be destroyed, threatened excommunication to all those who should injure the cedars, and, at the same time, exhorted all Christians to preserve trees so celebrated in holy writ. The Maronites were only allowed to cut even the branches of these trees once a-year, and that was on the eve of the Transfiguration of our Saviour, which festival occurs in August, and consequently at a suitable period for visiting the mountain. On this festival the Maronites and pilgrims repaired to Mount Lebanon, and, passing the night in the woods, regaled themselves on wine made from grapes grown on the mountain, and lighted their fires with branches cut from the cedars. They passed the night in dancing a kind of Pyrrhic dance, and in singing and regaling, and the following day the Festival of the Transfiguration was held on the mountain, and the patriarch celebrated high mass on an altar under one of the largest and oldest cedars.". Mr. Loudon afterwards enumerates the other writers who have visited the cedars, giving extracts from each, down to the visit of the Prince de Joinville, as recorded by his aide-de-camp M. Laure, in September, 1836. Fifteen of the old trees were then still remaining, one of which had a trunk nearly 36 feet in circumference, and there were about 40 younger trees, the smallest of which had a trunk measuring 10 feet in circumference; but there were no young seedlings to succeed them. "The soil of the forest of Lebanon," says M. Laure, "in which there was not a single blade of grass growing in September, 1836, was covered to the thickness of half a foot with the fallen leaves, cones, and scales of the cedars, so that it was almost impossible for the seeds of the trees to reach the ground and germinate.—*Arboretum et Fruticetem Britannicum.*

The juramental obligation of an Hindoo is confirmed by the witness introducing one of the fingers of his right hand into a vessel containing the sacred water of the Ganges, repeating the conditions of his oath at the same time, whilst the Mahommedan swears upon the sacredness of the Khoran.

The Great Magician.—We have formerly noticed the superiority of Mr. Anderson's feats in the "magic art;"—to form, however, a proper conception of the skill, ingenuity, and incomprehensible nature of his deceptions, our readers must go and judge for themselves. With a frankness that never fails to please, the conjuror calls upon the spectators to watch his motions sharply, at the very moment a deception is about to practised; every eye is eager to detect the trick; every neck is stretched; and [illegible] the most distant to change places—separate substances apparently chemically combined—convert an orange into a young lady, and perform fifty other feats equally wonderful, in all of them setting the most lynx-eyed of his lookers at defiance for a solution of the ways and means by which they were accomplished. But the most perfect of all is "the gun trick." You see the ball marked with a knife, and ascertained to be *bona fide* cold lead—you see the ball coolly and deliberately dropped into the muzzle of the piece—you hear it fall plump and solid to the bottom—you could almost swear to the fact, even though your judgement may tell you the whole is a trick; the gun is fired, and the apparently invulnerable Magician seems to receive it harmlessly between his teeth, or in the palm of his hand. It is altogether admirably accomplished, and so deeply convinced have we seen hundreds, as to the bullet being actually in the gun, that they would not have discharged it for any remuneration in money. In addition to his magical performances, the demeanour of Mr. Anderson is that of a gentleman—polite, courteous, and affable. Again we say to all—go and see the great Magician."—*Glasgow Argus.*

Encke's Comet.—It appears that, on the 2nd of the present month, the comet must pass our meridian at 23 minutes past five in the morning, and on each succeeding day will pass it earlier until the last day of the month, on which it will pass it at a quarter before four in the morning. The point where it will cross the meridian on the 2nd of the month will be thirty degrees south of the zenith; and each successive day it will pass the meridian at a more elevated point. On the last day of August it will cross the meridian at twenty three degrees south of the zenith. During this month the comet will be visible in the firmament on the eastern side of the meridian, between ten o'clock at night and five in the morning, and will be at a sufficient elevation to be discovered by a good telescope. During the month of September, the time of its passing the meridian will gradually come nearer to midnight, and it will consequently be in circumstances still more favourable for observation. On the 15th of October it will pass through the zenith at midnight; and on the 25th of November it will cross the meridian at noon, at a distance of 48 degrees south of the zenith. It will then be in a position more unfavourable for observation. The comet will be at its least distance from the earth on the 7th of November, and at its least distance from the sun on the 18th of December. The appearance of this comet is that of a small round nebula, without the appendage of a tail. It is rather brighter towards the centre than at the edges; but so faint, even when brightest, that it is discovered in the heavens at all times with some difficulty. It produces not the slightest observable effect by its attraction on any body of the solar system, but on the other hand suffers considerable perturbations by the attraction of the planets on it. All these circumstances lead to the conclusion that it is a small light globe of matter, probably destitute of solidity, and in a state of vapour.—*Monthly Chron.*

Furious Attack on Mr. Amburgh, of Astley's by a Tiger.—Since Wednesday last, the principal topic of conversation in the theatrical world has been the furious attack made on Mr. Van Amburgh whose exhibitation at Astley's Royal Amphitheatre, of lions, tigers, leopards, and other animals in the forest, in the grand zoological spectacle entitled the *Lion Conqueror of Pompeii*, has excited within these few days past so much public attention. Van Amburgh has been styled by the *philologos* of the above equestrian establishment as the brute tamer, and certainly the appellation is well applied, as the following daring feat will prove—for never was the courage or the presence of mind of man put to a severer test. It appears that on Wednesday last, a rehearsal was going on in the circus of the theatre, when Mr. Van Amburgh wishing one of his tigers to perform a certain feat, which the animal was utterly unable or unwilling to accomplish, had recourse to severe corporeal punishment, which chastisement he inflicted with a large horsewhip. Smarting under the pain of the lash, the animal became incensed, and suddenly sprang upon Mr. Van Amburgh, who instantly was hurled with violence to the ground, from the strength and weight of his incensed assailant. Mr. Van Amburgh, who is of Herculean caste, and possessing extraordinary muscular power, instantly perceived the intention of the animal, which was that of tearing him to pieces, and with the courage and presence of mind which few men possess, seized his foe by the lip of the lower jaw, and thus pinioned him as a bull-dog would an ox at a bait. A long and fearful struggle now ensued, in the course of which both the man and tiger rolled over several times. At length Mr. Van Amburgh got the better of his foe by throwing him on his back, at the same time kneeling on his stomach, and, with his other hand, which was till now unengaged, commenced striking the prostrate animal with his clenched fist the blows falling in quick succession over the head, face, and particularly the nose until the blood flowed from the subdued animal, who here quivered under the grasp of his conqueror. At length Mr. Van Amburgh, perceiving that he had completely overcome him, released his hold; and the animal, finding himself at liberty, retired a short distance from his master, and crouched down as if severely suffering from the punishment he had received. It may here be proper to mention, that the performer (so we understand) did not pay any attention to the struggle, considering that it was merely a rehearsal of the part to be played in the evening until they saw him administering the severe chastisement, as before described, to the enraged animal, and its efforts to compel Mr. Van Amburgh to release his hold. This encounter did not at all impede the entertainment of the evening.—*John Bull, September 1838.*

Mental Capacity in men and Women.—If any one should contend that women in general have the same degree of mental capacity as men, we ask him to show us a single instance of a woman possessing first-rate mental power in any of the numerous branches of science or art! Let him look through the history of all nations from the beginning of the world, and then tell us if out of all the female sex a single Moses, Homer, Lycurgus, Æschylus, Plato, Aristotle, Archimedes, Phidias, Demosthenes, Cicero, Virgil, Dante, Michael Angelo, Raphael, Kepler, Galileo, Cervantes, Bacon, Shakspeare, Milton, Decartes, Spinoza, Leibnitz, Newton, or Handel can be found! In short, can he produce one single specimen of any of the great original creations of genius which was done by a woman?—*British and Foreign Review.*

Sunday Schools—*a fact for Parents.*—There is some difficulty in Cincinnati in deciding the question whether or not the common school houses should be allowed to be used for Sunday schools. On one side it is held that the city ordinances forbid the use of these buildings for any purpose than common schools; while the other maintains that "Sunday Schools" are as *common* as Monday or Saturday schools." In the course of this discussion it was natural that the opinions of the common school teachers should be cited on the subject. It appears that a large proportion of the Sunday school children attended the common schools, and it is given as the opinion of the latter, that the children who attend the Sunday schools are the most orderly and make the most proper behaviour. We have no doubt of it; and the fact should be pondered on by all who have the care of children that should, but do not, attend Sunday Schools.—*Balt. Pat.*

Stealing a Cat.—On Monday John Pritchard was charged with stealing a cat, the property of Mr. Jones. Legal gentlemen were employed by the parties, and the charge occupied the magistrates a considerable time. The complaint was grounded upon the 7th and 8th Geo. IV. c. 29. sec. 31, which enacts that if any person shall steal a dog, beast, or bird, ordinarily kept in a state of confinement, such offender shall pay over and above the value of the animal stolen, any sum not exceeding £20; for a second offence the thief may be imprisoned for twelve months, and publicly or privately whipped. In this case there was some discussion as to whether a cat came under the term "beast," which point was decided by a reference to the dictionaries of Johnson and Walker, both of which define a beast to be "an animal distinguished from birds, insects, fishes, and men." It appeared that almost every cat in the neighbourhood had been stolen, and the remains of the one in question were found in a cob of several ferrets kept by the accused. Whether the animal was killed before being given to these fierce little creatures, did not appear. Pritchard was fined £1. 5s. 0d.—*Hereford Journal.*

Resignation of Lady Lansdowne.—The Marchioness of Lansdowne has resigned her place as chief Lady of her Majesty's Bedchamber; and on this circumstance we have a long dissertation on dissatisfaction, breach of etiquette, and nobody knows what—when the resignation of the Marchioness was the result of long previous arrangement, it having been fully understood that her Ladyship would be able to hold the office for only a limited period. The Countess of Burlington has been appointed by the Queen to the vacant post.—*Globe.*

We believe that "etiquette" had a good deal to do with the resignation of Lady Lansdowne. The Marchioness of Normanby, though only recently promoted to that rank, claimed in right of her husband, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, precedence of the Marchioness of Lansdowne. This was objected to on, we think, the very rational ground that Lord Normanby's Irish dignity gave him no extraordinary rights and privileges in London. The O'Connell *protege*, however, had more power than the President of the Council, and the consequence is the resignation of the President's lady. How will his Lordship himself digest the slight? He has gone to Bowood, we suppose, to deliberate about his own resignation or retention of office.—*Times.*

Messrs Webber and Young, two of the seconds in the fatal duel at Wimbledon, (England) between Captain Elliot and Mr. Mason, have been tried and found guilty of Murder. The judge, in passing sentence of death, told the prisoners that their lives would be spared, but they would have to undergo a long term of imprisonment.—The verdict produced no little consternation among the young fashionables of London.

Jonathan Outdone.—Our trans-Atlantic brethren are famous for their ingenuity. But we think we can cope with them in anything, only we don't trumpet forth our abilities as they do. There is at present at Cockerham, a tailor, who is so quick at his trade, that he has constantly beside him a bowl of water to cool his needle.—*London Paper.*

A Bull.—An Irish gentleman, whose lady had absconded from him, cautioned the public against trusting her in these words:—"My wife has eloped from me without rhyme or reason, and I desire no one will trust her on my account, for I am not married to her."

Miss Julia Short was lately married in Russelville, Ky., to Mr. John Sweet. What a *Short* and *Sweet* courtship it must have been.

Wellerism.—"Well, Sam, what do you like best for dinner?" "Vy a very nice thing is a weal pie, particularly ven it aint made o' *kittens.*"

Anti-Bed-Bug.—A late European paper informs us that a few drops of sweet nitre will effectually banish bed-bugs. In some of our steamboats, then, *sweet nitre* will make *sight sweeter.*

You fill me with feelings of the most profound astonishment, as the editor said to the letter, when he opened it, and found enclosed the money for one year to his paper in advance.