

questionable lion of the day. Talking of lions reminds us that the Red Lions have had their annual feed; this time under the presidency of Prof. Huxley. There have been excursions numberless; the students of Geology riding chiefly to Shotover; the lovers of Art chiefly to Blenheim. The Duke of Marlborough has paid the members of the British Association the delicate compliment of throwing open his noble grounds and galleries at the hours most convenient for their visits, and in cases where proper applications have been made, of allowing the treasures of his private apartments to be inspected in the most liberal manner. Hundreds have accepted His Grace's generous invitation to Blenheim, where the grounds are in perfect beauty, and the glorious Raffaelles, Rubens', and Van Dycks have recently been arranged and noted by the accomplished hand of Mr. Scharf.

Yet the main interest of the week has unquestionably centred in the Sections, where the intellectual activities have sometimes breathed over the courtesies of life like a sou'-wester, cresting the waves of conversation with white and brilliant foam. The flash, and play, and collisions in these Sections have been as interesting and amusing to the audiences as the Battle at Farnborough or the Volunteer Review to the general British public. The Bishop of Oxford has been famous in these intellectual contests, but Dr. Whewell, Lord Talbot de Malahide, Prof. Sedgwick, Mr. Crawford, and Prof. Huxley have each found foemen worthy of their steel, and made their charges and countercharges very much to their own satisfaction and the delight of their respective friends. The chief cause of contention has been the new theory of the Development of Species by Natural selection—a theory open—like the Zoological Gardens (from a particular cage in which it draws so many laughable illustrations)—to a good deal of personal quizzing, without, however, seriously crippling the usefulness of the physiological investigations on which it rests. The Bishop of Oxford came out strongly against a theory which holds it possible that man may be descended from an ape,—in which protest he is sustained by Prof. Owen, Sir Benjamin Brodie, Dr. Dauleny, and the most eminent naturalists assembled at Oxford. But others conspicuous among these, Prof. Huxley—have expressed their willingness to accept, for themselves, as well as for their friends and enemies, all actual truths, even the last humiliating truth of a pedigree not registered in the Herald's College. The dispute has at least made Oxford uncommonly lively during the week.