

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, Aug. 19.—The Paris papers are full of letters from Oberbourg, telling of the splendour and cordiality of the great international naval festival, of banquets, toasts, and speeches, and of the friendly and magnificent reception given to the English guests by the French Minister of Marine, by a large body of French admirals, generals, and post-captains, and by the whole of the officers and men of the French fleet. There are no better entertainers than the French, whether the place of reception be ashore or afloat, a house or a ship, a tent or a hut. Their hospitality to our fleet, judging from all the letters I have read, has been most sumptuous, and in the very best taste. The letters in question are written by Frenchmen, but will assuredly be fully confirmed by the accounts you receive direct and from various English sources. There is no doubt that when the French fleet returns the visit it will be welcomed with equal cordiality, splendour, and goodwill.

THE NAVAL FESTIVAL AT OBERBOURG.—Oberbourg, Aug. 18.—At the banquet given here on the 15th inst. to the Lords of the English Admiralty, Mr. Chasseloup Laubat, Minister of Marine, in his speech proposing the toast of "Her Majesty Queen Victoria and the British Navy," said the time of hostile rivalry between the two countries had passed away. There now only remained emulation in doing everything that could advance the cause of civilization and liberty. The freedom of the seas, pacific contests in labor, and the beneficent conquests of commerce were meant by the union of the flags of England and France.

The Duke of Somerset, replying to the toast, thanked the Minister for the sentiments he had expressed, and said they accepted the toast as a proof of the cordial friendship of the Emperor and the French nation for the English Queen and the English people. They also, on their part, entertained the same sentiments of esteem for the Emperor of the French. They trusted His Majesty might long continue to enjoy his present good health. This they desired, not only because it was for the welfare of the two countries, but also because it tended to guarantee the happiness and the pacific progress of Europe. In proposing the health of the Emperor he spoke not in the name of the Government or any political party, but in the name of every enlightened Englishman.

A project is now before the Council of State in France for establishing a new electric cable between France and America. The line proposed to be taken is, "we believe, via Spain and the coast of Africa, to some point of Brazil. In this way the length of cable to be submerged at one time will be less than that which the Great Eastern has been depositing.

CONVERSIONS IN FRANCE.—The abjuration by Madame Duruy, the wife of the French Minister of Public Instruction, of the Protestant faith in favor of Romanism has already been reported. A Paris correspondent, alluding to the fact, observes that the Jesuits are very active just now amongst the families of high and conspicuous personages in France as well as England. Other ladies of the Protestant religion are spoken of as likely to become Papists, and it is reported that M. Guizot will ere long declare himself a Roman Catholic. —*Star*.

MAGNETISM.—An extraordinary and unprecedented case has been tried at the Assize Court of the Var. A young man of 24, named Castellan, presented himself at the house of a respectable farmer named Hughes, and pretending to be deaf and dumb, obtained supper and a night's lodging. In the morning he persuaded the farmer's daughter, a modest girl of 26, to run away with him, and an indictment alleged that he obtained an irresistible influence over her entirely by means of magnetism. The moment she came to her senses she was filled with remorse, but whenever he magnetized her she was a mere instrument in his hands, and submitted to whatever he told her. Three doctors of Toulon gave their opinion in accordance with that of Dr. Tardieu, of Paris, and many other medical men of the highest reputation, that it is possible by means of what is called magnetism to obtain such influence over a young girl as completely to annihilate her will. Castellan boasted of his magnetic power while standing at the bar, and offered to magnetize the presiding judge. He actually tried to magnetize the Procureur Imperial, and frightened him so much that he angrily ordered the prisoner to lower his eyes. Being found guilty by the jury, he was sentenced to twelve years imprisonment with hard labor. —*Globe*.

MARRIAGE IN FRANCE.—Marriages, it is true, are seldom, if ever, made for love in any class. Indeed, it is considered improper, almost immodest, for girls to feel a decided preference for this person or that, and anything like flirtations between respectable young persons of either sex is almost unknown. Occasionally a little liberty may be allowed to very near relatives, but even this is narrowly watched by elders. On the other hand, almost every marriageable girl in France has a "dot," according to her station in life. Her parents pinch themselves to an extent, most laudably, to be able to make this needful provision both for their sons and daughters, but the daughters are considered to have the first need, as they are commonly married at 18, and the sons only at 30.—There is no intriguing, no laying snares for young men, little underhand work of any kind. The girl is known to have a certain marriage portion, and to be sure of inheriting by and by such and such a sum. All brothers and sisters share alike, the girl socially as important as the boy; and owing to the greater force of character, or strength of will, of the French woman, "la Française est une personne," says M. Michelet, the girl is commonly more important. Even nurses in France admire and value girls more highly than boys; and the highest term of endearment they apply to the latter is to call them "Ma fille" (my daughter). Under such circumstances the father and mother make no mystery of their losses and expectations. Why should they? The French are peculiarly aboveboard in most of their dealings, so in their mind sometimes readily so; in fact, the precise contrary of the English popular notion about the French will be generally found to hit the mark. The father and mother tell their intimate friends that they wish for a son-in-law of such an age, and with such and such means and expectations. Of course, he ought to have about the same fortune as the lady, possibly a little less or more. His family connections may make up for a small deficiency. Sometimes all is settled, almost before the young people see one another, and there is no choice exercised at all. There is never any knowledge of character, or any attempt to compare tastes or opinions. It has become a customary, however, for the young man to pay a visit of ceremony, without any declared intention, in order that the intended couple may see one another, and even converse a little, before the final conclusion is arrived at. —*Fortnightly Review*.

ITALY.

FLORENCE, Aug. 21.—The *Italia* of to-day says:—"The rumor that a financial arrangement exists between the Italian Government and the Holy See for the settlement of the Roman debt is devoid of foundation. The Minister of the Interior has addressed a circular to the Prefect relative to a recent circular of the Minister of War. The Minister of the Interior explains that the object of the last-mentioned circular was to exhort the officers of the army not to allow their esteem and confidence towards their brother officers to be diminished until the accusations brought forward, either publicly or privately, against their comrades had been proved."

He also expresses regret that certain members of Parliament had taken part in the manifestations to which the circular of the Minister of War had given rise.

The Turin Lithographic Correspondence has spread

A report of large reductions contemplated in the army when the camps of instruction are raised. 50,000 men, it is said, will be sent to their homes on unlimited leave.

The most obscene photographs and books are publicly sold at Florence, with unbounded license, so as to disgust even those journals that are devoted to the revolutionary party. The *Gazzetta del Popolo* says that the police seized 800 photographs, of surpassing obscenity, and brought the matter before the king's procurator. The court acquitted the defendant, and based its decision upon the following ground: among others, viz: That, whereas at Florence, a city famous for its monuments, where naked statues are to be seen at every step, the sale of the aforesaid photographs constitutes a commercial work of art.

A NEW RAILWAY ROUTE IN EUROPE.—According to a Florence letter in the *Siecle* a project is on foot to establish direct railway communication between Italy, Switzerland, and Germany, by a passage over the Helvetic Alps, and a few days ago a committee, named by the Italian Minister of Public Works, began its sittings. The statistics distributed amongst the members of the committee turn in favor of the St. Gothard as being the best passage in the Alps for establishing more direct communication with Frankfurt, Bremen, Lubek, Prussia, &c. But when this passage is adopted it will be necessary to find the funds necessary to complete so great a work, as more than two hundred million francs would be required. It remains to be seen if Switzerland and Italy are disposed to provide the funds for this great undertaking, as no private company would be able to contribute more than forty million francs to work.

PISANO.—The report lately spread of negotiations having recommended between Florence and Rome are completely unfounded.

ROME.—His Holiness will hold a Consistory in the course of September, and it is probable that several foreign bishops will arrive in order to assist at it, and among others the Archbishop of Westminster.

The cholera seems to be sensibly diminishing, and the register of deaths at Ancona lessens daily. The Cardinal Archbishop Antonacci shows a noble example to the authorities, who have almost all deserted their posts, and his zeal and charity know no bounds, save those imposed by the Liberal Government. Among other pious ordinances the municipality has forbidden public prayers, lest they should demoralize the people, and have opened the theatres as a proper distraction from lugubrious ideas in a season of public calamity. These wise measures have not, however, prevented above 20,000 persons from leaving Ancona. Up to the 12th of August the officially reported cases amount to 1611, and the deaths to 787; but the number is known to be diminished by at least half. So great is the panic that the dead cannot be buried, and the convicts are pressed into the service, so that the Anconitans instead of the old fashioned confraternities and religious orders who never shrunk from their duty have the consolation of being escorted to their graves by thieves and murderers.

It is difficult to see what "progress" has done for Italy, save supplying her with a fearful amount of trashy newspapers, and in a moment of public calamity the need of the Christian element is always doubly felt. The French Consul and his lady, and Madame De Castiglione, have placed their palace at the disposal of the Sisters of Charity who have volunteered for hospital duty from Turin. Twelve of these heroic women are in charge of the sick, and are ably seconded by the medical men, to whom every praise is due; eleven have already fallen victims to the epidemic.

The mortality among the employees of Government is very great, 430 have already died, and an immense number are leaving Ancona from dread of a similar fate. The bureau is shut, the quays deserted, the streets empty, and the poor dying in garrets untended, save by the clergy, the nuns, and the few medical men whom the hospitals, in private houses, in the churches, encouraging the sick, absolving the dying, seeing the dead buried, as Henri De Belzunce did in the plague of Marseilles, and St. Charles in that of Milan, and the very organs of the Revolution are obliged to acknowledge his eminent virtues. The Societa Vittorio Emanuele has done literally nothing, and the Turin auxiliary branch has satisfied its philanthropy by contributing a tub of ice to the sufferers, with a very pompous telegram, which received an equally pompous acknowledgment from the municipality of Ancona. —*Cor. of the London Tablet*.

The Union announces that His Holiness has just approved, after a careful examination in detail, the plans of M. Costa, a Roman engineer, for the construction of Ostia, the ancient port of Rome, which the power of Claudius and the genius of Trajan had made a depot for the commerce of the world. The Pontifical Government is determined to devote all its energies to the achievement of this great design. It is now admitted that the report which alleged that the Pope had taken the first step towards carrying out the articles of the Convention of Sept. 15, by increasing his army, was false. The latest *canards* of the Revolutionary press are that the Holy Father is about to summon a General Council, in order to enable him to abdicate his Temporal Power, and that he has lately sanctioned an Italian engineering association, which is to aim at the return of Catholic Deputies to the next Piedmontese Parliament. Signor Vegazzi and his negotiations seem to be already completely forgotten. —*Tablet*.

The official *Gazzetta di Roma* denies the statement which has appeared in several journals, to the effect that an extraordinary recruitment of the Papal army is taking place, the fact being that the recruitment is merely for the purpose of filling up the ranks of already existing regiments.

KINGDOM OF NAPLES.—The urban seminary of Naples has been closed and the few remaining students expelled. The Por Clares of Aquila, the Carmelites of Ferrara, and a host of other cloistered communities have been expelled and dispersed among other houses of different and relaxed rules.

A number of new bands have penetrated into the Abruzzi towards Aquila, and thence have dispersed into the Marsica, Terra di Lavoro and the Rialto di Cinque Miglia. It is impossible to ignore the tremendous increase of the movement, or its entirely national character. Not a single foreigner is now in the Regno, and yet the disorder and opposition to the actual government is greater than ever, and the administration more powerless to grapple with the evil. Manzoni has disappeared entirely, and with him Mr. Mazzini. Nothing has now been heard of the band for more than six weeks, and Mr. Bonham has given up his efforts in despair. So much for the results of annexation. In the time of Ferdinand the Second there was no such thing as brigandage, and travelling was as safe as on the Great North Road in old days. Now, Englishmen are robbed and kidnapped, and there is no redress for them; and it is no great consolation to know that the country has such a thing as an administration, if that administration is powerless to act whenever the occasion especially demands energy. —*Correspondent of Tablet*.

PORTUGAL.

LISBON, Aug. 22.—Prince Amadeus has sailed for Italy. He is stated to have visited this city in order to act as proxy for King Victor. The Papal Nuncio, however, refuses to accept the King of Italy as godfather at the ceremony. The Government denies the current rumors, although not officially. The day of baptism is not yet fixed. Prince Amadeus is reported to have left Lisbon greatly dissatisfied with the conduct of the Nuncio.

PRUSSIA.

A letter from Berlin says that King William of Prussia, on his way back to his capital, will visit Queen Victoria at Rosenau; but that he will do so as quietly as possible, in order not to meet the Duke of

Saxe-Gotha, who, by his attachment to the cause of the Duke of Augustenburg, has lost all favor with the King. Some may suppose a different motive on the part of Prussia's Sovereign, for, assuming Duke Ernest, it is only charitable to credit him with some feeling of shame for the manner in which he has broken his pledged and betrayed Augustenburg, whose cause he at one time so warmly upheld. Few, even of those among his subjects who most disliked his tyrannical domestic policy, would have believed a year ago that he was capable of abandoning the support of Prince Frederick's claims. Of the effectual recognition of these there now seems less chance than ever. "You were told of the refusal to receive Samwer at Vienna, and we further learn that Dr. Lorenzen, who is at Munich on behalf of the Duke, can extract nothing but condolence from Herr von der Pforten.

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

Poland and the western provinces of Russia generally are perpetually in flames. According to an official announcement, there were 120 "conflagrations" in the three provinces of Kiew, Volhynia, and Podolia, from the 15th of June to the 15th of July. No less than 337 houses (of Continental size) were destroyed by this calamity, which affected 14 towns and 106 villages, inflicting a loss of 300,000 roubles upon the poor inhabitants. Fires of smaller extent are not included in these figures. In the kingdom of Poland proper six towns and 30 villages have been all but burnt to the ground within the last fortnight; while, in Lithuania, General Kaufmann issues an *ordre du jour* expressly thanking the troops for their extraordinary efforts in quenching the fires kindled by the nefarious activity of the Polish revolutionary party. It is, however, as yet impossible to form any very confident opinion on the actual cause and origin of these multiplied fires. The Russian will charge the Poles with committing arson against their own countrymen, for the mere purpose of irritating the public mind, and creating an excitement which might be improved for revolutionary purposes. The charge, however, is untenable to the member of a civilized commonwealth, has nothing absurd in itself, in a country where the vast majority are wholly illiterate, and, owing to the absence of each and everything that could assist in judging of current events, open to all sorts of rumors and irrational insinuations. But the Poles hold back the reproach to the quarter whence it proceeds. While pointing to the fact that the alleged incendiaries have never in a single instance been caught, they aver that those destructive fires are kindled either by the Russian soldiery, with a view to plunder, or now and then are perhaps the work of some Polish but very unrevolutionary, peasant, who thinks he has not got land enough in the late emancipatory measure, grumbles at being denied the formal and deplorable completion of his title-deed. In both cases, they hint, the detection of the guilty would be easy enough: were the Russian Government not interested in casting the blame on the middle and higher, or what is the same, the patriotic classes of Poland. Another way of accounting for the scourge is pretty generally accepted by the Jews, who believe they are singled out for destruction, for bowing to the victor and making their peace with St. Petersburg when Warsaw was laid low; while, as the most sober and commonplace version will have it, the activity of political incendiaries is far surpassed by the criminal eagerness of persons with a bad hose and a high insurance on it to avail themselves of this lucky period for bringing grist to the mill, without exciting suspicion. In all probability each of these several surmises is right enough as far as it goes, none, in consequence, being absolutely correct. As a dangerous paroxysm will sometimes end in spasms, the fires follow not naturally in the wake of insurrection; and as latent defects will become apparent in the violent effort of a feeble and exhausted frame to recover its balance, the fierce and baffled conspirator is seconded in his revenge by the sordid cheat and the savage house-breaker and plunderer. One of the worst consequences of the fiery epidemic is the refusal of the insurance companies to grant fresh policies, at such places as Kovno, Berdyschew and others, which have suffered most and are likely to suffer still more. While the competition of foreign companies is shut out, internal ones should not be allowed to refuse in the hour of need.

The more fully the particulars of the late Polish rebellion come to light, the greater and graver appears the struggle of that unfortunate race. In making up accounts, the Russian Government have now discovered the significant fact that the number of people who left Warsaw to join the insurrectionary bands in 1863 amounted to no less than 8,128, out of a population of 216,000. Of these 43 were children between 10 and 14 years old, 1,902 were between 20 and 25, 1,453 between 25 and 30, 869 between 30 and 35, 568 between 35 and 40, 376 between 40 and 45, 207 between 45 and 50, 110 between 50 and 55, 62 between 55 and 60, 43 between 60 and 70, 3 between 70 and 75, 4 between 75 and 80, 3 between 80 and 85. These figures have been ascertained by comparing the evidence of the police registers with the number of the missing, and the facts elicited by the courts of inquiry; and, as must be naturally the case under the circumstances, are rather below than above the mark. Among the emigrants, forming actually four per cent. of the population, were 6,447 unmarried men, 1,238 husbands, 129 widowers, 181 girls, 83 wives, and 54 widows. Classifying them according to their several professions, we find 2,226 artisans and operatives among the number; 1,066 valets and domestic servants (out of a total of 10,000 of both sexes); 197 members of the civil service, 140 public scribes, 173 pupils in the higher educational establishments, when no more than 600 were attending lectures at the time; 82 schoolboys, 42 of their teachers, 185 soldiers on furlough, 27 officers on half-pay, 9 proprietors of landed estates, 7 doctors, 32 priests, 2 rabbis, 3 Jewish teachers; and so on through every rank and condition of life down to 44 frail followers of *Venus Vulgawa*. Some professions are even now hard up for hands in consequence of the voluntary and involuntary exodus which attended the rebellion. There is, for instance, such a want of bakers in Warsaw that for this reason only a loaf which cost three kopeks in 1863 is now sold at five. The authorities have repeatedly invited Russian trades people to come and settle at Warsaw, but have as yet failed to procure the necessary supply of hands. —*Time Cor.*

SEA SOUNDINGS.—Various sea soundings made by the new telegraph company in England, in preparation for laying the Atlantic submarine cable this summer, reveal the following results:—The Baltic sea between Germany and Sweden is only 120 feet deep, and the Adriatic between Venice and Trieste 130. The greatest depth of the channel between France and England does not exceed 300, whilst the southwest of Ireland, where the sea is opened, the depth is more than 3,000 feet. The seas to the south of Europe are much deeper than those in the interior. In the narrowest part of the Strait of Gibraltar, the depth is only 1,000 feet, while a little more to the east it is 3,000. On the coast of Spain the depth is nearly 6,000 feet. At 250 miles south of Mactinec (south of Cape Cod) no bottom was found at 7,500 feet. The greatest depths of all are to be met with in the Southern ocean. To the west of the Cape of Good Hope 16,000 feet have been measured, and to the west of St. Helena, 28,000. Dr. Young estimates the average depth of the Atlantic at 26,000 feet and that of the Pacific at 20,000.

A USURP. PARASITISM.—A actress who is reputed chatterbox the other day sent for her doctor with all speed. She declared herself ill, and wanted him to write the requisite certificate. "I do not know if there is anything the matter," was the reply. "Let me feel your pulse—just so—a little quiet will set you to rights very soon." "But I assure you, doctor, I am ill—look at my tongue." The doctor looked. "Well, I see, my dear Miss—it is like you—a little quiet will do it good."

BIOR.—Whatever may be the etymology of this word, it is always applied to a person who is blindly, and unreasonably, attached to any cause or party. Over-zealous advocacy of religious tenet, or party principle, directed, in the latter case, by the abuse which "ignorance and insincerity" Christians make of this word, to inspire contempt for genuine piety, should not mislead us; for certainly those who have neither piety nor religion, must be very bad judges of virtue. —*The Monthly*.

On the 7th of September, A.D. 375, St. Eucherius was made Bishop of Orleans, in France. It is said, that while the electors were at their knees praying Heaven to direct them aright in the choice they were about to make, a dove descended on his head. —*Id.*

EDUCATION.—As the dew of heaven falling upon the new-born rose, draws forth its perfumes; or the soft, vernal shower expands the peerless beauty of the lily, so true education unfolds all the generous attributes of the soul. The truly educated man is affable, social and magnanimous; he is ready to overlook and forgive much, and will not readily turn a friend into the reverse by unreasonable suspicions of his sincerity. —*Id.*

A HAIR.—To the chemist, a hair offers a truly interesting analysis. Vaucoulin discovered that a black hair contains the following constituents: 1st, a considerable quantity of animal matter; 2nd, a small portion of a white, thick oil; 3rd, a greater quantity of a greenish-colored oil; 4th, iron; 5th, a few particles of oxide of manganese; 6th, phosphate of lime; 7th, a small quantity of carbonate of lime; 8th, a large quantity of silica, or flint; and 9th, a considerable portion of sulphur.

Philosophy, in the mind of an atheist, is like a priceless diamond in the nose of a pig. The latter exhibits as much reason as the former, in the use which it makes of its possession. Knowledge, when properly applied, carries us to truth; but, when wrongly directed, it bears us with equal force to destruction.

A MAXIM.—Mark Anthony, after the battle of Actium, challenged Augustus, who replied: "If Anthony is weary of his life, there are other ways of getting rid of it; I will not be his executioner."

FIRES ATTACK OF A LION UPON A HYENA.—The *Journal de Loiret* gives the following account of an incident which has just occurred at Saumur, in a menagerie belonging to M. Schmidt:—"The lion was in a large cage with a lion and a hyena. After having made them go through several performances, he gave some meat, as usual, to the two animals, when suddenly the lion animated by the smell of flesh, threw himself on the hyena, overpowered him, and bit him in the neck. The savage instincts of the king of the desert manifested themselves immediately: the more the blood flowed the more he seemed to be roused, and his sinister look inspired the most serious fears for Mr. Schmidt who did not, however, lose his courage for an instant. The first means which he employed were blows from a whip. A revolver was soon handed to him; with this he discharged several shots at the lion, which did not in the least move him, as he still kept his victim between his teeth, and it appeared almost without life. Great concern prevailed in the boxes; the women cried, and perhaps the uproar excited the lion. The employees of the menagerie assembled round the cage. They passed a draghook to M. Schmidt, who made it penetrate the mouth of the lion whilst some of them gave the animal repeated blows through the bars. The lion then yielded and precipitated himself against the bars. M. Schmidt seized this opportunity to retire, dragging with him the hyena, into the neighboring cage. A door then separated them from the lion. It was time; for, already furious, he was approaching, and his mouth being covered with blood, dashed at the door. M. Schmidt showed himself to the spectators and received their congratulations, but he was pale and covered with blood. The hyena is grievously wounded, but it is hoped that it will recover."

When a man with a scolding wife was asked what he did for a living, he said that he kept a hot house.

At a trial in the Court of King's Bench (June 1833) between certain publishing Tweedledes, as to an alleged piracy of an arrangement of "The Old English Gentleman," T. Cook was subpoenaed as a witness. On cross-examination by Sir James Scarlett, that learned counsel rather flippantly said:

"Now, sir, you say the two melodies are the same, but different. What do you mean, sir?"

Tom promptly answered: "I said that the notes in the two copies were alike, but with different accent."

Sir James:—"What is musical accent?"

Cooke:—"My terms are a guinea a lesson, sir." (A loud laugh.)

Sir James:—"Rather ruffled."—"Don't mind your terms here. I ask you what is a musical accent?"

Can you see it?"

Cooke:—"No."

Sir James:—"Can you feel it?"

Cooke:—"A musician can." (Great laughter.)

Sir James:—"Very angrily."—"Now, pray, sir, don't beat about the bush; but tell his lordship and the jury, who are supposed to know nothing about it, the meaning of what you call accent?"

Cooke:—"Accent in music is a stress laid on a peculiar note, as you would lay a stress on any given word, for the purpose of being better understood. If I were to say you are an ass it rests on ass, but were I to say you are an ass it rests on you, Sir James."

Reiterated shouts of laughter by the whole court, in which the bench joined, followed this repartee. Silence being obtained, Lord Danman, the judge, with much gravity, accosted the chop-fallen counsel:

"Are you satisfied, Sir James?"

Sir James, deep red as he naturally was, had become scarlet in more than name, and in a great huff, said: "The witness may go down."

WELL ANSWERED.—A certain Duke, who invariably refused to play at cards when the stakes were high, was challenged with being fond of his money.

"Whatever I may be," returned the Duke, pointedly, "I am not fond of other people's."

CONGENIAL LOVERS.—"I shall be at home next Sunday night," a young lady remarked, as she followed her beau to the door who seemed to be somewhat wavering in his attachment. "So shall I," was the reply.

AN IRISHMAN'S DUPLICATE.—An Irishman once wrote a friend's address on both sides of a piece of paper. "Because," he said, "if he lost one, he would be sure to have the other."

JACOB SELWYN'S CONSULTATION WITH EQUUS WYCHERLEY ABOUT HIS WIFE'S EPITAPH.—Her name was Sarah—simply Sarah, said Jacob, as if the fact were a testimony to the modest nature of the departed.

"She was of late years—68," he continued, referring at the same time, to an old pocket-book; "but according to my reckoning we lost three years or so from not keeping a check upon her birthdays. But put her down at 63; she must have known her own age better than any one else."

"Would you say aged?" asked Selwyn.

"I don't think she would have liked that," said Selwyn.

"In her 68th year if you please," Mr. Wycherley wrote as he was requested.

"She was an excellent cook, Wycherley, and made hands better I think, than any woman in the country," said Selwyn, with a pardonable feeling of pride.

"I don't think we can cut that on her epitaph," remarked Wycherley. "No, perhaps not; but it is a pity. It ought to go down; as it might have stimulated other young women to have as much said of them," said Selwyn, adding after a pause, "She was good at figures, and taught me to cipher when we were first married; but that can't go down either, I suppose?"

"It would be difficult to express it," answered Wycherley.

"Picking," and preserving, she was a great hand at both," said Selwyn, with an intriguing look; but receiving no encouraging response from his amanuensis, he took another shot.

"Always early with her chickens and turkeys, and pretty nigh found herself in clothes," what do you say to that?"

"That ought to go down," Mr. Wycherley replied.

"Well, I think all the good qualities you have enumerated—Selwyn—must be comprised in 'she was an excellent wife.' Ah! that, she was," said the bearded husband, "and it is hard she can't have it put there now that that. She was a affectionate, Wycherley? Yes, I'm sure of that. Sometimes, rather rather too affectionate, and showed a little unnecessary anxiety about my temper. And how did you find it?" said Wycherley, slyly.

"Well, it varied—sometimes smooth; enough; at others warm, perhaps very warm; but as her good qualities can't be set out at length, I won't have her little infirmities advertised in the church-yard." —*Mark Lemon's Loved at Last*.

UNITED STATES.

It is not a matter of surprise that the New England fanatics, having accomplished their object so far as concerned the social institutions of the South, should now turn their attention to other reforms. The present crusade is against religion. "Slavery is dead—now for Rome!" is the new battle-cry. The Rev. Mr. Haddad, a Massachusetts Puritan, translated in Chicago, wrote a letter recently, to the editor of the *New York Independent* (political-religious organ of the destructives), which was published, in which he says: "Our war is past; slavery is dead in our country. . . . And now that this enemy to God and man is destroyed, we must prepare ourselves for an inevitable contest with the Church of Rome. . . . Hundreds of thousands of Papists in the North have been trained in the belief that their first allegiance is due to Holy Mother Church. Such is their ignorance, and so thorough is their subjugation to their spiritual leaders, that these leaders could lead them into any excess of wickedness in the interests of that church. This reversed 'blood-hound of Zion' is not the first to lift up his voice against Catholics. Pestilent New England has been consistent in her hatred of Rome, and her divines have ceased not, in the pulpit and on the stump, from venting anathemas upon the Scarlet Woman. These Northern fire-eaters, who preach, in the few hours they spare from politics, the gospel of blood and thunder, have resolved that there shall be no peace in this country until we have a national religion. And that 'religion' is to be orthodox Congregationalism. Following the example of their ancestors, who 'reserved' that the earth belonged to the saints, and that they were the saints, these disturbers have determined that there is but one Church—the Congregational Church. Episcopacy they pronounce diluted Romanism. The Baptists and Methodists do not come entirely under the ban; they possess the merit of intolerance. The Presbyterians are best liked; for the Congregationalists are revolutionized Presbyterians. The peculiarity of Congregationalism is that it is bounded by no obligation or law; it is, in religion, what the United States were in political government. Each congregation regulates its own affairs, appoints and dismisses its pastors, and acknowledges no ecclesiastical government beyond itself. The Congregationalists have no bishops. Occasionally a few churches, or congregations, meet in what they term a 'synod'—although this partakes rather of the character of spontaneity than deliberation. The Congregationalists do not claim to have any peculiar tenets other than this: they declare that their religion is perfectly free, and hence this is the inevitable deduction—especially adapted to a republic. They draw no line between politics and religion; they preach abolitionism, treason, and war, even more frequently than they preach the Gospel. These facts are so glaring that no special mention need be made of them. The war sermons of Henry Ward Beecher, among others, have a world-wide notoriety; while his political speeches, delivered in the pulpit during the late Presidential contest, were copied and circulated by the Republicans as telling campaign documents. The attempt to establish what these people blasphemously term a 'national' religion, is in itself unlawful. That once honored code of laws, known as the constitution of the United States, declares in the amendments (Article I.)—'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, prohibiting the free exercise thereof.' Of course, the reformers care nothing for the constitution; and I refer to it merely to show that the founders of the Government considered the word 'freedom' to mean 'liberty'—liberty in all things not hostile to the order and well-being of society. —*from the N. Y. Correspondent of the London Standard*.

OLD AGE IN THE UNITED STATES.—The drollest thing is, that when the American lady comes to be about fifty years old, she gets over her leanness and her plainness, and suddenly becomes young again. The population of Broadway seems to be composed (apart from the middle-aged ladies, who are as a rule heart-rendering in appearance) of pretty young ladies of sixteen, and pretty young ladies of sixty. No, sir, I have not tripped in my speech: I repeat, young ladies of sixty. A juvenile grandmother is anything but a rarity here; gushing young things of threescore are not uncommon; and I have ventured to cast more than one humbly tender glance at a damsel of seventy. You very seldom meet with an old man in society. The men work, fret, smoke, speculate, chew, or drink themselves to death at a comparatively early age. Nor are old men very popular in the States; they are passed by as 'played-out.' I have heard more than one lawyer and statesman called a 'worn-out cuss.' It was an unflattering title of sarcasm against the Hon. Edward Everett that he was so very old; and George Bancroft, the illustrious historian of the United States—a writer who combines the accuracy of an Alison with the vivacity of a Peter Parley—is usually spoken of by the irreverent young men of Gotham as 'old Fuss and Fenters.' The truth is that American men have little reverence for age among their own sex. Strong, active, energetic, unscrupulous, noisy, pushing men, they admire and almost deify; but age generally brings with it wisdom, experience, calmness, judgment, depreciation of wild enthusiasm, dislike to rash innovation. These qualities are not to the taste of Young America. They are not go-ahead. They do not go far towards making up the beautiful ideal of transatlantic humanity: 'A real live man, Sir.' I have heard of venerable partners in mercantile firms being superseded and pushed off their stools, as obsolete and incompetent, by their juniors; and an American—mind, an American, not an English—friend once told me that he saw over a store-front in Jersey City this announcement: 'Tomkins and Father.' There lay a mine of philosophy. Tomkins the elder was evidently 'played-out'; he was a cuss; and of 'no account'; and 'very small potatoes.' He was permitted, just for charity's sake, to continue in the business, mind the shop, dust the counter, and see the shutters put up by the black porter; but the real live man in the concern was young Tomkins, who, despising and disparaging his antiquated progenitor, was making rapid strides, no doubt, towards running for Congress, taking the presidency of a petroleum company, and putting himself in nomination for the highest offices in the State—say the secretaryship of the treasury, the postmastership of Connecticut, or the lighthouse-keeper at Cape Knob.

An old American gentleman, when you do meet him which is but rarely, is generally a most delightful companion—very benignant, very tolerant, very free from prejudice, and usually a strong friend to England. The old American lady, whom, fortunately, you very often meet, is the most charming person it is possible to conceive. See her in Broadway; handsomely, but warmly and sensibly clad; smiling and nodding and joking; with her wrinkled but rosy little face, in guise something between a waxen peach and a well-preserved pippin; with the nicest set of artificial 'teeth' that Doctor Zachary could carve from a rhinoceros's tusk; and her own hair disposed, in snowy silvery bunches on either side of her temples. —*George Augustus Sala*.