

organize this force? How is she to supply this enormous machinery of defence? Even if she could succeed in laying down such a plan of warlike preparations, she must still fail in securing a permanent occupation of the north-western coast, which, it is notorious, can only be reached and commanded from the ocean. She must, therefore, cover her land force by a powerful naval armament. Where is she to get the means? Overwhelmed with debts, and dragging her reputation as she is at a discount through the exchanges of the world, is she prepared to incur still greater odium and an impossible outlay? We believe there is not a sensible man in America who does not denounce the Quixotic project which points at the hopeless occupation of Oregon.

The British minister has solemnly announced that he is not only resolved but prepared to assert the rights of the British crown in the Oregon Territory. This is not an idle threat; and it has been echoed back by the universal conviction of a country too well instructed in its own power, too confident in the integrity of its cause, and too well assured of the advantages of peace, to embark hastily in an expensive war. We have the means of vindicating our rights, and we will employ them should it become necessary. The mere addition to our naval estimates this year amounts to 1,000,000*l.* sterling—a sum nearly equal to the total naval estimates of the United States—and our squadron in the Pacific under Admiral Seymour is a sufficient pledge of the sincerity of our intentions in that quarter.

But we do not believe that America will submit the Oregon question to solution in the field of battle. She is not in a condition for such dangerous experiments, and, if she were, a dispassionate investigation of the case must finally satisfy her that the claim she sets up could be settled much more speedily, to her own honor and ultimate advantage, by peaceful arbitration. It is the interest of both countries to settle their claims amicably; but it is chiefly the interest of America, for the experience of all history concurs in this warning—that when a subject in litigation between two powers is removed from the cabinet to the camp, it must be at the cost of the weaker party.

**THE POETRY OF THE RAIL.**—We have already pointed out the alteration likely to be made in poetry and song-writing by the introduction of railroads, and we this week give another specimen of the probable effect of the change. We shall hear no more now of the Lily of the Vale or the Village Rose, but the Pearl of the Refreshment-room and the Daisy of the Rail will supersede the once popular maidens alluded to. The following touching ballad is supposed to be addressed by one of the luggage superintendents to one of the female waiters at the same station, and may be called—

**THE PORTER TO HIS MISTRESS.**

Oh maiden, but an instant stay,  
And let me breathe my vow;  
I know the train is on its way,  
I hear its thund'ring row.

Another moment crowds will stand  
Where now to thee I kneel;  
And hungry groups will soon demand  
The beef, the ham, the veal.

Turn not away thy brow so fair,  
'T is that, alas! I dread;  
For thou hast given me, I swear,  
One fatal torn a-head.

I've linger'd on the platform, love,  
My brow with luggage hot;  
A voice has whisper'd from above,  
"Porter, take heed, love knot!"

O'er thee mine eye doth often range;  
I've mark'd thee take the pay  
From those who, ere you bring their change,  
Rush to the train away.

Turn not, &c., &c.

*Punch.*

**VIDOCQ IN LONDON.**—Mons. Vidocq, for many years the celebrated *Chef de la Police de Sureté* in Paris, has, on his arrival in this country, opened an exhibition of rather an extraordinary character, at the Cosmorama in Regent-street. The exhibition consists of several and rather heterogeneous materials. In the first place Mons. Vidocq offers to the public inspection various instruments of torture and manacles which were used by him in the coercion of criminals, or against him when he was a prisoner at the instance of the French government. In this department of the exhibition are also included the different disguises Vidocq used to wear in order to effect the arrest of prisoners, and several objects that belonged to persons famous for their crimes. Another portion of the exhibition consists of a collection of drawings in water-colors, among which are several of the works of Dirk Langendyk, a Dutch artist of considerable merit, and a selection of paintings of the Byzantine, Italian, and Flemish schools, many of which are extremely curious and interesting. The third portion of this exhibition will probably be thought by most visitors to offer the greatest attractions. It is a collection of imitated tropical fruits, executed with such perfection that it would puzzle the best judges of horticulture to distinguish them from the real productions of nature. This collection comprises sixty varieties, and more than 4,000 specimens. M. Vidocq, who is now seventy-two years of age, but scarcely appears more than fifty, attends personally, and politely explains to the visitors the different objects comprised in the exhibition.—*Atlas.*

ON DIT that Sir R. Peel intends proposing a grant of 30,000*l.* towards the endowment of the projected college in connexion with the Free Church of Scotland; and that he further intends to bring in a bill rendering compulsory on landlords to grant sites for the erection of free churches, on the requisition of not less than 50 persons in parishes where their estates are situated.—*Atlas.*

ONE of the *bon mots* which contributed to make Talleyrand so famous as a wit, was his definition of speech as a faculty given to man for the purpose of concealing his thoughts. The prince-bishop can well afford to give up the credit of having first made this sarcastic observation to an English clergyman. Young mentions some place,

"Where nature's end of language is declined,  
And men talk only to conceal their mind."