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A Double-faced Letter.

This specimen of a "serpentine or double-faced letter," is said to be written by the celebrated Cardinal Richelieu, introducing a Benedictine Friar to the French Ambassador at Rome:—

Master Compy, a Savoyard, Friar of the order of St. Bennet, is to be a bearer to you of news from me by means of this letter. He is one of the most discreet, wise, and least vicious persons, that I ever yet among all I have conversed with, knew, and has earnestly desired me to write to you, in his favor, to give him a letter of credence, with some pressing commendation which I granted to his importunity. For believe me Sir he deserves your esteem, and I would be sorry you should be wanting to oblige him by being mistaken, in not knowing him. I should be afflicted if you were as many others have been; on that account you will like him who are my best friends. Hence and from no other motive, it is, that I desire to advertise you that you're obliged more than any to take special notice of him, to afford him all imaginable respect and say nothing in his presence that may offend or displease him, in any sort. For I may and do truly say I love him as myself, and assure you, there is not a more convincing argument of an unworthy person in the world, than to do injury to him, I know that as soon as you cease to be a stranger to him, and shall be acquainted with him you will love him as well as I, and will thank me for this advice. The assurance of your great civility doth forbid me to write further of him to you or to say more on this occasion.

I am, Sir, your affectionate friend. To be understood as the writer meant it, the second or every alternate line, must be omitted altogether; but the lines being read directly on, convey a warm recommendation. The letter is not only curious, but very suggestive.

Some Account of the Royal Society of London.

There are fifty-nine Learned Societies in England, of which number, thirty-one are situated in London, and the remainder in various parts of the country. The societies known by this name are associations of literary and scientific men, united for the purpose of promulgating general or a particular branch of knowledge. Among the majority of members it is an assumed qualification that they are learned in a greater or less degree. In the more prominent societies, the members are most distinguished in literature and science, and each brings his own department of learning, and individual experience, and research to bear upon the objects of the association to which he belongs; and the general result of their united labor is, the rectification of fallacious theories, the prosecution of new discoveries, and clothing the crudity of science in a pleasing and attractive garb. Some of these bodies have a professional exclusiveness. Their proceedings are interesting only to that portion of the community who have professional sympathy. This is the case with medical, architectural, and many other societies of a like nature. Others, however, possess a national interest; and the knowledge they diffuse is alike valuable to all. Of such a nature is the Royal Society of London, and others established for the promotion of literature, philosophy, natural history, and belles-lettres.

The Royal Society of London works upon a very wide and comprehensive plan. It was instituted in 1660, and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1662. Except one at Rome, it is the oldest in Europe. In 1663 a second charter was granted to it to obviate defects in the first one. Two years later, the first publication of its "Transactions" appeared, responsibly edited as it was for some time after, by the secretary.

Some opposition, however, appears to have been made to the society, for we find that in 1667, Dr. Syrat, afterwards Bishop of Rochester, in his "History of the Royal Society," is frequently compelled, as he himself informs us, to descend from "the way of plain history" to that of apology. More properly speaking, Dr. Syrat's history was little beyond a vindication of the society's proceedings. In 1682 the society sold the college and lands in Chelsea, near London, a valuable property which the Crown had granted to the Fellows. In 1700, Craze Court, Fleet Street, was their head-quarters; removed thence from Gresham College, but for what reason does not clearly appear, and in 1782

they occupied their present rooms, in Somerset House, Strand.

The immortal Sir Isaac Newton was President from 1703 till his death in 1727. Sir Humphrey Davy was elected in 1820, and filled the Presidential chair for nearly seven years. The publications of this celebrated society are known as the "Philosophical Transactions." There are 143 volumes issued. The present series commenced in 1801, each volume consists of two parts, one of which is published half-yearly.

Every Fellow receives a copy, and a limited number are disposed of to the public at various prices. There is a President and five Vice-Presidents. The Council consists of twenty in number, including the President. According to the laws of the society, ten of these retire annually, and the vacancies are filled in by ballot vote.

The payments are a ten pound admittance fee, and four pounds annually, the latter sum being occasionally compounded for by a prepayment of fifteen years' purchase, or a sort of lease. Besides the Council, subordinate scientific committees are necessary for the proper development of the society's plans. There are seven, composed partly of Council members, from thirteen on the chemistry committee, to twenty-nine on that of physics and meteorology.

The present apartments of the society are fully adequate to its wants. The library numbers more than 43,000 volumes. It is considered a distinction to be a member of this society. The Fellows append the initials F. R. S. to their names.

Among its Fellows there were, in 1853, three members of the royal family of Great Britain, and ten of other royal families, fifty-three titular lords, forty-nine baronets, thirty-five knights, twenty-two doctors of divinity, fifty-nine doctors of law, ninety doctors of medicine, sixty-four clergymen, twenty-three military and seventeen naval officers, five hundred and forty-two members of other learned societies, and very many distinguished foreigners, whose names are invariably associated with every department of science and literature. — *Conservative Journal*.

Ice from the glowing Crucible.

The article entitled "The First Idea of Everything," in our last number, abundantly showed that there may be, literally and materially, nothing new under the sun; yet, so many new facts, principles, and laws, are so daily coming to light, that the world is in no want of novelties. Thus a new branch of physics has of late years been inaugurated by the discovery of the (so called) spheroidal state of matter. When we had got steam and gas, we fancied we had fathomed the uttermost secrets of nature; but now marvels which a writer of fiction would hardly dare to introduce into a fairy tale or legend, turn out to be incontrovertible truth. For instance, a bold experimentalist—some people might call him an impudent quack—set his heart upon manufacturing a lump of ice. And where does he succeed in making it? Of all preposterous places in the world, he produces it inside a glowing crucible standing in a heated furnace; the heat of the furnace, moreover, not being the gentle temperature which bakers use to reduce beef and potatoes to a savory dish nicely browned and with the gravy in, but a chemist's white heat; and the bit of ice, so turned out, is not half melted hailstone, which you would suck with pleasure (if clean) after a summer afternoon's thunder-storm, but a diabolical little lump of such intense coldness that you would take it to be the concentration of a whole Russian winter, or espectral ice-drops distilled out of the very North Pole itself. — *Household Words*.

The Use of Paper in Japan.

It was wonderful to see the thousand useful as well as ornamental purposes to which paper was applicable in these industrious and tasteful people; our papier mache manufacturers, as well as the continental ones, should go to Yedo to learn what can be done with paper. We saw it made into material so close, resembling Russian and Morocco leather and pig skin, that it was very difficult to detect the difference. With the aid of lacquer varnish and skilful painting, paper made excellent trunks, tobacco bags, cigar cases, saddles, telescope cases, the frames of microscopes; and we even saw and used excellent waterproof coats made of simple paper, which did keep out the rain, and were as supple as the best Macintosh. The Japanese use neither silk nor cotton handkerchiefs, towels, or dusters; paper in their hands serves as an excellent substitute. It is soft thin, tough, of a pale yellow color, very plentiful and very cheap. The interior walls of many a Japanese apartment were formed of paper, being nothing more than painted screens; their windows are covered with a fine translucent description of the same material; it enters largely into the manufacture of nearly everything in a Japanese household; and we saw what seemed to be balls

of twine, which were nothing but long shreds of tough paper rolled up. If a shopkeeper had a parcel to tie up, he would take a strip of paper, roll it quickly between his hands, and use it for the purpose, and it was quite as strong as the ordinary string used at home. In short, without paper, all Japan would come to a dead lock; and, indeed, unless by an arbitrary exercise of authority, a tyrannical husband should stop his wife's paper, the sage Japanese mothers-in-law invariably stipulate in the marriage settlement that the bride is to have allowed her a certain quantity of paper.

Mourning in Different Countries.

Among the ancients, mourning was expressed by various signs:—Tearing their clothes, wearing sackcloth, laying aside emblems of honor; thus Plutarch from the time of his leaving the city with Pompey, neither shaved his head, nor, as usual, wore the crown or garland. Amongst the Romans, a year of mourning was ordained by law for women who had lost their husbands. The colors of the dress or habit worn to signify grief, vary in different countries. In Europe, the ordinary color for mourning is black, which, being the deprivation of light, is supposed to denote the termination of life. In China, it is white, the emblem of purity, which color was the mourning of the ancient Spartan and Roman ladies. In Egypt, it is yellow, which representing the color of leaves when they fall, and flowers when they fade, signifies the death of all human hopes. In Ethiopia, brown, which denotes the earth to which all the dead return. In Turkey, blue which is an emblem of the happiness which it is hoped the deceased enjoys. Kings and cardinals mourn in purple or violet, which is supposed to express the combination of sorrow and hope. The custom of mourning for the dead in shrieks and howlings is of great antiquity, and prevails almost universally among the followers of Mahomet — *Household Companion*.

Ether and Chloroform.

The following scientific and medical announcement is important:—"At the last sitting of Imperial Society of Medicine of Lyons, the important question of the relative advantages of ether and chloroform was discussed. Dr. Barrier stated that to his knowledge only three authenticated cases had caused death, and that even in those were some extraordinary circumstances. The deaths caused by chloroform, on the contrary were numerous. If therefore, ether was slower in its effects, it was on the other hand infinitely less dangerous. Dr. Perrequin, following on the same side drew a parallel between the means possessed by science for counteracting the dangerous effects either of ether or chloroform, and showed that in this respect the latter was greatly inferior to the former. Several other members expressed similar opinions without there being a single voice in favor of chloroform; and at length the society, on motion of Dr. Barrier, passed the following resolutions:—

1. That ether, used as an anæsthetic, is less dangerous than chloroform. 2d. That anæsthesia is produced as constantly and completely by ether as by chloroform. 3. That if either presents inconveniences, they are of slight importance, and are preferable to the danger inherent to the use of the latter. 4. That consequently ether is to be preferred to chloroform.

CURIOUS FACT.—Mr. Buckland the great naturalist, says of the cheameleon:—"Betwixt the two sides of the body there seems a lack of sympathy. One eye may be looking straight forward. One may be entirely asleep, while the other wide awake. And this kind of independent and separate action applies to each side of the creature—to its limbs. It cannot swim because its limbs refuse to act in concert. Could the two sides understand one another, and agree on a prescribed course of action, it might always be awake, or half awake. But it gains nothing by its unilateral independence; the two sides are like two horses that won't work in harness. It seems strange, with such a peculiarity, that on trees, or terra firma, the creature should be able to make any progress. But as the two sides are fed by one mouth, and as the insect tribes refuse to come to it, so they seem, in regard to all ordinary matters, to agree to sink their differences, and to move in harmony. The stomach is a potent harmonizer."

EDUCATION.—Thewal thought it very unfair to influence a child's mind by inculcating opinions before it should have come to years of discretion and be able to choose for itself. I showed him my garden, and told him it was my botanic garden. "How so?" said he; "it is covered with weeds." "Oh," I replied, "that is because it has not yet come to its age of discretion and choice." The weeds, you see, have taken the liberty

to grow, and I thought it unfair in me to prejudice the soil against roses and strawberries." — *Coleridge*.

European Intelligence.

ARRIVAL OF THE EUROPA.

The steamship *Europa*, which left Liverpool on the 16th inst., arrived at Halifax at 1 o'clock on the 26th July.

THE PEACE.
The papers are mainly engaged in speculations upon the sudden conclusion of peace and its results. Letters from Paris assert that much discontent prevailed there in regard to the terms of peace and the small results of the war, although the peace itself gave general satisfaction. The *Siecle*, the organ of the French liberals, is dissatisfied, and says the French will have everything to begin again in a few years, if the minuscule Austrian influence is sufficient to abide in Italy; it calls for the expulsion of the petty Italian Princes, confederates of Austria.

The Emperor Napoleon had quitted the seat of war and was en route for France; he was expected to proceed directly to St. Cloud and defer his official entry into Paris until he makes it at the head of the army of Italy. The Emperor and King of Sardinia arrived at Turin on the 15th, amid enthusiastic acclamations; they were met by Prince Carignano and Count Cavour. The Emperor of Austria left Verona for Vienna on the morning of the 14th.

An order of the day, published at Verona on the 12th, says, Austria commenced war for the maintenance of sacred treaties, relying on the devotedness of her people, the bravery of her army, and on her natural allies. Not having found allies, Austria yields to an unfavorable political situation. The Emperor cordially thanks his people, as well as the army who have again shown that their sovereign may confidently rely on their devotedness, if any more struggles should arise. The interview between the Emperors at Villa Franca, is said to have lasted nearly the whole day.

The Paris Monitor publishes a proclamation by the Emperor, announcing to his soldiers the basis of peace. It is to the following effect:—"The principal aim of the war is obtained, and Italy will become, for the first time a nation. Venice, it is true, remains to Austria, but it will, nevertheless, be an Italian province, forming part of the Italian Confederation. The union of Lombardy with Piedmont, creates for us a powerful ally, who will owe to us its independence."

The Italian governments which have remained inactive, or which have been called into their possessions, will comprehend the necessity of salutary reforms. A general amnesty will obliterate the traces of civil discord. Italy, henceforth mistress of her destinies, will only have herself to accuse, should she not progress regularly in order and freedom. You will soon return to France; a grateful country will there receive, with transport, those soldiers who have raised so high the glory of our arms at Montebello, Palestro, Turbigo, Magenta, Marignano, and Solferino; who in two months have freed Piedmont, and have only stopped because the contest was about to assume proportions no longer in keeping with the interest that France had in this formidable war. Be proud then of your successes, proud of being well beloved children of that France, who will always be the great nation, so long as she shall have the heart to comprehend noble causes, and men like yourselves to defend them.

(Signed) NAPOLEON.
Vallegio, July 12th.
The preliminary conditions of the treaty of peace are thus announced in official Austrian correspondence. Austria and France will support the formation of an Italian Confederation to which Austria accedes. Lombardy as far as the line of the Mincio, is to be given up. Mantua, Peschiera, Borgoforte, and the whole of Venetia remain Austrian possessions. The Princes of Tuscany and Modena are to return to their States. A universal amnesty is granted.

The Vienna correspondent of the London Times says, three applications were made to the Emperor of Austria before he would consent to an armistice. The overtures were made direct by Napoleon for the purpose of preventing mediation by neutrals. The same correspondent says the Pope was burned in effigy at Milan, and that a very unfriendly feeling had sprung up between Napoleon and Victor Emmanuel.

The Monitor of Friday contains the following:—"Des Avennes, July 14th.—The Augsburg *Gazette* alleges that the cause of the armistice was the existence of a dangerous malady in the French Army, but to this we can give a formal denial. The sanitary condition of the French army is excellent,

and exceeds even the hopes which could have been entertained from the heat and fatigue endured."

The King of Sardinia has issued the following proclamation to the people of Lombardy:—"Heaven has blessed our arms. With the powerful aid of our magnanimous and valiant army, the Emperor Napoleon, we arrived in a few days, after victory upon victory, at the banks of the Mincio. To-day I come back among you, to tell you that Heaven has granted your wishes; an armistice followed by preliminaries of peace, assure the people of Lombardy of their independence. According to your desire, many times expressed, you will henceforth form with our ancient state one single and free family. I take your destiny under my directions, and hope to find in you that concurrence which the chief of a state needs in order to create a new administration. I tell you people of Lombardy to trust in your King. Established on solid and imperishable basis, he will procure happiness for the new country which Heaven has intrusted to his government."

A letter from Milan of the 13th, states that the King of Sardinia arrived there on that evening, amid the plaudits of the populace. His Majesty subsequently presented himself on the balcony of his hotel, and was greeted with warm acclamations of "Vive le Re!" The Emperor of Austria ordered the immediate cessation of recruiting, just commenced. It was rumoured the Emperor and Empress of France would visit Vienna. The French army, it is reported, commenced counter-march. Count Cavour and his colleagues in the Sardinian Ministry have resigned, and their resignations accepted by the King; this action caused by the conditions of peace. Count Arce charged with the formation of a new Cabinet.

Two days before the armistice a war tax was imposed on Piedmont, amounting to one tenth of all taxes on real property, customs dues, &c. It was considered probable the dismissal of Cardinal Antonelli would result from the state of affairs in Italy. It is said that Garibaldi was about to issue a proclamation, and it was considered doubtful if he would readily lay down arms. Up to 11th the formation of Hungarian Legion had proceeded prosperously, 5,000 men having joined. A letter from Rome of 7th says, the Pope had sent a telegram to Napoleon, stating his determination to demand from Catholic powers armed intervention.

GREAT BRITAIN.

In the House of Commons on the 13th, the bill abolishing Church rates was debated and passed to a second reading, by a vote of 263 to 193, amidst loud cheering. On the 24th in the Lords, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe withdrew his motion relative to the affairs of Italy.

The Duke of Newcastle stated that government did not intend renewing the license by which the Hudson's Bay Company held their North American Territories. A bill would soon be introduced for appointing Magistrates throughout the territory, to prevent disputes between the Indians and whites and to establish trading regulations and to prevent excesses. Government was not prepared to grant a subsidy for the establishment of Railways in the territory.

The Duke of Somerset said that the expediency of entering into arrangements for arming ocean mail steamers had been under consideration, but as a committee of naval officers in 1852 reported against such a measure, on the ground of expense, nothing had been done. A general survey had, however, been recently ordered of steam tugs and other vessels employed at the mouths of rivers in order to ascertain how far they might be rendered available for defensive purposes.

In the House of Commons considerable progress was made with the Army and Navy estimates. In regard to the former, Sidney Herbert explained the present military position of the country and measures of defence. He expected 100 Armstrong guns to be made this year, and 200 before the end of the financial year.

On the 15th, in both Houses, reference was made to the treaty of peace. Lord Derby pointedly enquired if the King of Sardinia was a party to the treaty; for it was understood the Emperor of the French was his ally and not the principal in the quarrel.

Lord John Russell in the Commons said, he did not know whether the parties to the treaty of Vienna had been consulted, but so far as England was concerned no particulars beyond those published had been furnished. Lord Cawley had called on the French Government for details, but Count Walewski told him he could afford no information until the Emperor arrived in Paris, which was expected on the 18th. Sir James Graham inquired if Government was aware that a formidable French fleet was stationed at Cherbourg and Brest, with gunboats for landing troops. Lord John Russell said, France had made no extraordinary preparations, and consequently no explanation had been demanded.