

more prevalent in cold than in warm climates; but of late it has been ascertained that, of the troops serving in the West Indies, 12 in the thousand are attacked annually by this complaint, while of the dragoon guards and dragoons serving in England, only 5½ in the thousand become its victims.

The science which makes out these curious results is the science of statistics, one not known by name till the middle of the last century, and which is still in its infancy with us, although in high and well-regulated cultivation on the continent. It is the glorious tendency of this science every where to diminish the regions of the disputable.

Silently, day after day, a set of pains-taking men are garnering up arithmetical truths on most of the great subjects of human concernment, and thus preparing the way for a mighty change. In medicine, in political economy, in the science of our mental nature, in every department of study heretofore only the theme of conjecture, facts are in the course of being stored, which, on the arithmetical principle above described, must in time solve questions now considered the most perplexing. Even the spirit of war and of party must give way before this mighty influence; and where now men meet to shed each other's blood, or to do all they can to thwart each other's measures, Mr. Cocker will by and bye come peacefully in, and in a few minutes, by reference to universally acknowledged authorities settle every dispute.—*Chambers.*

THE NEW YEAR OF 1812.

Immemorial usage has dedicated the first and last days of the year in Scotland to mirth and festivity, but those who have only witnessed such celebrations at the present day can have little idea of the character which they assumed in the Scottish capital some twenty or thirty years ago. A sort of licence seemed to be given, for the time, to every species of disorder and misrule. The authorities forbore in a great measure to exercise their usual control over the city, and its streets were taken possession of by the populace, who frolicked about them like some wild animal let loose from its bonds, and committed unrestrained outrage on every peaceful inhabitant whom necessity or any other cause called abroad during this "reign of terror." Such occasions never passed away without serious crimes and accidents; yet, year after year, the same scenes were permitted to recur, the whole affair being regarded, seemingly, as a mere exhibition of boisterous mirth, excusable on account of the season which had called it forth. The events, however, of the New Year's morn of 1812, were instrumental in producing a change in these views, and in leading to the adoption of measures, which, with the help of other causes, abolished by degrees this evil custom, leaving it but to be the subject of a fireside tale.

About eleven o'clock of the last night of the year 1811, the annual disturbances commenced, and soon reached a height unprecedented even on these riotous occasions. Bands of young men, chiefly apprentice boys, armed with bludgeons and other weapons of offence, infested the principal streets of the city, which, as usual, were crowded with boys and other persons, whose only object was to partake of the ordinary diversions of the night, and enjoy the "fun" and noise which always prevailed. The bands alluded to had more mischievous purposes in view, and were certainly, to some extent, organized for the occasion. They, as it afterwards appeared, had arranged a methodic plan of assaulting and partially robbing or stripping the passengers on the streets, both male and female, and of carrying off the plunder as it was gathered to an appointed depot. One part of the plan consisted of posting brigades of lads across several main thoroughfares, so as to intercept all who passed these spots, and enclose all who were within them. Thus prepared and secretly marshalled, this daring association of juvenile rioters, as the signal of twelve o'clock was struck on the city clocks, burst forth into activity on all sides. The hilarious citizens, unsuspecting of evil, were in a moment attacked by unknown hands, while the police, equally unaware of the plot, were driven from their posts, and in some instances severely injured. One unfortunate officer of the corps, named Dugald Campbell, was the first victim of the night. On being attacked, he fled from his assailants, but was pursued and struck down on the High Street. The unfortunate man cried for help; no help, however, could be extended to him. He was struck and kicked when on the ground, till past all human aid. He was afterwards removed to the Royal Infirmary, where he died in a day or two.

It is said that a single tasting of blood will make the tame tiger wild, and so it appears to have been with men on this occasion. The rioters now assaulted every respectable person to be seen on the streets, struck them with bludgeons, and robbed them. The uproar grew terrible beyond conception. With that strange passion of flocking to all scenes of disturbance, so often exhibited by people in spite of risk and danger, crowds of spectators remained on the streets, and thus afforded a screen, under cover of which the rioters went on with their work. The police and magistrates made active exertions to check the mischief, but could not, although they succeeded here and there in capturing single offenders. Numerous were the cases of severe injury inflicted on persons who had the misfortune to be abroad that night. Cries for

"help" and "mercy" mingled in all directions with the roaring of the mob. One ill-fated person, Mr. James Campbell, a clerk in Leith, was so seriously wounded as to die a few days afterwards. But these were not the only instances where injuries, ultimately fatal, were received. Many of the respectable inhabitants of the city were engaged, according to custom, in celebrating the occasion, along with parties of friends, in their own houses. The sounds of riot reached the ears of these convivial assemblages, and they sat trembling at the board, with locked and bolted doors. A friend of ours remembers being in such circumstances on the night in question, in his house in the High Street, when suddenly a noise was heard at the door of the dwelling, and a man's voice cried for "admittance and shelter in the name of God!" The door was opened without a moment's delay, and a gentleman burst hurriedly into the house. The door was shut again instantly, for the roar of the mob was heard below. The intruder presented a pitiable spectacle. He was stained with blood from some severe wounds, his dress torn off him; and every part of his appearance, indeed, betokened the violence which he had sustained at the hands of the mob. The irruption of such a figure into the midst of a convivial party was strangely impressive and alarming, but every attention was paid to the unfortunate sufferer, who was faint and exhausted. He was kept till a period of safety, and sent to his home. Though his name was not publicly enrolled in the number of the victims of this New Year's celebration, it might justly have been so, as the wounds which he had received brought him to a premature grave.

Many other individuals were seriously hurt, as has been said, and many robberies committed, in the course of the rioting, which extended far into the morning of the 1st of January. It was remarked by many persons that among those of the mob who seemed to act with something like concert, one youth was regarded as a leading party, being frequently addressed by the title of *Boatswain*. A peculiar whistle which he emitted, and which drew his associates around him, appeared to be the source of this name. Doubtless, however, many of the assaults and crimes which signalled this night, were committed by persons who knew nothing of the Boatswain or his whistle. Be this as it may, when the rioters had wearied themselves, or thought it prudent to come to a close, and when the crowd had in a great measure dispersed, the police found in their hands a number of offenders, but few or none of the ringleaders. When daylight came, and men could walk the lately disturbed streets in quietness, the amount of mischief done to persons and property was found to be even greater than had been anticipated in the fears of the night. Creech, the well-known bookseller, then Lord Provost of the city, immediately issued notices, offering a reward of one hundred guineas to any persons who might bring the leaders in the riot to justice. A similar reward was offered for the discovery of Dugald Campbell's murderer or murderers. The whole city was deeply agitated by these disturbances. All the incorporated trades, and other public bodies, met successively to express their detestation of these occurrences, and to aid the magistracy in discovering the offenders, as well as in organising measures for the better preservation of the peace of the town in future. All possible steps were taken in the first instance to find out the rioters.

Some few days after the New Year's day, a young lad, about eighteen or nineteen years old, came to the village of Innerleithen, and sought employment, he remained in the pursuit of this employment up to the 10th of February. He was a stout lad, decently dressed, and very peaceable in his behaviour. But on the day just mentioned, a large and portly personage, of middle age, entered the village of Innerleithen in a carriage. The visitor was Archibald Campbell, long the principal officer of the city of Edinburgh; and the person he came to seek, and found, was the reputed ringleader of the rioters—the *Boatswain*, for whose apprehension a large reward had been offered. The young man was taken into custody, and soon after was on the way to Edinburgh. Previous to his capture, his cousin Hugh Mackintosh, and Neil Sutherland, both of them lads of sixteen or seventeen years of age, had been seized at Glasgow, along with a considerable quantity of valuable property, which they had conveyed thither after the riots, and which was the fruit of the robberies on that occasion. On the 20th of March, these three young men were put on their trial before the Justiciary Court, for the murder of Dugald Campbell, and for eleven distinct robberies, accompanied with violent assaults of the person. They pled not guilty; but a large body of evidence was adduced, which in addition to the heavy testimony afforded by the stolen property, brought home to the prisoners a great portion of the guilt involved in the accusation. One witness, John Tasker, who had been an associate of the prisoners, and who had become king's evidence, gave an account of the origin of these riots, which may well furnish a warning lesson to young trades-lads in large cities. Tasker said that he and the prisoners belonged to a set of lads who used to meet twice or thrice a week at the foot of Niddry Street; that they used to "pick quarrels" with people, and strike them, but "never took any thing" from them; that the gang had a particular whistle for a call, and used to be called the "*Keelie Gang*"; and that some weeks before the New Year, he heard of a "plan

to give the police a licking," particularly some members of the body, who had sometimes chased the gang off the Bridge.

Here, then, in these street meetings and street resolutions, we have the germ of the misfortunes which fell on these poor boys, made them robbers, if not murderers, and brought them to an infamous end in the spring of their days. They were sentenced to be hanged on the 22d of April, and on that day the sentence was accordingly carried into execution. Before their death, the three youths admitted their participation in the outrages and robberies of the evening. In the striking of Campbell the police-officer, many had borne a share, but the main guilt appeared to lie on an individual who had escaped capture. The extreme youth of the three lads rendered them the object of the greatest commiseration.

Such an extraordinary and unforeseen outbreak of mere boys and lads astonished the respectable citizens, including the various public authorities, in no small degree. Attention was for the first time drawn to the fact, that there was a large juvenile population growing up in the town in a state of complete ignorance and barbarity. Shocked with the disclosure, plans were now devised for improving both the moral and physical condition of the humbler orders of society. The first spur given to social improvement in the Scottish metropolis, and thence to that of the country round, is, therefore, in some measure to be traced to what is now the subject of a fireside story—the New Year's riot of 1812.—*Ibid.*

TO MAKE HOME HAPPY.—Nature is industrious in adorning her dominions; and man, to whom this beauty is addressed, should feel and obey the lesson. Let him, too, be industrious in adorning his domain—in making his home, the dwelling of his wife and children, not only convenient and comfortable, but pleasant. Let him, as far as circumstances will admit, be industrious in surrounding it with pleasant objects—in decorating it, within and without, with things that tend to make it agreeable and attractive. Let industry make home the abode of neatness and order—a place which brings satisfaction to every inmate, and which in absence draws back the heart by the fond associations of comfort and content. Let this be done, and this sacred spot will become more surely the scene of cheerfulness and peace. Ye parents, who would have your children happy, be industrious to bring them up in the midst of a pleasant, a cheerful, and a happy home. Waste not your time in accumulating wealth for them: but plant in their minds and souls, in the way proposed, the seeds of virtue and prosperity.

The Kamtschadale in his *jourt*, surrounded by deserts and tempests, believes his native land to be the most eligible part of the earth, and considers himself to be the most fortunate and happy of human beings. The Laplander in the midst of mountains and storms, enjoys good health, often reaches old age, and would not exchange Lapland for the palace of a king. The native of Congo believes that every other part of the earth was formed by angels; but that the kingdom of Congo was the workmanship of the Supreme Architect, and must therefore have prerogative and advantages above the rest of the earth. Although every other tie were broken, the dust of their fathers would bind most men to their native land. Let the cold sceptic deride the thought. The native of Asia frequenting the grave of his ancestors, or the afflicted wanderer of the American wilderness piously pulling the grass from the tomb of a departed relative, will awaken sympathetic emotions in every ingenuous and affectionate mind.

Life is made up, not of great sacrifices or duties, but little things, in which smiles and kindness, and small obligations given habitually, are what win and preserve the heart, and secure comfort.—*Sir H. Davy.*

Go not to bed till you are wiser than when you arose; for observation, experience and reflection, the elements of wisdom, are the property of all those who like to enjoy them.

Handel's early oratories were but thinly attended. That great composer would, however, often joke upon the emptiness of the house, which, he said, "would make de moosic sound all de better."

A captain of a privateer, who had been in an engagement, wrote to the owners, acquainting them that he had received but little damage, having only one of his *hands* wounded in the *nose*.

INFLUENCE OF TEMPER ON THE VOICE.—The influence of temper on tone deserves much consideration. Habits of querulousness or ill nature will infallibly communicate a likely quality to the voice. That there really exists amiable tones, is no deception; it is to many the index of the mind denoting moral qualities; and it may be remarked that the low soft tones of gentle amiable beings seldom fail to please.

"It appears to me I have seen you somewhere before," as the man said when the collector called on him the 27th time for money.

More than half the miseries of life are those of our own creation. If people would learn to make the best instead of the worst of every thing, the wheel of time would not grate half so harshly as it does now.