

He cut them twice, and they grew to the height of four feet. Here is a receipt for cooking lentils:—The best and plainest mode of preparing them is to steep them in cold water an hour or two; then to withdraw them, and place them in a gallet with enough of water to cover the surface a little butter or a bone, some salt, and a little parsley. Place the whole on a slow fire. They must boil slowly, and you must take care to add water enough to keep the surface covered, but merely covered. You may boil them with ham, bacon, sausage, or merely with water, and salt, to prepare them afterwards with onion a la maître d'hôtel. In schools, barracks, or large boarding establishments, they are often merely boiled in water and salt, then allowed to cool, and the water run off, and in which state you dress them with oil and vinegar, &c., like a French salad. When the lentil is bruised or ground into meal it makes an excellent "puree" with wild-fowls or roasted game. It is prepared also like peas, for soups, dumplings, puddings, &c.—*Journal of Agriculture, and the Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, January, 1852* (Messrs. Blackwood.)

MURDER OF MR. BURNS, GRANDSON OF ROBERT BURNS.—Our English papers copy the following account of the murder, by pirates, of Mr. Burns, grandson of the immortal Robert Burns, from a Singapore paper, of the 5th December, 1851:—"The *Dolphin* had been trading in Maluda Bay, and was under way for the purpose of leaving it, when she was hailed by natives in two phraus, who said they wished to trade. The schooner was anchored and some of the men came on board, with some pearls and other goods, which they offered for sale; and while Mr. Burns, the super-cargo of the *Dolphin*, was sitting on the deck examining them, the pirates attacked him and killed him, inflicting a number of wounds on different parts of his body. Another of the pirates attacked Captain Robertson, the master of the vessel, and inflicted a blow which cut his face open. Captain Robertson, who was unarmed, took refuge on the bowsprit, and begged hard for his life, but some of the pirates followed him and he fell into the water, probably exhausted from the want of blood. Two of the lascars and a native woman who were on board were also at once despatched by these remorseless wretches, who cut the women nearly in two. The rest of the crew jumped overboard, but the pirates ultimately consented to spare their lives, as they were required to navigate the vessel. The guns belonging to the vessel were down in the hold, and the rest of the arms were stowed away, which probably encouraged the pirates to make the attack that ended so fatally. As soon as the pirates gained possession of the vessel, they mounted the guns and got the arms, and then set sail to the eastward. They anchored at length in Labok Bay, on the coast of Borneo. The *Dolphin*, however, was subsequently taken possession of by Her Majesty's steamer *Pluto*, but the pirates are all at large notwithstanding that every possible exertion was made by the *Pluto*, the decks of the *Dolphin* were found still deeply stained by the blood of Mr. Burns and his fellow victims.

REMARKABLE DISCOVERY AT THE OLD HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.—No small degree of excitement was created on Saturday afternoon, by the discovery of a body imbedded in the walls of St. Stephen's Chapel. While the workmen were chipping an old stone wall of the chapel they came upon something rolled up in canvas, and partially uncovering it a human form was disclosed, in a perfect state of preservation. A wooden pastoral staff was found by its side, such as was carried by the mitred abbots of the olden time. It may be remembered that the walls in which this interesting relic was discovered, form part of the chapel built by Richard II. in 1398, the money for the purpose having been raised by a tax imposed on all foreigners then residing in the kingdom. The body must, therefore, have been imbedded nearly 500 years. It was found in the wall of the crypt, under the high altar where, in the olden monasteries, there was generally to be found a small chapel underneath the great public church. To be buried in this position was a mark of distinction reserved for the founder of the building or for some great benefactors of the establishment. The body just discovered is obviously the remains of a high ecclesiastic, and from the fact of its being buried cross-legs it is surmised that the deceased dignitary was one who had visited the Holy Sepulchre, as these were distinguished in their interment by this peculiar mark, which is also observed on their effigies on the outside of ancient monuments. The body is closely encased in serge cloth, which will be difficult of removal.—*Observer*

Inventors will be glad to learn that the Signet-office has been abolished, and that one warrant from the Queen, counter-signed by a Secretary of State and the Lord Privy Seal, and sealed with the privy seal, is sufficient to pass a patent. Fees to the amount of £20 have thus been removed.

The commissioners for the reduction of the national debt have given notice that they will apply £748,640 9s. 8d. towards that purpose prior to the 5th of April next, the above sum being one-fourth of the surplus revenue of the kingdom for the year ended 10th October, 1851.

The gross traffic receipts of railways in the united kingdom for the year 1851, have been very little short of £15,000,000 on 6,928 miles of railway, being at the rate of £2,163 per mile per annum.

An influential meeting to promote a uniform ocean penny postage was recently held at Manchester, at which Mr. Elihu Burritt was present.

POLITICAL.

MINISTERIAL TACTICS AND PROBABILITIES.—The *Morning Chronicle* expresses its apprehensions of the course likely to be pursued by Lord John in the following enigmatical terms:—"We will not do Lord John Russell the injustice of supposing that he now only clings to Downing Street for the purpose of infecting its walls with such a plague that another tenant would be impossible. We will not believe that he proposes to undermine the citadel only for the purpose of exploding it and the next garrison together. A British statesman, of whatever party, and with whatever personal affection for power, dares not so to wield the Government as to make Government itself impossible—and impossible, for any set of statesmen, the future administration of this country would be, under certain emergencies. Such an emergency would be the ventilating a scheme of impossible and uncalled-for changes in the Constitution. It is no evidence of life to develop a Cabinet of suzerainty into a revolutionary cabal. Neckar was the first to fall under the storm which he incautiously let loose." On this passage the *Morning Herald* observes:—"This is the language of earnest deprecation. Why is it employed? To us it seems but too clear, that while the writer says, 'we will not do Lord John the injustice to suppose'—he does, in fact, fear the very thing he thus deprecates. If not, how came the allusion to escape his pen? If no

such thing had been suggested—if no such proposition had ever been made, how came this journalist to think of it? To us it seems to plain, that in his apprehension, and in the apprehension of those from whom his information must have been derived, a danger of this kind does exist—a purpose of some such sort must be entertained by the present Premier." On the result of the now inevitable retirement of the Russell Ministry the same journal says:—"It requires no great political sagacity to foresee that it is to the great political combination, whose proudest title is 'the Country party,' that the Sovereign must look for her Ministers in the crisis which the retirement of the present Cabinet will unquestionably produce. In the way of a Cabinet composed of the leading members of that party there is no real difficulty. But were the difficulties ten times as great as even their adversaries represent—the duty of rallying round the Throne is one from which they cannot, and dare not, shrink. When her Majesty shall lay upon any member of that party her commands to form a Cabinet, it is utterly impossible that those commands should not be obeyed. Matters have now come to the position in which to refuse such a commission in the face of any difficulties, would be little short of disloyalty.

The London Morning Herald says it is reported that Lord Palmerston will be invited to stand at the next election for Liverpool, and that although he is opposed to a duty on corn for the purpose of protection he is in favour of a revenue duty of 5s. per quarter, and 2s. 6d. per cwt. on flour, in lieu of the income tax.

An official letter from Downing Street announces the determination of Government not to introduce into Parliament any measure with respect to education.

MILITARY.

MILITARY CAMPS ROUND LONDON.—Field-Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Commander-in-Chief of her Majesty's Land Forces, has been for some time past in almost daily communication with Lieut.-General Sir John F. Burgoyne, K.C.B., Inspector-General of Fortifications, and their deliberations have been directed to the best means of protecting the metropolis in case of invasion by a foreign enemy; and it is understood the result has been that several military camps will be formed round London, and eligible situations will be selected, particularly on the Kent and Essex banks of the Thames, and on the banks of the Medway, with the ultimate view of rendering them permanently fortified camps. Orders have already been given to place Sheerness in a proper state of defence, and to have ample supplies of ammunition and warlike stores kept in a constant state of readiness at the fortifications already constructed at that naval port. Seniority lists of the non-commissioned officers of the Royal Artillery have been called for to be sent into the Adjutant-General's office within the last few days, preparatory, it is said, to an augmentation of that branch of the service. It was at first contemplated to add three battalions to the twelve battalions already formed, but it is now understood that the augmentation will be made by adding two companies to each of the twelve battalions. This arrangement will add 14 companies, or about 2,400 men, equal in number of non-commissioned officers and men to three additional battalions of the strength of the present battalions but saving the expense of the staff which would have been required for new battalions. It is also stated that the Line regiments will have an addition of 10,000 made to them over the numbers in the estimates of last year. The Royal Marines are also to be increased, both in the Royal Marines artillery and divisional companies departments; and recruits enlisted for every branch of the land forces are ordered to be sent to the head quarters or depôts of their regiments with the least possible delay, that they may be at once instructed in a knowledge of their profession.—*Morning Paper*.

Col. Colt, the celebrated American gun-maker, who is now in England, has expressed a desire to take the Kafir war on contract from the British Government, at least so says the *Army Despatch*.

NAVAL.

WAR STEAMERS.—We learn from an English paper that the vessels building for screw war-steamer are the "Agamemnon," 90, of 600-horse power, at Woolwich; the "Euryalus," 56, of 360 horse power, at Chatham; the "Imperieuse," 50, of 350-horse power, at Deptford; the "James Watt," 90, of 550-horse power, at Pembroke; the "Royal Albert," 120, of 600-horse power, at Woolwich; the St. Jean d'Acre," 100, of 650-horse power, at Davenport; and the "Tribune," 30, at Sheerness. There is not a single paddle-wheel steam-ship building at present at any of her Majesty's dock-yards, but there are several screw steam-sloops not enumerated in the above list, as they are to be fitted with engines of 90-horse power.

It has been notified to the engineers at Portsmouth that volunteers are required for the steam-vessels fitting for the Arctic expedition, about to proceed to Wellington Channel, to make farther search for Sir John Franklin and the missing navigators and several of the engineers have volunteered for that service.

The preparations for the defence of England are continued with great activity, but without ostentation. Several ships have been called from the Tagus and Mediterranean squadrons.

SCOTLAND.

DOMESTIC.

GOLD IN ORKNEY.—The *Northern Ensign* of last Friday says:—"Of late we have from time to time been hearing of the discovery of an auriferous deposit in the island of Westray in Orkney, and we have now the pleasure of handling a small specimen of the precious metal. Reminding our Orkadian friends that 'all is not gold that glitters,' we congratulate them on having a California at home; meantime they should send specimens of Orkney gold to some southern goldsmith, in order to have its qualities tested. It will indeed be a wonderful circumstance if the dross thus found be bona fide gold.

In the year 1826, only 150 head of cattle were shipped from Aberdeen to London, but in 1850, 20,500 head were shipped, and in the year 1851, the shipments have increased to 23,000 head.

IRELAND.

DOMESTIC.

RI BANDISM.—A Riband lodge is an affiliated branch of a secret society, composed exclusively of Roman Catholics, having for its object the twofold purpose of extirpating heresy and regulating the occupation and possession of land. It is both a religious and an agrarian society. Each separate lodge is composed of 40 members; it has a master, secretary, delegate, three

committee-men, and 34 members. These are admitted with a solemn oath to yield unlimited obedience to the authority of the institution and to maintain the utmost secrecy; they pledge themselves to wade knee deep in Protestant blood, and to spare none of the heretic race from the cradle to the crutch. The members are known to each other by secret signs and passwords, changed every three months by a central authority, unknown even to the conspirators themselves. They meet by concert at fairs and on market days at some public-house, known to be friendly, and drop in one by one till the room is full, and then proceed to business. They avoid night meetings as much as possible, lest they attract attention; and when they do meet at night, it is generally at dances got up for the purpose, when the junior members are dressed in women's clothes; all that appears to the observer is rustic hilarity and merriment, but the work of death is going on within. When an offence is committed against the barbarous code of law this society has established, either by an agent ejecting non-paying tenants from land for which they are unwilling or unable to pay any rent, or by a farmer in becoming tenant to a Roman Catholic landlord preferring a Protestant to a Roman Catholic tenant, or by information given for the purpose of bringing to justice members of the association, then, on the next meeting of the lodge, a complaint is brought forward against the offending individual; a jury is forthwith empanelled and sworn, consisting generally of seven members; the master of the lodge acts as judge; the complainant is sworn and examined by counsel; members volunteer evidence one side or other, and the judge charges the jury; the verdict is brought in by the majority, and the sentence of death pronounced in the most hideous mockery of justice by the presiding conspirator. The appointment of the executioners next follows; lots are drawn, and they on whom the fatal billet falls must, on pain of death, carry out the merciless sentence. Frequently, however, the trial and sentence are reported to a distant lodge, which furnishes the executioners, on the understanding of the service being returned in kind, when demanded. There is no hurry about the matter—all is conducted in the most sedate and business-like manner. The victim is watched—his habits examined and reported—accurate information of all his movements obtained—a time is appointed for his execution; if unfavourable, it is deferred with perfect coolness; if favourable, he is executed without remorse and without mercy.—*Dublin Mail*.

The system of assassination in Ireland has again assumed a most frightful form, and several landholders and agents have been killed or severely wounded. The efforts made to discover the perpetrators too often prove fruitless, from the disposition of the peasantry to favour these outrages.

NAVAL.

The Galway Mercury says:—"We are enabled to state, upon the best authority, that orders have been issued to the several Coast Guard stations round the coast of Ireland, to have all the men of that force, whose term of service does not exceed five years, in readiness to go on board ships of the line on the shortest notice."

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE IRISH ELK.—A correspondent of the *Kilkenny Moderator* states that another skeleton of the Cervus Megaceros Hibernicus was met with in the bog of Poulacapple, near Killamery, before Christmas. It was discovered by a labourer in the drainage works. As in all similar discoveries in this bog, the skeleton was found lying on its back. Previous to the removal of the head from its deep bed of yellow earth, Mr. Gavin measured the distance of the extreme points of the antlers, and found it to be twelve feet. The head is of gigantic proportions, and the teeth are in good preservation, but the antlers were so much decayed that they could not be got out adhering to the skull.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

RUSSIA.

RUSSIAN PRECAUTIONS.—The *Berlin National Zeitung* has letters from the frontiers of Poland of the 4th instant, stating that since the events in France a strong military force has been brought together on the borders between Russian and Russian Poland. Eight Russian regiments, both cavalry and artillery, are stationed on the frontiers of the province of Posen, and authorities are ordered to use the strictest supervision over all travellers entering Russia. Large magazines of provisions and forage are collected from the surrounding country, and, notwithstanding the good harvest, the export of rye and oats is prohibited. These extraordinary precautions have created among the population, a vast number of whom cannot read, an impression that somewhere in the world a dangerous revolution has broken out, or that a war is impending.

MOVEMENTS OF RUSSIA.—The Stockholm paper, *Aftonbladet*, for January 2, contains the following important, although sorrowful, political intelligence:—"It has been remarked that the letters which have lately arrived here from Finland have been more than usual cautious—almost mysterious. This has given rise to fears that the Russian self-ruler had some new violence in store against the weak remains of their former Swedish liberties, which our unhappy brethren on the north-eastern shores of the Baltic still possess. Of late these fears have assumed the shape of the most distressing rumors. A private letter, which has fortunately evaded the control of the post office states, that the provincial governors have been declared by an Imperial ukase to be independent of the Finnish Senate, and for the future, answerable to the general governor alone, who resides in Petersburg. Another report says, that the Senate has been altogether dissolved. It is not yet known how far these statements are to be believed, and we anxiously await further intelligence." The *Journal of St. Petersburg*, of the 9th has accounts from Caucasus, which state that, though since the closing of the summer campaign, there has been no general rising, engagements had taken place between the Russian troops and the mountaineers at Natou Khais, on the Sounja, and at other places, all of which had terminated favourably to the Russians, and had been followed by the submission of some of the chiefs and their bands.

FRANCE.

AN EPISODE OF THE REVOLUTION.—An incident comical enough in itself, but which might have proved tragical, had it not been for the opportune interference of the English Consul, occurred on the 3d December at Paris. A *troupe* of Highlanders, who had proceeded to the French capital to astonish the *habitués* of Mabile and the Chateau Rouge with the real Highland fling and the Scottish reel, were arrested by the military, and being found armed with dirk and claymore, and, moreover, being in the awful dress of *ansculotteism*, were on the point of being shot by the

over-zealous corporal entrusted with the surveillance of the district in which the gallant Scots had taken up their quarters. It required some persuasion in bad French which a broad Scotch accent to persuade chasseurs de Vincennes that they were not friends of the National Assembly or portion of a Scotch brigade enlisted against imperial aspiration. A compromise was at length come to, and the kilted strangers were marched off to the guard house, where they were locked up for the night. To their horror the dead and the wounded were brought in to keep them company; but on the following morning they were allowed to depart with no further damage than an anxious night, but not at all well pleased with their first *début* in the French capital.

THE NESTOR OF THE FRENCH PRESS.—A person has lately died in Paris whose history is, indeed, a curious one. This person is M. Breton, who was one of the principal reporters of the *Moniteur* and *Journal des Débats* for more than thirty-five years. His occupation as a reporter began, however, long before 1816. M. Breton reported the legislative debates of all the Assemblies of the first revolution, and was attached to the corps of sténographes so early as the 26th of August, 1790. During the Convention he had for colleagues with him in the reporters' gallery two young women, who, it is believed, afterwards perished by the guillotine. He was present when General Bonaparte dissolved the legislative bodies during his *coup d'état* of the 8th Brumaire, and in the confusion of the moment the General trod on his foot as he was leaving the hall of debate. He continued at his task during the whole period of the Restoration, saw Manuel expelled from the Chamber of Deputies, and witnessed all that immediately preceded, accompanied, and followed the fall of the elder Bourbons. He was still, as ever, at his post when the Chamber was invaded by the mob on the 24th February, 1848, and was present at the last debate of the Assembly dissolved by the decrees of the 2d December. In 1825 he founded with MM. Darmaing, Lédra, and Isambert, the *Gazette des Tribunaux*, of which he was principal proprietor. M. Breton was a distinguished philologist; knew nearly all the languages of Europe. He was attached as sworn translator to the Tribunal of the Seine, and was frequently entrusted as such with important and confidential missions. Few men of the present age have witnessed so many interesting events as M. Breton. His being an eye and ear witness of all the terrible proceedings of the Assemblies of the first revolution would alone give value to the memoirs which it is stated he has left, and which, it is added, will soon appear in *feuilletons* of one of the Paris morning papers.

It is said that the inscription, "Liberty, fraternity, equality," which is now being removed from the public buildings of France, should be replaced by a new motto, "Infantry, cavalry, artillery."

M. THIERS AND THE PRESIDENT.—There is an amusing anecdote related of M. Thiers and the President. It is said that M. Thiers had written to the Minister of the Interior for leave to return to France, offering to abstain entirely from politics. The Minister went to Louis Napoleon with the letter, and desired to know what answer he was to send. Louis Napoleon said, "give me the fourth volume of the 'History of the Revolution,' by Thiers." The book was given, and Louis Napoleon pointed to a passage which he had marked, in which Thiers reproaches the Emperor for not having expelled from France, as a measure of security, several of his political adversaries. "Copy the passage," said Louis Napoleon, "and send it to M. Thiers as the answer to his application."

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor of Austria has published a decree abolishing trial by jury throughout his dominions. The Emperor has ordered the expulsion from Pesth of the English Protestant missionaries. It is said that Prince Schwartzberg has been struck with apoplexy.

MISCELLANEOUS.

KOSSUTH.—The following sketch of the character of the Hungarian ex Dictator is by Count Bathiany, who knew him well:—"Deficient in the knowledge of men and things, in the steadfast bearing, cool judgment, and comprehensive mind of a statesman, and without the firm hand of a ruler; setting at nought all sound calculation, while he played a game of chance, and staked the fate of the nation on the cast of a die; encountering danger with hairbrained temerity when distant, but shrinking from it when near; elated and overbearing in prosperity, but utterly prostrate in adversity; wanting that strength and intrepidity of character that alone commands homage and obedience from others, while he suffered himself to be made the tool of every intriguer he came in connection with; mistaking the manifold accomplishments and natural genius for an aptitude to govern a country in times of trouble, and setting, in the fights of fancy, no bounds to the scope of his ambition. Kossuth hurried away the nation into a course of the most impolitic measures, and grasped the highest power in the realm by dubious means; but when scarcely in possession of it, suffered it to be wrested from his hands by the man whom he had himself most injudiciously raised to a high station and against whom, although he had received repeated warning, as well as proofs of his treachery and worthlessness, he never dared openly and boldly to proceed—by the man whom he had hoped to ensnare, while he crouched beneath him in abject fear, but by whom he was finally outwitted."

Colonial.

ROYAL CANADIAN RIFLE REGIMENT.—Lieut. Fitzgerald has been gazetted to a Captaincy, without purchase, in the room of the late Captain Deare. Lieut. Moffatt has been appointed Adjutant in the room of the late Lieut. McDonnell.

ODDITIES OF THE CENSUS.—The Census returns for Cobourg, given by the *Star*, assure us that there are but two Christians in the Capital of the Newcastle District! One individual rejoices in being a Pantheist! It is some consolation to us to be assured that Christianity in Cobourg numbers its disciples relatively to those of Pantheism as two to one. This is a progressive age, unquestionably!—*Kingston News*.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—The last weekly lecture before this institution was delivered by Dr. Badgley. He commenced by explaining that he would have to make his subject different to that which was announced, except in a few closing observations. He proceeded to make some general remarks on the Senses, and showed the wide, instructive, and interesting field that these offered for consideration in physiological point of view. He then went on to treat