

branches, although chemists may be unable to explain the connection; and without waiting for the rationale, we may assure ourselves, that those motions of the air, which are so indispensable in summer, are at least as much needed in winter; perhaps more so.

It is clear that cold pits, and cold green-houses, require that the air should be kept in motion just as much as that of heated stoves. Let any one look at the plants discovered when the pots are removed from pits which have long been covered up during a tedious winter. Miserable wretches, dropping limb from limb, covered with mouldiness, musty and rotting, are what too often remain of fine healthy specimens, in which a blemish could hardly have been detected when they were first clapped into their black hole."

## News.

The infant son of the Earl and Countess of Dune, was baptised by the Rev. Dr. Cumming, in Exeter Hall, lately, in accordance with the usage of the Church of Scotland.

Commercial difficulties, by the accounts of mail steamer of 15th November, still continued in Britain, and large failures were occurring with alarming rapidity.

There was a rise in the price of bread-stuffs, and there is an opinion that it had gone down too much.

In Mexico, the American Commissioner has made some propositions which were rejected. The Mexicans proposed to give Texas and five degrees of California, amounting it is said, to as much as 420,000 square miles of Mexican territory, and the Americans have refused, and hostilities have re-commenced. The Whigs of Massachusetts have recommended Daniel Webster to the favourable consideration of the Whig National Convention, as a candidate for the office of President.

Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Missouri have each appointed the 25th day of November next, for public thanksgiving. General Scott has hanged the American deserter, Riley, and the "Legion of St. Patrick." They were condemned by Court-martial.

After the 4th November, the mails between England and Canada, will be transmitted by Halifax and Quebec, instead of Boston, as at present.

An emigrant and his wife, named Burke, have been sentenced to be hanged at Kingston, for smothering their children in the pits.

Bishop Power, R. C. Bishop of Toronto, died on the 1st inst. of typhus fever.

The monster steam ship, the Great Britain, has been removed to Dunderum Bay, and is now in the Prince's Dock, Liverpool. The estimated liabilities of houses in Britain, reported last week as having failed, amount to nearly £6,000,000 sterling.

The manuscripts of the Rev. Dr. Chalmers have been bought by Constable, the publisher, for £10,000 sterling.

The state of trade in the manufacturing districts of England, appears dull, gloomy, and unsatisfactory.

Mr. Cowan, who was chosen member for Edinburgh, in room of Mr. McAulay, having had a Government contract for paper sealed, is now legally entitled to take his seat.

Commissioners, on the subject of the Post-office system of the Prince, are shortly to meet in Montreal. It were well that provisions for a uniform two-penny rate were poured in on the Government. It would appear that dissatisfaction is being expressed in the States, with their reduced but not uniform system. The manufacturers of timber on the Ottawa have resolved as far as they can, to curtail their operations very much this season, in consequence of low prices.

The sum of £300,000 is to be expended yearly, for the next seven years, in completing the Ganges canal.

John Burritt still continues to agitate the question of Ocean Postage in Great Britain. He says of it: "This is a vast country to agitate an idea in!"

In last accounts, the Queen was still in Scotland enjoying herself, with her husband and little ones, in the "land of brown and shaggy wood."

The Queen of Spain has published a political amnesty, pardoning all those who have been banished for political opinions to Spain, on taking the oath of allegiance. Espartero, too, has been pardoned.

The Parisians say that Louis Philippe grasps every thing; seeking the good of his family more than of his people.

The present Pope seems likely to make a great change in Europe. Austria wishes to check the advance of political opinion there.

In the Caucasus, the Circassians are still unsubdued by the arms of the Emperor of Russia.

In Greece, an insurrection, headed by Greggioti, an old and esteemed officer, has just been put down.

Within a few weeks past, the working classes having come to understand political and social economy better, have, voluntarily, asked their employers, the mill-owners, to cease working the mills for a few weeks. They see, that if their employers are losing £500 a-week by working the mills at present, they, the working classes, also, must eventually suffer. This is a very striking exemplification of the value of the diffusion of right principles and intelligence among the labouring classes.

The Irish landlords are opposing the collection of the poor rate, declaring that the land cannot support its inhabitants and wishing for more support from the Exchequer of England. This makes Irish affairs very gloomy.

The shareholders of the Caledonian railway, and also of the Edinburgh and northern, have decided in favour of Sunday lines.

The master-builders of London now release the workmen at four o'clock on Saturday. A party of 100, with their wives and families, met at Cremorn Garden to celebrate the commencement of it. The workmen are sure to make it up to the employers in work.

The members of the Cork Temperance Institution entertained their worthy President, the Rev. T. Matthew, on the 20th Aug., and presented him with a splendid silver medal, made by Mr. Leonard Wron.

Sir John Herschel says, from his four years' astronomical observations at the Cape, that there are stars so remote that it would require two millions of years for the transit of the light from these orbs to our own.

The City of London has voted a magnificent silver to Captain Dar Bernardino Camp, for saving the lives of the passengers by the steamer Tweed, on the 12th July last.

IMPORTANCE OF A DEFINITE "PURPOSE"—The great distinction between man and man, and author and author, is purpose. It is the edge and point of character; it is the stamp and superscription of genius; it is the direction on the letter of talent. Character without it is blunt and torpid. Talent without it is a letter, which, undirected, goes no whither. Genius without it is a bullion, sluggish, splendid, uncirculating. Purpose yearns after and secures artistic culture. It gathers, as by a strong suction, all things which it needs, into it itself. It often invests art with a moral and religious aspect. This was strongly impressed upon us when lately seeing Macaulay and Wilson on one platform. How great the difference in point of native powers! How much greater alas! in point of purpose and cultivation! There is in Wilson's great, shaggy soul and body, what might make many Macaulays. But it has never been fully evolved. He has not done with his might what his hand found to do. He has been little else than a vast, lazy earth-god, pelting nuts in the summer woods, or gathering pebbles on the margins of the summer waters; or, rather, he rises up before his worshippers glorious and idle as Nebuchadnezzar's golden image. But, since Shakspeare, no clearer, larger, sunnier soul has existed among men. And yet Macaulay, though manifestly belonging to an inferior race, mounted on the pedestal of purpose, stands higher than he.—George Gillilan, in *Tait's Magazine*.

GLIMPSES OF CIVIL LIFE.—The Express states that a very well-dressed and good-looking woman made her appearance at the Alms-House, praying for temporary assistance, as she was not well, and had not a penny in the world. She was accompanied by a fine little boy, and said that she was the wife of a sea-captain, who lately lost his life on the coast of Georgia. She only wanted to be taken care of a few days, until she should be enabled to obtain employment. Applications similar to the above are made at the Alms-House almost every day.

MONAL COURAGE.—Mr. Quincy, Mayor of Boston, at the dinner given to James K. Polk, while in that city, says the *Religious Herald*, refused to take the chair at the head of the table until the brandy and wine bottles which had been set upon the tables were removed. They were ordered off, and then the Mayor presided and did the honours of the occasion.—*Evangelist*.