

MISCELLANY.

TEMPERANCE ANECDOTE—FATHER MATTHEW.—The Temperance cause is still triumphing over every obstruction. Even the Orangemen of the North, where Father Matthew has recently been, acknowledge its beneficial influence. I had a few days since the gratification of meeting the honest and untiring Apostle of Temperance at Limerick, where a public banquet was given to him by the citizens of all politics and persuasions. It was the first time he had been at any entertainment of the kind. On his health being given an address was presented to him, to which he replied in a very eloquent and feeling manner. The company were highly respectable, including two of our M. P.'s for the County and City, and every thing passed off with the greatest unanimity. A very tasteful soiree was given the next day by the Tee-totalers, at which over 1200 sat down to tea and coffee. It was delightful to see the change from tumblers to cups and saucers. I had not seen Father Matthew for nearly two years, and had the pleasure of a hearty shake-hands. He looks considerably more worn, in consequence no doubt of his unceasing exertions, but is notwithstanding stout and healthy. I was with him in the course of the day while administering the pledge in St. Michael's Chapel yard, and felt much interest, although I had witnessed it on a former occasion. His manner was that of a kind pastor to his flock, and each time previous to the ceremony, (which has been so often described that it is unnecessary for me to do so) he exhorted them in a plain, unaffected, but impressive style, to avoid all bad habits, more especially intemperance, the root of all evil. He generally introduced some appropriate instances to exemplify the consequences of drunkenness, sometimes telling them in a humorous way but with a deep meaning; at others, with a simple seriousness which won the silent attention of every one. I will mention one of these anecdotes as an instance, though I cannot remember the names of the persons or place. After cautioning persons against neglecting the moral education of their children, whose good or evil prospects depended upon the habits they instilled, and advised them to be cautious what they said or did before them, as they would follow example more readily than precept, and understood things at a much earlier age than was generally supposed, he said—"To show how mothers may ruin their children, I will tell you what occurred some years ago at— A gentleman lived in that neighborhood, at whose death another individual was to obtain possession of some property. This person went to a tenant of his, a poor woman, who lived in a wretched cabin by the road side, with an only son. By dint of persuasion he prevailed on this wicked mother to get her son to murder the gentleman, for which he was to give her five pounds. With the greatest difficulty she got her son to agree to it. She got a loaded gun from the person who instigated her to this cruel deed, and posted her son with it inside a ditch close to the road where the unfortunate man was to pass. After waiting some time he was seen approaching at a considerable distance, at the sight of him her son's heart softened, and he exclaimed, 'Oh, mother, I cannot shoot the gentleman; I have not the heart to do it!' She said nothing, but ran back to the house and brought out a bottle of whiskey, which she made him drink until he had no longer any sense of what he was doing, and when the gentleman passed he shot him. They were both taken and tried for the murder. There was no sufficient evidence to convict the mother,

who was acquitted, but the son was found guilty. When sentence was about to be passed they were both together in the dock. When asked what he had to say why it should not be passed, he said—"Nothing, my lord—I have nothing to say, it was I that murdered the gentleman, and there," said he, pointing in the Docks to his mother, "is the wicked woman who made me do the deed." He was hanged a few days after. His mother witnessed the execution, tearing her hair in all the agonies of a wicked conscience. She is living yet, and the neighbors never pass the house without throwing a stone towards it, and there is a heap there at this present day as high as this chapel."

CURIOUS INVENTION.—A new principle has been applied to the propulsion of steamboats, which dispenses with the use of the ordinary wheels and paddles, and the more modern screw propellers. The propelling power is produced by means of hydraulic pressure, obtained by very simple machinery. Two pistons, attached to each end of a horizontal beam, work in cylinders. These upright cylinders open below into horizontal pipes, which latter open into the water near the stern of the boat making four openings, two belonging to each end of the beam. The propelling force is gained by the action of the ocean through these pipes upon the boat and of water forced through these pipes upon the ocean—thus uniting these two principles—that of the water coming against and propelling the object moved, and that of a force from the object to be moved acting against a stationary body of water. When one end of the beam is "going up," the two cylinders on the other end of the beam eject a quantity of water, while at the same time at the other end a vacuum being produced, water rushes in from the ocean. To prove that the water which enters the vacuum has a propelling power, horizontal pipes were placed at each end of the boat, which neutralizes each other.

The advantages of this new method are stated to be, that the same speed is gained with one half the fuel now used, the propelling parts are below water, not liable to get out of order, and can be effectually used in all weathers. An important feature in the improvement is the instant application, by simply turning a stop, of the whole power of the engine to the discharge of the water thus drawn from the ocean, over the deck and upper works of the boat, so that any fire which might arise could be immediately extinguished—lessening materially the dangers of steamboat travelling. A little model boat, called the Hydraulion, propelled in this new manner, by a perfect miniature engine, is exhibiting in Boston. It floats upon a small ocean prepared for the purpose, and is said to perform its nautical evolutions to a charm. We rather incline to doubt, however, whether any great speed can be thus obtained. Actual experiment on a larger scale must demonstrate the fact.—*Buffalo Patriot.*

WHAT IS THE BUDE LIGHT?—The Bude Light is a powerful concentrated light, obtained from a number of burners constructed somewhat on the principle of Argand's Lamp, with this improvement, that each burner has only one circle or cylinder, while in Argand's lamp there are two. A stream of oxygen gas is transmitted through the centre of each burner, to consume the disengaged carbon, thus adding to the intensity of the light. This light is collected into a focus by means of mirrors, and again diffused through lenses of different forms. Crystals of the octahedral facet, combined with prisms, seem to be most generally approved. The advantage this mode of lighting possesses is, that it is brilliant of-

fective, soft and pleasant. It is the invention of Mr. Gurney, and is employed in lighting public offices. In the House of Commons this light is made to descend through ground-glass plates, over which the apparatus is to be contrived that the light can with ease be varied from pale moonlight to bright sunlight. The glass is fitted air-tight, so as to prevent any oppressive heat from the Bude Light entering the house.—*Cream of Scientific Knowledge.*

TRANSPLANTING TREES.—Most nut-bearing trees may be as much improved by transplanting and grafting, as fruit trees are. The hickory and the chesnut may thus be made to bear nuts far better flavored and three times as large as they produce in an uncultivated state. In a good soil they will soon come to maturity; and, for shade, fuel, or timber, the chesnut, butternut and hickory are not inferior to the unproductive horse chesnut, bass wood, elm, and maple. Late in autumn, or early in spring, is the time for transplanting—for which and for grafting, the same course is to be pursued as with the apple or pear tree—care being taken to place the roots about the same depth in the earth that they naturally grew.

INNOCENT AMUSEMENT.—A Mr. McFarland, at St. Louis, amuses himself with domesticating rattlesnakes, and carries them as ornaments about his person.—They never offer to bite him, but manifest hostility at the approach of strangers, when he gently rubs them, and probably by a mesmeric influence, the discovery of which would be invaluable to the practising professor of animal magnetism, calmly subdues their wrath, and puts them quietly to sleep.

RAILROAD AND STEAM TRAVELLING.—A party, filling seven second class carriages of the Southampton railway, left London on Monday morning at 7 o'clock, reached Southampton at ½ past 9, embarked onboard a steamer, sailed round the Isle of Wight; returned to Southampton at 5, remained there till 7, and reached London by the train at ½ past 9 in the evening; having made the whole distance upwards of 250 miles, in 14½ hours, and at an expense of only 20s per head. "Prodigious!"

At a meeting held on Monday last at the Guildhall, Norwich, in aid of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, Lord Woodhouse, Lord Lieutenant of the County, in the chair, a large body of Chartists, chiefly distressed operatives attended, drove his Lordship from the chair, voted one of their own party into it, and avowed that no clergy meeting should ever be held there again.

USE OF IRON BY THE ANCIENTS.—From very early times the Egyptians and inhabitants of Syria were in the habit of using iron for cutting instruments and for other purposes, and the iron mines of Spain have been worked at least ever since the times of the latter Jewish kings of the race of David to the present day, first by the Tyrians, next by the Carthaginians then by the Romans, and lastly by the natives of the country. Trade in iron, or rather steel of the best quality manufactured in the remote east, and conveyed by land carriage to Syria, existed at the same early period, & continued at least as late as the first century of the Christian era. The Greeks in the most early times, though acquainted with the use of iron and perhaps of steel, did not employ it but bronze for offensive warlike weapons—After what are called the heroic ages of Greece, the use of bronze, as above mentioned, was superseded by iron and steel obtained from the Chalybes on the Black sea. There is no evidence of the Romans, even in the earliest times, having used for offensive arms any

material except iron. The iron mines of Elba were worked at least as early as the time of Alexander of Macedon, and afterwards the Romans obtained iron from Spain and not from Syria.

But a discovery has been made in our own days and in those of our fathers, which shows that in some parts of Italy, at least, the use of bronze for cutting instruments, for articles of furniture, and for domestic use in general, was continued to a late period. I allude to the excavations made at Pompeii and Herculaneum, towns in the vicinity of Vesuvius, and which were overwhelmed during the great eruption of that volcano in the year 59. From these mines of undoubted antiquity, many antiquities have been obtained, all sorts of articles in stone and metal which were used in that day by the inhabitants of those towns.—Some are of iron, but by far the greater number are of bronze. It is true that iron instruments may have been destroyed by rust during their long sepulture of near 17 centuries, but, if such ever existed, the wonder and difficulty still remain how bronze and iron should ever be considered as equally applicable to the same uses. In all the Latin writers *ferrum*, iron, is the most common name for a sword, but the swords that have been found in these towns are of bronze, as also are the points of spears. Pollaxes and other sacrificing instruments have been found of the same material: even surgeon's instruments, 40 in number, some with cutting edges, and all of bronze, were discovered. The southern part of Italy was called *magna Grecia* (great Greece) in consequence of the numerous Greek colonies by which it had in early times been occupied; the use of the Greek language was common among their descendants, and no doubt many Greek customs and practices were retained by them; and it is possible that this very general use of bronze may have been derived from their remote Greek progenitors. There is no reason to suppose that the towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum were peculiar in this respect; and it might be maintained with at least great plausibility, that south of Italy, even so late as the end of the first century presented in this very general use of bronze, a faithful representation of the Homeric age.—*Illustrations of Arts &c., by Arthur Aikin.*

In the lecture on pottery, Mr. Aikin remarks, "that the first building after the flood, of which any mention is made, was the tower of Babel." The ruins of that tower are still supposed to exist, forming the Birs Nemrod. Some bricks with arrow-headed, or, as they are sometimes called Persepoletan, characters cut on them have been brought from thence, and an engraving of one of them is now in the East India Company's library.

In reference to the inscription on this brick, and to a very large and perfect one in stone, also in the East India Company's collection, Dr. (afterwards Sir Charles) Wilkin, the Company's librarian has been heard to say that these characters should be read from left to right, and not, as some have supposed, from right to left. If this view is correct, it would indicate that the language expressed by them belonged to the Sanscrit, and not to the Arabic class—and would be one step towards deciphering the only written character that has hitherto baffled all the skill and learning of its investigators.—The success that has rewarded the study of Egyptian hieroglyphics should encourage the hope that some person may become acquainted with the ancient language of Persia—which was probably allied to Pahlavi—discover the key to these enigmatical characters, and reveal to us the information relating to the early ages after the flood, that is probably contained in the numerous arrow-headed inscriptions at Persepolis and other places.—*London Atlas.*