

MISCELLANEOUS.

NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTION OF THE ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

THE natural history collection, made by the officers of H. M. S. Erebus and Terror, during the four years' voyage of these ships, in various parts of the world, have lately been unpacked and examined by the different scientific men, preparatory to their being published, and deposited in the British Museum. The collection is the largest that has been brought home by any naval expedition since the time of Cook and Banks, which is more highly creditable to Capt. Ross and the officers under his command, when we consider that the expedition was chiefly despatched for observing magnetic phenomena. The collection consists of an immense number of marine animals of all classes and orders, from seals and fish, to the most minute animalculæ, chiefly procured from the shores of the islands of the Antarctic Ocean, Terra del Fuego, the Falkland Islands, New Zealand, and from all parts of the Southern and Antarctic seas between the latitudes 40° to 78° south; for the great extent of the ocean traversed by these ships during the three successive voyages, gave them ample opportunities of capturing the numerous palagic animals which swarm in those seas. To procure the animals the towing net was used, from the latitude of England to 78° south, twice (through the tropics, and thrice across the whole breadth of the Atlantic Ocean, between America and Africa. The dredge was continually used in the Antarctic circle, in depths varying from 40 to 400 fathoms, and on many occasions in the harbours of Falkland and Hermit Islands, at Cape Horn, Lord Auckland and Campbell's Islands, Kerguelen's Land, New Zealand, and in many places within the tropics, as the banks of Cape Frio and the Brazils. Hence have been produced results of the greatest importance, in thus bearing on the most interesting geological problems. During the stay of the various vessels in the various harbours, great attention was paid to the collection of plants and land animals of all kinds. Thus the unexplored islands to the south of New Zealand, Kerguelen's and Graham's Land, offered a rich store of varieties to the botanist, and the long stay of the vessels at Van Diemen's Land and New Zealand, enabled them to complete the fauna and flora of these very interesting colonies: the botanical collection alone consist of upwards of 3000 species, many of which are quite new to science, or were only before known by the specimens brought by Banks and Solander. The collection is accompanied with a large series of drawings of the more delicate and minute marine animals, coloured from life, and a large and most important collection of drawings of the rare plants made from the fresh specimens; the collection is curious, as showing the great general similarity of the animal productions of the two poles: this is especially the case with the marine crustacea, but, though the species are similar in general character, they are all still distinct as species from those of the Arctic seas. The same may be said with regard to the lepidopterous insects of New Zealand and the British islands.—*Athenæum*.

THE JEWISH ANATHEMA.—The following example of this dreadful exclusion from the Jewish Church, is from Buxtorf's Rabbinic Lexicon:—"By the authority of the Lord of lords, let A. B. be an anathema in both houses of Judgment, in that above and that beneath: let him be anathema by the holy angels on high, by the seraphim: let him be anathema by the holy church, great and small. Let the plagues, great and real, be upon him; diseases great and horrible. Let his habitation be that of dragons; let his star be darkened with clouds. Let him be an object of wrath, indignation and anger; let his corpse be given to wild beasts and serpents. Let his enemies and adversaries exult over him; let his silver and gold be given to others; let his children be exposed at the door of their enemies; and let posterity be astonished at his fate. Let him be cursed by the mouth of Addirion and Achariel, by the mouth of Sandolphon and Hadaniel, and by the mouth of Michael and Gabriel, by the mouth of Raphael and Mesharetiel, (the names of angels.) Let him be cursed by the mouth of Zabzabib, and by the mouth of Habbabib, who is the great God, (names for the Deity,) and by the mouth of the seventy names

of the great king: and on the part of Tso:ak, the great chancellor. Let him be swallowed up, like Korah and his company: with terror and trembling, let his breath depart. May the rebuke of Jehovah slay him: may he be strangled, like Ahiathophel by his own counsel! May his leprosy be like that of Gehazi: and may there be no resurrection of his remains! Let not his sepulchre be with that of Israel. Let his wife be given to others: let them embrace her while he is giving up the ghost. In this anathema let A. B. remain: and let this be his inheritance. But on me, and on all Israel, may God bestow peace with his blessing."

NO GOOD FROM PASSION.

Will putting one's self into a passion mend the matter? said a venerable old man to a boy who had picked up a stone to throw at a dog. The dog only barked at him in palsyfulness.

Yes it will mend the matter, said the passionate boy, and immediately dashed the stone at the dog.

The animal thus enraged, sprang at the boy, and bit his leg, while the stone bounced against a shop window, and broke a pane of glass.

Out ran the shopkeeper, and seized the passionate boy, and made him pay for the broken pane.

The passionate boy had mended the matter finely, indeed!

It was but the other day, that I saw a little boy fall down; and I should have helped him on his legs again, but he set up such a bellowing that I left him to himself, that he might find out whether that would mend the matter.

Take my word for it, it never did, and it never will mend the matter, to get into a passion about it. If the thing be hard to bear when you are calm, it will be harder when you are in anger.

If you have met with a loss, you will only increase it, and increase it sadly too, by being willing to lose your temper.

There is something which is very little minded and silly, in either man or boy's giving way to sudden passion. Do set yourself against it with all your heart.

Try then to be calm, especially in trifling troubles; and when greater ones come, try to bear them bravely.—*Uncle Newbury*.

CIVIL INTELLIGENCE.

LATER FROM ENGLAND.

According to the chronologists and calculators of prophecies, the restoration of the Jews, is to take place between the years 1840 and 1850.

Scotland, with a population of about three millions, pays annually a newspaper stamp duty of £16,644. Ireland, with a population of eight millions, pays no more than £17,451.

At the late assizes at Limerick, it was decided that a marriage between a Catholic and Protestant, celebrated by a Catholic priest, was invalid; and a person charged with bigamy escaped punishment under this plea.

Active preparations are making in the General Post office for the universal distribution of the stamped letter-paper.—*Globe*.

The Bishop of London has announced that after January, 1845, he will not admit any graduate of the University of Cambridge as a candidate for holy orders, who has not passed the voluntary theological examinations.

The French Government, it is said, has determined on abolishing slavery in its colonies, and to pay the planters two millions sterling as compensation.

880 persons, 475 of whom are clergymen, have signed a protest against Tractarianism.

Papers from the Cape of Good Hope to the 14th of February, have been received. They contain accounts from Port Natal of the 22d of January, which are very satisfactory. It is now considered to be one of the most fertile parts in Africa. Tobacco grows exceedingly well, and large quantities of it are cultivated. Cotton has been tried in different parts, and experienced men find it to answer beyond their expectations. The soil is spoken of as being similar to that of the plantations in the United States, and labour being very cheap, expectations are confidently entertained that an extensive cultivation of this article will soon take place.

CHINA.—The ratification of the supplementary treaty had been received from the Emperor, and

Captain Brooke, of the 55th Regiment, was on his way with it and other despatches for the home government. The sickness at Hong Kong had become almost extinct.

The reduction of the price of bread in London gives much satisfaction to the poorer inhabitants of that city. The 4lb. loaf is now sold for 8d. and even less.

The Roscommon assizes were engaged at the last accounts, in trying the case of one of the most desperate "white-boy" outrages ever committed in that country.

An extraordinary case of "ribbondism" was also on trial at Meath.

PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS.

We had thought that the age of religious persecution had passed by, and that Emperors, Kings, and Priests, had at last made up their minds to let their people worship the ALMIGHTY after their own fashion. But it appears that the Emperor of Russia has, for some reason or other, looked with an evil eye upon the "Children of Israel" resident, for their sins, within his vast dominions, and has commenced to persecute them after the most approved and orthodox fashion. We have not yet heard that he has required them, as he did another large section of his subjects, to change their religion; but he has taken care that their religion shall be made the means of subjecting them to all sorts of disabilities, civil and military. Confiscation of property, deprivation of the small share of civil rights that ever falls to the lot of a Russian, and forcible removal from the places where themselves and their fathers have lived in peace for years, being amongst the modes of persecution resorted to by this abominable tyrant.

There is no excuse that we can discover for these barbarities, so disgraceful to the age. No crime is laid to the door of Jews; and we don't think that they have even been accused of the heinous offence of liberalism; for we believe that the Jews, when sojourning in the "tents of the stranger," make it a point never to interfere in the politics of the country. In England and one or two other free countries, they may perhaps, in some degree, interest themselves in the affairs of the State; and in England there are no men more loyal, as a body, and, we can add, in Canada, than the Jews. This people has never lived in any country in the world but for its benefit, and no country where they have been persecuted has ever prospered. In times long past, there was hardly a country in which they did not suffer a little: but we must say, to the credit of England, that the persecution of the Jews was never carried on in a systematic manner. One or two kings annoyed them a good deal, and they were, on several occasions, the victims of an ignorant and infuriate multitude; but, we thank God, that the day was never in England, that saw them regularly brought to the stake, merely because they were Jews. We never hear of their persecution by any people or ruler, but we expect to see some judgment from the Almighty fall on the oppressor. No fact in history is more undoubted, than that those nations, whom God has made the instruments of his vengeance upon his disobedient people, have themselves speedily been cut off from the nations of the earth.

Against outrages such as these, the voice of the whole civilized earth should be lifted up, to tell this tyrant what freeborn men think of such proceedings. It is astonishing that other European nations can look on in silence at the perpetration of such enormities upon thousands of their fellow men. We look on this as a matter affecting the whole human race; persecution for religion's sake has now for many years happily ceased; its revival is a bad omen, for such a demon once let loose, there is no saying when he will be bound again. We have always been extremely averse to the principle of interference with the creed or religious worship of others, and we think that every form of faith should be entitled to free toleration, so long as it does not encroach on or interfere with the faith of others. This is the true principle of religious liberty: the moment it goes farther, it becomes licentious, engenders persecution and interference with the rights of science, until it proceeds, as with the Jews, to violation of the civil rights and outrages on the persons of those who differ from the majority.—*Morning Courier*.