

COPENHAGEN. THE CHARGER WHO CARRIED WELLINGTON AT WATERLOO.

"He died last year," says Miss Mitford in her 'Country Stories' just published, "at the age of twenty-seven. He was therefore in his prime on the day of Waterloo, when the duke (then and still a man of iron) rode him for seventeen hours and a half, without dismounting. When his Grace got off, he patted him, and the horse kicked, to the great delight of his brave rider, as it proved that he was not beaten by that tremendous day's work. After his return, this paddock was assigned to him, in which he passed the rest of his life in the most perfect comfort that can be imagined; fed twice a-day, (latterly upon oats broken for him,) with a comfortable stable to retire to, and a rich pasture in which to range. The late amiable duchess used regularly to feed him with bread, and this kindness had given him the habit (especially after her death,) of approaching every lady with the most confiding familiarity. He had been a fine animal, of middle size, and of a chestnut colour, but latterly he exhibited an interesting specimen of natural decay, in a state as nearly that of nature as can well be found in a civilized country. He had lost an eye from age, and had become lean and feeble, and, in the manner in which he approached even a casual visiter, there was something of the demand of sympathy, the appeal to human kindness, which one has so often observed from a very old dog towards his master. Poor Copenhagen, who, when alive, furnished so many reliques from his mane and tail to enthusiastic young ladies, who had his hair set in brooches and rings, was, after being interred with military honours, dug up by some miscreant, (never, I believe, discovered,) and one of his hoofs cut off, it is to be presumed, for a memorial, although one that would hardly go in the compass of a ring. A very fine portrait of Copenhagen has been executed by my young friend Edmund Havel, a youth of seventeen, whose genius as an animal painter, will certainly place him second only to Landseer."

PROGRESS OF THE POWER OF RUSSIA.—Russia confined to her snowy deserts, little more than a century ago, was a country nearly unknown, overrun and plundered alike by Poles, Swedes, and Turks, with a people so timid, that it only required a handful of Tartars to show themselves in a Russian town, to put the whole of the inhabitants to flight; yet she is now, in the nineteenth century, become the terror of the surrounding nations. Turkey and Persia quail beneath her iron grasp; Austria, Germany, and the whole of the northern nations, dread her power; even France, the once powerful France, fawns upon her friendship. Victorious in the field and triumphant in the cabinet, Europe now beholds with consternation the supercilious fabric her supineness permitted to be reared, and to which the dismemberment of Poland has given additional elevation.—*Spencer's Travels in Circassia.*

THE BITER BIT.—A member of one of the learned professions was driving his dunnet along the road at Tooting, in Surrey, when he overtook a pedlar with his pack, and inquired what he had to sell. The man produced, among other things, a pair of cotton braces—for which he asked sixpence. The gentleman paid the money, and then said, "You have, I suppose, a license?" "Y-e-s," was the reply, hesitatingly. "I should like to see it." After some further delay it was produced. "My good fellow, all's right, I see. Now, as I do not want these things, you shall have them again for threepence." The bargain was struck; but how surprised was the gentleman to find a summons to attend the county magistracy, sitting at Croydon. The gentleman was convicted in the full penalty for selling goods on the king's highway without a hawker's licence.

LAPLAND.—In Lapland, during the summer, a bed of moss is as much prized as a feather-bed by the Highlanders of Scotland. The Laplanders also employ it as a substitute for bed-clothes in the cradles of their infants. In some places in England, where the *Polytrichum commune* grows luxuriantly, it is made into brooms. Mosses have also, to a trifling extent, been used in dyeing, and in former days great medical virtues were attributed to them.

MARRIAGE BROKERS.—In Genoa there are marriage brokers who have pocket-books filled with names of the marriageable girls of the different classes, with notes of their figures, personal attractions, fortunes, &c. These brokers go about endeavouring to arrange connections; and when they succeed, they get a commission of two or three per cent. upon the portion. Marriage at Genoa is a mere matter of calculation, generally settled by the parents or relations, who often draw up the contract before the parties have seen one another; and it is only when every thing else is arranged, and a few days previous to the marriage ceremony, that the future husband is introduced to his intended partner for life. Should he find fault with her manners or appearance, he may break off the match, on condition of his defraying the brokerage, and any other expenses incurred.

HINDOO ABSURDITY.—The Hindoos carry on a complete system of bargaining with their gods, or rather a compound system of flattery, cajoling, bargaining and threatening. The most ordinary method is the contracting: "If you will grant me so and so, I will give you so and so, such and such sweetmeats, fruits, flowers, &c.; or, I will worship you alone for so many days." If this is not successful, they say: "If you will not give me so and so, I will keep you without a drop of water; or, I will put a rope round your neck, and drag you round the house; or, the most disgraceful of all, I will beat you with a slipper." In times of drought, or of any great extremity, they will absolutely brick up the entrance to an image, and threaten to keep their god close prisoner, until he shall help them. This took place at Nassuck a few years ago, when the poor god was bricked up, and kept without water, offerings or adoration, until the rain began to fall, when they liberated their prisoner, and begged his pardon.

INHABITANTS OF THE FEROE ISLANDS.—They have one method of dividing time peculiar to themselves: they reckon the day and night by eight *okters* of three hours each; the *okters* again are reduced into halves, and are named according to the point of the compass where the sun is at the time; for example, east-north-east is half past four in the morning; east is six; east-south-east, half-past seven.—*Land's Description.*

FIRE FLIES.—In Jamaica, at some seasons of the year, the fire-flies are seen in the evening in great abundance. When they settle on the ground, the bull-frog greedily devours them, which seems to have given origin to a curious, though very cruel, method of destroying these animals:—if red-hot pieces of charcoal be thrown towards them in the dusk of the evening, they leap at them, and hastily swallow them, mistaking them for fire-flies, and are burnt to death.—*Darwin.*

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Nov. 11.

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December 1.

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