

beloved, avenge not yourselves; vengeance is mine, saith the Lord."—*Sheffield Iris*.

DUEL PREVENTED BY A LADY.

THE following remarkable anecdote appears in the memoirs of Martha Routh, an esteemed minister of the Society of Friends, who resided many years at Manchester:—"The back part of our house [at Nottingham] looked into the yard of the inn. The landlord and his wife were very kind neighbours to us; the latter would often come and ask advice of my mother. An officer of distinction happened to be taking up his quarters there. One evening having got too much liquor, he began to quarrel with some of the company, and after some time concluded to go into the yard to decide the affray. The landlord was not at home, and the landlady, seeing the officer draw his sword, fainted. One of the servants, exceedingly alarmed, came to acquaint us with the circumstances, fearing murder might ensue. My father was from home, but my mother quickly slipped out, passed through those who surrounded the officer; and as he was holding up his glittering sword, took it out of his hand, and brought it into our house. The act so surprised him and the rest of the company, that they soon separated, and the family thereby were quieted. In about two hours after, understanding who had got his weapon, the officer sent a submissive request to have it returned; but my mother told the servant it was safely locked up in our parlour, that she wished it to remain there till morning, and would be glad if the officer himself would then call for it and put it into the sheath. This he did, and very civilly and acknowledged her kind interference. Herein was the Scripture declaration fulfilled. "The righteous are bold as a lion."—*Patriot*.

INCREASE OF LIVERPOOL.

SOME forty years ago, when the war with France raged, a fort was erected, on the north shore, for the defence of the port. At the time it was erected, it was two and a half miles from the then extreme northern—viz. the St. George's Dock. About twenty years ago this fort was pulled down and a regular battery erected on its site by the Ordnance Department. Even then the battery was far removed from the busy docks: and though every body saw that, in process of time, it would be approached by the docks, few dreamt that the approach would be made so quickly as it has been. Now, instead of standing alone, the battery is almost surrounded by docks, works, shipwrights' yards, &c.: and it must, in a short time, be entirely removed. The increase of steamers will require increase of dock room, to provide which a new and spacious dock must be constructed on the site of the present battery, and the peaceful pursuits of industry carried on where now "the sentry walks his weary round."—*Liverpool Standard*.

BIRDS.

BIRDS are the most interesting diversion of nature's living productions; the elegance of their forms, the delicacy of their covering, the beauty of their colours, the elements in which they live, the variety of their motions, the labours which they perform, the songs which they pour forth, and the indications which they give of the vicissitudes of the seasons and the changes of the weather, are subjects of observation, continually varying, but always delightful—so much so, as to have commanded the attention of mankind, in all ages and under every degree of civilization. Nor are the uses of birds—not merely in wild nature, but in conjunction with man as he cultivates the garden and the field,—less worthy of being observed and admired. We, in our ignorance, often regard them as pests, and as such, destroy them in the most assiduous manner, deeming every feathered creature which we deprive of life as so much certain-

ly added to the produce of our horticulture and our farming; but we little know, while we are acting thus that we are sacrificing the guardians of our vegetable wealth, and giving protection and scope to its destroyers. The whole of nature is so replenished with the germs of life, in a condition ready to be developed the instant that the state of heat and moisture accords with their development, that a means for preventing their extraordinary increase, more efficient both in itself and in its application than any thing of human contrivance, is absolutely requisite, in order to preserve that relative balance which is essential to the preservation of the system, and no part of the system is without.—*Mudie's Feathered Tribes in the British Islands*.

INEFFICACY OF INTELLECTUAL CULTIVATION.

It has been supposed that it is the want of education (by which is now usually understood mere intellectual education) that persons become criminal, and continue in a guilty course. But your chaplain finds daily that those whose intellects have been most cultivated are generally the most depraved. Three of the best so educated now in prison, and the most reputationally connected, have been committed, one eight times, another seven or eight times, and a third twice. Sullivan and Jordan, of custom-house notoriety, Greenacre, and the Cato-street conspirators, (and out of 130,000 prisoners who have passed under his care, the chaplain could mention many similar cases,) had all received this sort of intellectual training, and possessed considerable powers of mind. This shows that it is not the want of intellectual education, but of moral principle, that fills our prisons, and prevents reform among their inmates.—*Reports of Duties, &c., by the Chaplain of the New Prison, Clerkenwell*.

A RUSSIAN PARSON'S WANTS.

A MAN goes to his minister to inform him of the death of his wife. "What will you give me for burying her," asks the priest. "I am poor," replies the applicant. "Well, give me your cow." "No, a cow is too valuable; I have a goose, you shall have that." "That is too little, I will not bury your wife for a goose; pay me thirty roubles." "I will give twenty." "No, I will take twenty and a shirt." And so the bargain is concluded, but cordiality is at an end.—*Elliot's Three Great Empires*.

MR. WATERTON has published a letter respecting the "odd fish" which puzzled the naturalists of the British Association. He states that the fish is quite common on the coast of Guiana, where he has seen and tasted it many times. It is very palatable, and is known to every one in that country, by the name of the "Four Eyes." He doubts, however, its power to bury itself in the sand, as described by the Association.

THE GREAT VALLEY.

A WRITER in the Knickerbocker speaks of the Mississippi valley as one that has no parallel on earth. Its length may be estimated at not less than two thousand five hundred miles; and its main breadth at from twelve to fifteen hundred. He adduces many facts to prove that it was covered by an immense ocean, and that the great change was brought about by repeated and long continued volcanic convulsions. He describes this valley as not only the most delightful, the richest, the fairest portion of the earth, but capable of sustaining a population of a hundred millions.

DR. BABINGTON.

DR. BABINGTON was once in attendance upon an Irishman, for whom he prescribed an emetic. His patient immediately exclaimed with great *verve*, "My dear Doctor, it's no use your giving me an emetic; I tried it twice in Dublin, and it would not stay upon my stomach either time."