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The Observer.

Published on Tuesday, by Donald A. Cameron at his Office, corner of Prince William and Church Streets, over the Store of Messrs. Jardine & Co.—Terms: 15s. per annum, half in advance.

MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

THIS Company is prepared to receive applications for Insurance against FIRE upon Buildings and other Property, at the Office of the subscriber. I. WOODWARD.

St. John, Nov. 11, 1846. *Secretary*

NOTICE

IS hereby given, that I have appointed Messrs. W. & G. Ritchie to act as my Attornies, and to settle the affairs of the Estate of the late James Robertson, deceased; and all persons indebted to the said Estate are requested to make immediate payment to them, and all persons having any claims against the said Estate, will please hand them in to my said Attornies for adjustment.

CHARLOTTE ANN ROBERTSON.
Sole Executrix of the Estate of the late James Robertson.

Dated ninth day of February, A. D. 1849.

FALL GOODS!

Per "Snowdon," "Lisbon," &c.

MORRISON & CO.

Prince William-street.

MORRISON & CO. are now opening an extensive variety of Goods suitable for the

FALL TRADE,

which have been carefully selected in the best

English and Scotch Markets,

by a person thoroughly conversant with the styles suited to this market.

DRESS GOODS.

PLAIN ORLEANS, Lustres, and COBURGS, SHOT CHAMELEONS, Covenanters, *Striped Glacies, Poplin Lustres,* CASHMERES and DELAINES, &c. &c.

SHAWL DEPARTMENT.

Plaid, Wool, Printed Cashmere, Paisley, NORWICH, BEN NEVIS, MAUDE, GALA and CLOTH SHAWLS, LONG SHAWLS.

CLOAK MATERIALS.

Gala Plaids, all Wool PLAIDS, TWEEDS, Napoleons, BALMORALS, &c.

FANCY GOODS.

ENGLISH and FRENCH RIBBON, VELVETS, PLUSHES, TERRIES, Black and White LACES, Fringes, GIMPS, HOSIERY and GLOVES, *NECK TIES, SASH RIBBONS,* Black Gro de Naps, Turc Satin.

FUR DEPARTMENT,

Muffs, Boas, Cardinals, Cuffs, Victorines, Riding Boas, &c., in every variety of Fur.

FURNISHING GOODS.

Witney, Bath and Point BLANKETS, Counterpanes, Quilts, Sheetings, Damasks, *MOREENS, FRINGES,* TABLE LINEN.

DOMESTIC GOODS.

White, Red, Blue and Yellow FLANNELS, SAXONYS, in white, coloured and check'd, TWILLED FLANNELS, *PRINTED COTTONS in great variety,* Grey, White, and Striped COTTONS, *COTTON WARPS.*

Gentlemen's Department.

Broad CLOTHS, Kersemeres, Rich Vestings, PILOT and BEAVERS in all colors, New Fancy Trowserings, *BRACES, Neck Ties, Scarfs,* GLOVES and HOSE, LAMBSWOOL VESTS, DRAWERS, &c.

with an endless variety of other seasonable Goods, all of which will be offered to the purchaser at the lowest market rates.

October 2.

LONDON HOUSE,
MARKET SQUARE.

FALL IMPORTATIONS.

The regular FALL SUPPLY of this Establishment are now being received per ships "*Lisbon,*" "*Snowdon,*" and "*Unicorn,*" among which will be found—

AN extensive assortment of DRESS MATERIALS, in Shot and Brocaded Alpacas, Mohair and Lyonese Cloths, Shot Check Lustres, Californias, Kossuth and Venetian Stripes, Shaded and Striped Poplin de Soies, Cashmeres, Chameleons, Coburg and Orleans Cloth, Black and Col'd Plain Shot and Glacie Gro de Naps, French and Turc SATINS and Persians.

CLOAKINGS in French Merinos, Plain and Fancy Tweeds, Hungarian and Genoa Cloths, &c., Woollen and Gala Plaids.

SILK VELVETS, colored and Black;

BONNET and CAP RIBBONS;

SHAWLS in Plain, Printed and Embroider'd Cashmere, Check'd and Plaid, Woollen, Square and Long;

Handkerchiefs and Neck Ties; Black and Col'd Silk Neckerchiefs and Scarfs, Opera and Deboinville Ties and Stocks, HOSIERY and Gloves, LACES, Edgings, Nets, Black and Fancy Demi VEILS, Stays, Umbrellas, &c.;

A large Stock of FURS in Muffs, Boas, Victorines, Cuffs and Cardinals, of Squirrel, Fitch, Mock Ermine, Stone Marten and French Sable;

FLANNELS in Plain Super Welsh, Lancashire, Galloway, Swanskin and Donnetts;

KERSEYS and SERGES;

BLANKETS, Quilts and Counterpanes; Moreens, Diapers, Dowlas, Towellings, Cotton Swanskins, Linings, Osnaburgs and Ducks;

7-8, 9-8, and 5-4 Prints in great variety; Fancy Regattas and Furnitures;

Grey and White COTTONS;

SHEETINGS, Striped Shirtings;

BROAD CLOTHS, Pilot and Beaver CLOTHS Doeskins, Kerseys, Tweeds and Satinetts, Napoleon Cords, Lastings and VESTINGS;

Cotton WARPS, Wadding, Batting, Fishing Thread, Ribbon VELVETS, Braids, Gimps, and a general stock of Trimmings and Small Wares.

☞ *WHOLESALE and RETAIL.* ☜

October 2. T. W. DANIEL

RICE.

Ex Brig *Portland* from Boston—

TWENTY-FIVE Casks RICE.

For sale low while landing.

Nov. 20. H. G. KINNEAR.

VICTORIA HOUSE,

October 16th, 1849.

EXTENSIVE IMPORTATIONS OF

Fall and Winter Goods,

From LONDON, LEEDS, MANCHESTER and GLASGOW, per ships *Snowdon, Lisbon* and *Unicorn,* comprising—

BRITISH and French SATINS & SILKS, *in newest shades and patterns,*
LADIES' DRESS GOODS, newest styles, in French Merinos, DeLaines, Cashmeres, Cobourgs, Orleans, and every kind of newest WOOLLEN and WORSTED Materials,
Long and Square SHAWLS, in *Plaid Wool, Fine Cloth, Paisley, Maude, &c.*
CLOAKINGS, in every new style, in Plain and Fancy Fine Cloth, Tweeds, Plaids, &c., with Trimmings to suit, and a few London made FRENCH PATTERN CLOAKS.
FURS of every description, in CAPES, BOAS, VICTORINES, MUFFS, Gauntlets, &c.
SILK VELVETS in Black and Fancy colors,
TERRY Velvets in all colors, with RIBBONS to match,
British and Fancy Bonnet and Cap RIBBONS, newest styles,
VELVET SATIN and Silk NECK TIES,
HOSIERY and GLOVES of every description,
Thread and Wove Laces, Edgings and Footings,
ILLUSION NETTS, white and colored, for Ladies Dresses, &c.
Fancy and Plain BOBBINETTS,
Black and colored LACE VEILS of every kind,
Limerick LACE CAPES,
French and British Embroideries, in COLLARS, Chemazetts, Habit Shirts, Sleeves, &c.
Infants' Embroidered ROBES and CAPS,
Ladies' French Cambric Pocket HDKFS., in Plain and Trimmed, with Limerick Lace,
WHITE MUSLINS, in Jaconet, Checked, Striped, Book, Mull, Tarlatan, &c. &c.
French and English Garment and FURNITURE PRINTS,
Earlston and Power Loom Heavy GINGHAMS,
Twilled and Plain Regatta Shirtings, Checks, &c.
PILOT, BEAVER, and BROAD CLOTHS,
VELVET, SATIN, and CACHIMERE VESTINGS,
FANCY TROWSERINGS, in Kerseymeres, Cassimeres, Tweeds, &c.
Gent's Silk and Satin NECK TIES, in Squares, Scarfs, Opera Ties, STOCKS, &c.
Gent's India Silk and French Cambric Pocket Handkerchiefs,
WHITE FLANNELS in Saxony, Welsh, Swanskin, &c.
Red, Blue, and Yellow FLANNELS,
BLANKETS, SERGES, &c.
MOLESKINS, Cantoons, Drills, Tickings, &c.
IRISH LINENS, Lawns, Diapers, Hollands, &c.
Damask Table LINENS, Napkins, Towels, &c.
OSNABURGS, CANVAS, &c., &c.
White and Grey COTTONS, SHEETINGS, and WARPS,
Tailors' Trimmings and Small Wares, &c., &c.

☞ *The above being personally selected in the best markets, will be sold at the LOWEST RATES, FOR CASH, and ONE PRICE ONLY.*

JAMES DOHERTY & CO.

Oct. 6, 1849.

FALL GOODS.

Received per *Lisbon* from London, and *Snowdon* from Liverpool, an extensive assortment of GOODS, comprising—

MUFFS, BOAS, CAPES, CARDINALS, Victorines, Cuffs, Caps, &c.
Black and Colored SILK VELVETS,
Gro de Naps, SATINS and SATINETTS,
Lambswool, Worsted, Cotton and Silk HOSIERY
BLONDS, Netts, Laces and Edgings,
GLOVES of every description,
SILK, RIBBON VELVETS, all colors,
Gimps, Fringes, Bindings and Braids,
Handkerchiefs and Neck Ties;
A variety of Woollen Square and Long SHAWLS,
GALA PLAIDS and Fancy Cloakings,
Fashionable DRESS MATERIAL, of various kinds,
A large lot of BONNET RIBBONS,
Umbrellas, Stocks, Braces and Shirt Collars,
Witney, Bath, and Rose BLANKETS,
Ladies' BOOTS and SHOES,
Pilot and Beaver Cloth, Doeskins,
BROAD CLOTHS, Cassimeres and Kerseys,
Velvet and Satin VESTINGS;
Grey, White and Striped SHIRTINGS,
Printed Cottons and Furnitures,
White, Red and Yellow FLANNELS,
Green Baizes, Kerseys and SERGES,
QUILTS, Counterpanes, and FRINGES,
Blue and White COTTON WARPS,
Linens, Lawns, Diapers and Towellings,
OSNABURG, Canvas and Duck,
Black, Brown and Check'd HOLLANDS,
CARPETING and Floor Cloths.

With a variety of other Goods, the whole of which are offered at the very lowest market prices.

W. G. LAWTON.

Winter Importations--1849.

J. & M. DOHERTY

Have received per "*Lisbon,*" from London, and "*Snowdon*" from Liverpool, part of their *FALL STOCK,* consisting of:

PILOT, Beaver, and BROAD CLOTHS;
Buckskins, Doeskins, Tweeds, and CASSIMERES;
Superfine Double Milled Drab KERSEYS;
Flannels, Kerseys, Blankets, and Serges;
7-8, 9-8, and 5-4 Fancy Printed COTTONS;
Black and Coloured Silk and Cotton VELVETS;
Coburgs, Orleans, Mohairs, Glacés, &c.;
Gro de Naps, SATINS, and Satinetts;
HOSIERY, GLOVES, LACES and NETTS;
FURS in Muffs, Boas, Capes, Cardinals, Victorines, Cuffs, &c. &c.;
Silk Ribbon VELVETS in all colours;
Gimps, Fringes, Fancy Worsted Braids, and other Trimmings

October 2.

Sugar and Currants.

On Consignment, per "Portland," from Boston:

20 HHDS. Bright Muscovado SUGAR,
10 barrels superior CURRANTS—
(Fresh and in good order.) GEO. THOMAS,

Nov. 27. *South Market Wharf.*

New and Cheap Room Papers.

THE Subscriber has just received a new Supply of very handsome Cheap *ROOM PAPERS,* which are offered for Sale from 4½d. to 9d. a Piece. S. K. FOSTER.

November 6.—6

The Garland.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Christians, with rev'rence hail this day,
It gave your Saviour birth:
Each thought to Heaven should fly away,
Nor linger more on earth!

This morn appear'd—blest Zion's King,
What love to man portray'd!
To Him all praise, all homage bring,
Salvation he proclaim'd.

Sole Monarch of the vast expanse,
Who our atonement made,
Thou'st wak'd the sinner from his trance,
By Thee his debts are paid.

Man's dreary path, no longer dark,
A vale of tears no more;
Christ piloted the shatter'd bark
To Canaan's heavenly shore.

To Him, in glory high enthron'd,
Your voices gladly raise;
To Immanuel, by angels crown'd,
Sing solemn hymns of praise.

For all his mercies, freely giv'n,
Let perfum'd incense rise;
He oped for man the gates of Heav'n,
With hope illum'd the skies!

Miscellaneous.

THE REPUDIATING STATE OF ALABAMA.

[From the London Times.]

The state of Alabama is one of those regions to which one may look with a sort of refreshment from the pent-up populations, exhausted resources, and burdened exchequers of this elder world. It lies between the 30th and 35th degrees of north latitude, on the Gulf of Mexico, and within a few days' sail of the principal West Indian Islands. It is a vast plain of unsurpassed fertility, intersected by numerous navigable rivers, and equally adapted for the crops both of the tropical and the temperate zones. By the aid of railways it is now a short cut from the northern States of the Union to the West Indies and Central America, and the coast of the Pacific. In mere geographical extent it is about the size of England, while its population does not exceed that of a moderate English county, or the metropolitan borough of Marylebone. We might go on for a column expatiating on the advantages of this fortunate State, but we will only add that, by preserving in all its integrity the convenient institution of slavery, it proves that its scruples do not stand in the way of its advancement. Certainly, if there is a place in this world where a man might expect to breathe a little freer, forget the sins and debts of his forefathers, be honest with ease, and virtuous with less than usual sacrifice, that place is Alabama. We are all apt to imagine a situation in which we should discharge the duties we now neglect or slur over; and if England had her wish she would probably ask for just such a pretty addition to her home territory as the region we have described. How would she reward her worthies, settle her paupers, employ her juvenile offenders, and, above all, how soon would she pay off her debt! At least, it is easy to think so. But, as if to show that virtue does not depend on opportunities, fortunate Alabama is about to be the chief of defaulters. That is her glory. To this end was she blessed with such unexampled resources—that she might vindicate all the more gratuitously, and on the grandest possible scale, the noble principle of repudiation. Were her debt eight hundred million pounds, or a tithe of that, or a tithe of a tithe of that—were it only eight millions, in that case repudiation might be a necessity, and Alabama might be only like Moolraj, the humble victim of circumstances. Considering the scale and proportion of trans-Atlantic honour, there would be nothing wonderful in an American State as large as England voting itself unable to pay one-hundredth part of our national debt. But the promised testimony of Alabama to the great principle of repudiation is spontaneous, deliberate, and emphatic. The total of her indebtedness is barely £2,000,000 of our money. The interest on this debt and all the costs of the state government do not altogether exceed £140,000 a year. The present revenue of the state from all sources is about £115,000 a year, leaving an annual deficit of about £25,000. This £25,000 a year is the subject of the glorious testimony which Alabama is now about to make in the presence of the civilized world. She will not pay the money. It is not for the value of the sum, but for the principle. Alabama pays as much in the way of state taxes as she finds compatible with her comfort, and will not pay one dollar more. European nations feel the same repugnance to additional taxes: for example, this country last year, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed a five per cent income tax.

But there are other alternatives besides increased taxation. One of them is to borrow—a resource which we have lately been reduced to. Several courses are open to the state of Alabama, not for paying off the debt, but for distributing it over future years. But no; these heroic repudiators are above such paltry shifts. They will not pay at a greater pace than they have done heretofore; and, as a portion of the capital will shortly be due, they are resolved not to refund that at all. The public profession of insolvency has not yet been made.—The legislature meets next month, and will immediately be called on to decide whether it will acknowledge by increased taxation the necessity of paying off its debt some time or other. Meanwhile the people have already expressed themselves with their usual energy. The candidates at the late elections were examined as to their sentiments on this all-important point, which in Alabama just now stands for the six points of the Charter. They have responded to the popular feeling with more or less heartiness. Some have been in favour of total repudiation; others have advocated a composition for half the existing amount of the debt; while others, again, propose to obtain the same result, by reducing the rate of interest to half the present per centage. Honesty is not a matter of degree, and the difference between total repudiators and half repudiators is merely that the former is the more honest knavery of the two. When Alabama once makes up its mind to pocket half the capital or half the interest due to the creditors and has resolved that the appropriation is an act of public spirit and virtue, it will not be slow to discover that the same process of reasoning applies to the other half. In fact, there can be no principle without consistency. The continued payment of the remaining moiety would testify with very unpleasant force against the act of repudiation. On the maxim that dead men tell no tales, it will be better to kill the debt at once and put the creditors out of pain. Half measures will thus lead to what may be called a teetotal repudiation; and we shall certainly call it a half-measure if, with rapidly increasing wealth and population, and, consequently, with abundant means to pay, the State Legislature should decide against any increased taxation, and thus perpetuate the annual deficit. The State of Mississippi has already done its repudiation. The *Mississippi Democrat* "considers the question settled by the people, and is not in favour of renewing the subject."—General Quitman, who was once rather green on this point, has now thoroughly righted himself in public esteem, and discovered the esoteric grace of wilful insolvency. His words deserve to be printed in letters of gold, "I will sustain Mississippi in the proud and enviable position she occupies, in spite of all the sneers of bankers and brokers." *Non equidem invideo, miror magis.* It is with wonder rather than envy that we must regard the position of a State which, with all the riches of the noblest river in the world flowing at its feet, refuses to pay a common debt, a great part of which is contracted to the hard-worked inhabitants of this crowded and over-taxed country. If the citizens of Mississippi or Alabama can prove that debt may be repudiated without dishonesty, and that a nation may stand in a high and enviable position on the ruin of thousands who had trusted to its honour, we shall then perhaps be tempted to envy its possession of a patent morality, which combines the dignity of virtue with the conveniences of crime, and makes the moral excellence of individuals depend on the amount of injury they inflict on their species.

SCIENCE OF FARMING.

BY LEVI BARTLETT.

There are four other elementary bodies that enter into the growth and composition of plants, and it is from these the greater part of bulk of plants and animals are composed. These four substances are oxygen, nitrogen, and carbon. The three first of these are known to us only in a gaseous form. Carbon is pure charcoal, and when burned, it combines with the oxygen of the air in certain and exact proportions, forming carbonic acid.—These four are termed by chemists *organic* bodies, and they are susceptible among themselves (and with the organic constituents of plants) of forming an infinity of chemical combinations, and yielding an endless variety of products.

The atmosphere we breathe, and in which plants grow and live, is composed principally of a mixture of oxygen and nitrogen gases, in the proportion, of very nearly, twenty-one of the former to seventy nine of the latter. It also contains, as a constituent necessary to the very existence of vegetable life, a small per centage of carbonic acid, on an average of about one twenty-five hundredth part, and however incredible it may seem to those unacquainted with agricultural chemistry, yet it is a fact, that from this source is derived about one half of the solid substance of all plants that grow upon the face of the whole globe.

At the first view it would seem impossible that this apparently small amount of carbonate acid diffused through the atmosphere could supply to growing plants the carbon found in their solid parts, as it amounts to from forty to fifty per cent, of all trees, plants, and vegetables, in fact, all the parts of plants which are cultivated for the food of man or animals, and unquestionably most of this carbon is derived directly from the air, by the agency of the leaves of plants, although there can be no doubt but a small proportion of it is taken up by the roots mixed with water, and some of the inorganic matters that are in solution, such as potash, lime, &c.

When we reflect that the atmosphere not only entirely surrounds the earth, but extends in every direction about forty-five miles, "and if the whole acid were collected in a stratum or bed occupying the lower part of the atmosphere, such a stratum would have the thickness of about thirteen feet;" and this would be spread over the waters of the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, the deserts of sands, the frozen regions of the poles, and, in fact, over every part and place of the globe, and, by the wisdom of the Great Contriver, this gas is, in innumerable ways, returned to the air as fast as abstracted, by growing plants. Here, then, our wonder ceases.

We know, if we take a given quantity, by weight, of well-seasoned wood, and distil it in a close vessel, or burn it in heaps, covered over so as to exclude the free access of air, wood charcoal is left behind. When this process is well performed, the charcoal will weigh from forty to fifty per cent as much as the wood did. The charcoal consists of carbon, with a slight admixture only of earthy matter and saline matter, which remains behind when the coal or carbon is burned in the open air. When the charcoal or carbon is burned in the open air, it combines with the oxygen of the air, to keep up the combustion, and the whole of the coal enters into a chemical union with the oxygen, and forms carbonic acid, or in other words, carbonic acid consists of oxygen, with a definite or fixed quantity of charcoal or carbon dissolved in it. This gas is composed of two proportions of oxygen and one of carbon. In this state it is taken in by leaves of plants. The leaves of plants are their lungs, and they possess the power of absorbing from the air carbonic acid, and in daylight it is decomposed, but much more rapidly in clear sunlight. When thus decomposed in the leaf the oxygen is set free, and is again restored to the atmosphere, but the carbon is retained and mingled with the true sap of the plant; and in obedience to those mysterious laws of chemical combination is made to form a moiety of the endless variety of wood, fruits, seeds, &c., which are the results of vegetable life.

It may seem a mystery how the leaf of a plant can take from the air the carbonic acid, when in such apparent small quantity, and separate the carbon from its oxygen. We grant it is a mystery; but then we know for a certainty the fact of the leaves of plants possessing this power of absorption and decomposition; it is the way the growth of a plant has been provided for—the Creator has so willed it.

Plants take from the atmosphere, by their leaves, carbonic acid, a deleterious gas, and decompose it, and restore to it the oxygen that is taken into the lungs of animals, which combines with the carbon of the food, and by the process of respiration is given off to the atmosphere in the form of carbonic acid, the food of plants.

It is sometimes said that politicans and gamblers play into each other's hands for their own private good. Animals and plants perform a more honorable operation; they play into each other's mouths for the general good.—*Monthly Visitor.*

Mr. David Vedder on Poetry and the Poets.

Mr. Vedder having been publicly entertained at dinner at Newhaven (Scotland) lately by a number of his literary admirers, in returning thanks for his health being given on that occasion by the Chairman, made the following speech:—

"I rise," said Mr. Vedder, "with great trepidation, to tender you my heartfelt thanks for the high honour you have done me this evening. I am not gifted with eloquence, but I am gifted with gratitude, and I entreat you, gentlemen, to revert to the time when, for some especial favour, you found the grateful throbbings of your own hearts, and then imagine what I feel upon the present occasion. I am consoled, however, to know, that while I am the ostensible cause of your meeting, you are doing also honour to yourselves, by showing how highly you appreciate the lyrical literature of your native land—so highly indeed that, humble as my name stands among my contemporaries, you have condescended to grant me the meed of your approbation. I need not tell you how highly I value the boon. The Parnassus of Scotland stands forth, like Benlomond or Bennevis, an elevated, a sublime beacon for the world to gaze on with admiration—with wonder. The pilgrims who have clomb its rugged ascent have been

"Lights of the world, and demi-gods of fame."

Amidst the gloom of the 13th century our own James the First struck his country's lyre with the hand of a master; and a constellation of Scottish bards shed undying light amidst the obscurity of the 16th and 17th centuries—Douglas—Dunbar—Kennedy—Montgomery—Alex. Scott—the classical Drummond of Hawthornden, and the harmonious and tender Hamilton of Bangour. In more modern times our catalogue becomes richer and richer in poets, sprung from every grade in life—from the peer in his ermine and coronet, to the shepherd on the hill-side in his tartan plaid. The immortal author of the "Seasons" was reared in the humble manse of Ednam—the authors of "Douglas" and "Runnymede" were pastors in the Scottish Church—Bruce was a peasant-student in the Secession Kirk, and Skinner was a non-jurant Episcopalian. Ramsay was a barber, and Ferguson was a writer's clerk—while all the world knows that Robert Burns was a hornyhanded ploughman, and Tannahill a hand-loom weaver. Walter Scott was a man of law, and John Leyden a man of medicine. Campbell was a tutor, and Hogg a shepherd. Byron was a peer of the realm, and Tennant was a dominie. Allan Cunningham was a stone-mason, and John Malcolm a subaltern in the 42d regiment. Falconer, like myself, was a sailor, and Penrose and Gray were marines. The author of "Will and Jean" was a negro-driver, and the author of "Watty and Meg" was a pedlar. These, embalmed as they are in the temple of fame, are only a sample of the mighty names which have made our country what it is. The waters of our Scottish Helicon have also irrigated and fructified the arid wastes of the moral world; our melodies pervade the globe, and the very titles of our lyrics have become familiar as household words throughout the civilised earth. If an expatriated Scotsman, several centuries since, heard "Bothwell bank, thou bloomest fair," warbled in the land of the Paynim, what must it be now, when steam and electricity are performing prodigies almost superhuman? If our English neighbours, in the plenitude of their patriotism, should say, "Give us companion pictures to Shakspeare and Milton," I answer, without hesitation, ours are Walter Scott and John Wilson—the former *has* done, the latter *might* have done that which would entitle his portrait to hang side by side with the author of Paradise Lost—had he concentrated his mighty genius on some sublime theme, and not frittered it away on periodical essays. Like the great Edmund Burke, he,

"Though born for the universe, narrow'd his mind,
And to *Magee* gave up what was meant for mankind."

Lake of Alligators in Scinde.—This curious place is about eight miles from Kurrachee, and is well worth inspecting by all who are fond of the monstrous and grotesque. A moderate ride, through a sandy and sterile tract, varied with a few patches of jungle, brings one to a grove of tamarind trees, hid in the bosom of which lie the grisly brood of monsters. Little would one, ignorant of the locale, suspect that under that green wood in that tiny pool, which an active leaper could half spring across, such hideous denizens are concealed. "Here is the pool," I said to my guide rather contemptuously, "but where are the alligators?" At the same time I was stalking on very boldly with head erect, and rather inclined to flout the whole affair, *naso adunco.* A sudden hoarse roar or bark, however, under my very feet, made me execute a pirouette in the air with extraordinary adroitness, and perhaps with more animation than grace. I had almost stepped on a young crocodilian imp, *about three feet long, whose bite, small as he was,* would have been the reverse of pleasant. Presently the genius of the place made his appearance in the shape of a wizard-looking old Fakeer, who, on my presenting him with a couple of rupees, produced his wand—in other words, a long pole, and then proceeded to "call up his spirits." On his shouting "Ao! ao!" "Come! come!" two or three times, the water suddenly became alive with monsters. At least three score huge alligators, some of them fifteen feet in length, made their appearance, and came thronging to the shore. The whole scene reminded me of fairy tales. The solitary wood, the pool with its strange inmates, the Fakeer's lonely hut on the hill side, the Fakeer himself, tall, swart, and gaunt, the robber-looking Belochee by my side, made up a fantastic picture.—Strange, too, the control our showman displayed over his "lions." On his motioning with the pole they stopped (indeed they had already arrived at a disagreeable propinquity,) and on his calling out, "Bantho," "Sit down," they lay flat on their stomachs, grinning horrible obedience with their open and expectant jaws. Some large pieces of flesh were thrown to them, to get which they struggled, writhed, and fought, and tore the flesh into shreds and gobbets. I was amused with the respect the smaller ones showed to their overgrown seniors.—One fellow, about ten feet long, was walking up to the feeding ground from the water, when he caught a glimpse of another much larger just behind him. It was odd to see the frightened look with which he sidled out of the way, evidently expecting to lose half a yard of his tail before he could effect his retreat. At a short distance, (perhaps half a mile) from the first pool, I was shown another, in which the water was as warm as one could bear it for complete immersion, yet even here I saw some small alligators. The Fakeer told me these brutes were very numerous in the river, about 15 or 20 miles to the west. The monarch of the place, an enormous alligator, to which the Fakeer had given the name of "Mor Saheb," (my Lord Mor), never obeyed the call to come out. As I walked round the pool I was shown where he lay, with his head above the water, immovable as a log, and for which I should have mistaken him, but for his small savage eyes, which glittered so that they seemed to emit sparks. He was 20 feet in length.—*Dry Leaves from Young Egypt.*

The North-West Passage.—We have read of ships being frozen up before in the history of similar expeditions, but that ships should be imbedded in a field of ice more than fifty miles in circumference—that this huge field of ice should move for 23 days at the rate of eight to ten miles daily, carrying with it the imprisoned ships; and when at last their destruction and the death of their gallant crews seemed inevitable, that it should of itself rend into fragments, and melt away, having conveyed the ships in safety so far on their voyage homewards, does indeed appear to be so wonderful a passage in maritime adventure as to merit particular notice and remark. We will leave Sir James Ross to describe what befell:—"We had now fully made up our minds that the ships were fixed for the winter, and, dismal as the prospect appeared, it was far preferable *to being carried along the west coast of Baffin's Bay where the grounded bergs are in such numbers upon the shallow banks off that shore as to render it next to impossible for ships involved in a pack to escape destruction.* It was, therefore, with a mixture of hope and anxiety that, on the wind shifting to the westward, we perceived *the whole body of ice begin to drive to the eastward at the rate of eight to ten miles daily.* Every effort on our part was totally unavailing; *for no human power could have moved either of the ships a single inch; they were thus completely taken out of our hands, and, in the centre of a field of ice more than fifty miles in circumference, were carried along the southern shore of Lancaster Sound.* After passing its entrance, the ice drifted in a more southerly direction, along the west shore of Baffin's Bay, until we were abreast of Pond's Bay, to the southward of which we observed a great number of icebergs stretching across our path, and presenting the fearful prospect of our worst anticipations. But, *when least expected by us, our release was almost miraculously brought about. The great field of ice was rent into innumerable fragments, as if by some unseen power.*"—If we consider the course taken by the ice field, the helplessness of the human beings whom it held involved in its terrible gripe, and the moment at which it released them, it appears to us that the expression of Sir James Ross scarcely savours of an hyperbole. This was, indeed, "a miracle!"

Curious Punishment for Conjugal Infidelity.—On Friday week the inhabitants of Barnard-castle, Durham, were amused by the town cryer proclaiming the following:—"Mr. John Kay is going to burn Mrs. Kay's clothes upon the Demesnes Hill, and he invites Mr. Hopper to the fire which is now kindling." The cryer commenced at Mr. Hopper's door, and it being the dinner hour, he was followed by a large concourse of people. They proceeded to the Demesnes, a field near the town, upon a hill, a very large fire of straw and wood was made by Mr. Kay, (who is an innkeeper in the town,) upon the top of which he laid all the valuable wearing apparel and articles of his wife, which consisted of satin and silk dresses, including nearly the whole of her bridal garments, muslin dresses, shawls, victorines, bonnets, veils, caps, artificials, parasols, a pair of beautiful stays, stockings, brooches, rings, a fine silk cloak, a quantity of bed linen, workboxes, a quantity of baby linen, a pincushion with the inscription "welcome little stranger" upon it, and a great many more clothes of all descriptions. These clothes were considered to be worth at least £20. It is supposed that Mr. Kay's reason for doing this was conjugal infidelity on the part of his wife. In the evening of the same day a large crowd paraded the town with an effigy which was burnt in front of Mr. Hopper's house in Galgate-street.—*English paper.*

Transplanting Trees.—We find in the Utica Gazette, facts showing that it is not necessary to select small trees for transplanting, in order to ensure their growth. Large trees may be as successfully planted as small ones. The mode and result of an experiment made by Messrs. Pomeroy & Dutton, of Utica, are thus given:—These gentlemen transplanted trees, comprising maples, elms, beech, &c., some thirty feet in height, which were transplanted without being shorn of any of their branches. The process of removal was as follows:—In the fall, before the frost, a trench was dug round the tree selected, from ten to fifteen feet in diameter, and the roots severed. In the winter, when the ground had become solid from freezing, the trees were pulled out by the aid of oxen and levers, with the mass of earth firmly attached to the roots. They were then transported erect on a strong sled, built for the purpose, and set out.—These trees grew in open land, a mile and a half from the City. They put on their foliage last spring as wholly unconscious that they were not still in their native soil, and the enterprising gentleman who undertook this unusual course is rewarded with shade trees, which, by the old practice, it would have required twenty years to produce.

Important to Rose Growers.—The following extract from the *Gardeners' Chronicle* is well worthy attention:—"Our readers have possibly heard of a certain Rosa Manetti, famous among gardeners as a stock. 'Last, but not least,' says Mr. Rivers, in his excellent Guide, 'is the Rosa Manetti, a rose I received some eight or ten years since from Como, from Signor Crivelli, who recommended it as the very best of all roses for a stock. It was raised from seed by Signor Manetti, of the Botanic Garden at Milan; cuttings of this may be prepared and planted exactly as recommended for the Boursault. All the roses I have budded on this stock have succeeded admirably; above all, the Hybrid Perpetuals, which scarcely seem to know when to leave off growing and blooming in the autumn; indeed, this stock is remarkable for its late growth, for it may be budded during the whole of September; another excellent quality is, that it never gives any suckers from its roots; and if planted in a stiff loam highly manured, it will, if cut down close to the ground, make shoots, in one season, 6 to 8 feet in height; and will thus form fine standards. I have a stem of three years' growth, larger than a stout broom handle, and apparently increasing rapidly in girth; it seems to flourish equally in light and dry as well as in stiff soils; and it will, I trust, be of much value to the rose amateur, who, if the soil of his rose garden is light and dry, is so often troubled with the numerous suckers thrown up by the dog rose.' Every year's experience confirms the justice of this statement; and we entertain no doubt that R. Manetti will become as indispensable to a gardener as a pruning-knife or a rake. Of its power as a stock we have before us an example in the form of the hybrid perpetual called Sidonia. Of this Messrs. Henderson, of Pine-Apple-place, planted a small cutting in April, 1848, and budded it in the month of September following. It is now 4 feet 6 inches high, with 12 stout limbs; and we understand that Messrs. Henderson have in the same way obtained scores of plants of various sorts—some even larger.

Pitcairn's Island.—The Pandora, which arrived at Portsmouth on Saturday week, brought accounts from this colony in the Pacific ocean, which contain the following very interesting details relative to the descendants of the unfortunate men connected with the mutiny on board the Bounty:—Pitcairn's Island, July, 1849:—The number of inhabitants 149—males 75, females 74—of this number three are English, one a Tahitian woman, widowed Edward Young, mid-shipman of the Bounty, aged 80, two men of the first generation, one of them a son of John Adams (Bounty) named Arthur, and the other a son of Mathew Quintal (Bounty) named George; seven females of the first generation, three daughters of Adams, one of Christian, one of Young, one of Mills, one of M'Coy, the remainder are children of the second and third generation. During the last five years one fifth of the population have been born, and only one has died a natural death, one of lock-jaw, and a child burned to death. The inhabitants are occupied chiefly in cultivating the ground and carpentering; several of the young men are good at cabinet work, and as blacksmiths. There are eight marriageable males and seven females at present unmarried. The soil is very rich but porous; a great portion decomposed lava, the other a rich black earth and clayey ground. The climate is temperate.

Ionian Islands.—An extraordinary *Corfu Gazette* brings the Lord High Commissioner's speech to the legislature—a long-winded affair, consisting partly of reproaches addressed to the islanders—partly of exculpations of himself—of apologies to the King of Greece for an unseemly mention of his Majesty on a former occasion by his brother potentate *pro tem.*—and of that staple of Whig policy, promises so large as they are vague. The boon is held out as a boon which may possibly be granted, and the blessings of free trade are commended to the island community. Old *Ulysses* himself could not have concocted a more crafty speech.

Friendship.—He who never forgets his old friends, and cherishes his attachment for them as warmly as ever, no matter how much time, space or fortune have kept them apart, is one of those rare beings with whom Heaven has endowed the earth, that society may not utterly wither through the influence of ingratitude, selfishness and the incessant changes in life. As you advance in life, make new acquaintances, but never forget old friends. How much happier the human race would be if they followed this advice; those who parted, meeting after long absence, not with lessened interest in each other, as now, but as brothers meet brothers, their affection more glowing than ever.

Baptism of an Oak Tree.—A letter from Darmstadt of the 14th inst. states, that the Archduke John lately took part, with his son, in a wild boar hunt on the domain of Kranichstein, belonging to the Grand Duke of Hesse Darmstadt. Near the house of the ranger is one of the largest and oldest oaks in Germany; its age is not less than 1,000 years, and its trunk is thirty six feet in circumference. The Grand Duke Asked permission to baptize the tree by the name of Johannes Eiche (John's oak). This was acceded to; the sacred rite was performed with the greatest solemnity, and, if there be any truth in the doctrine of baptismal regeneration, the exhausted powers of this fine tree may possibly be revived. The Archduke, on his side, baptised an ancient oak by the name of Ludwig's Eiche (Louis's oak). The religious ceremony was witnessed with interest by a large concourse of spectators.