

appearance and manner, declared him to be an Englishman. This person was dressed with the greatest elegance, in wide plaited pantaloons and coat of the newest London fashion, a high stiff keel-cloth, and a small hat with the narrowest possible brim.

He seemed at first disposed to treat his clerical travelling companion with all the arrogance of English enlightenments; but when Antonio kindly offered his services, on seeing his fruitless endeavours to make himself understood by the Corsario, it turned out that Antonio was one of the so called enlightened liberal clergy, and that he spoke French and even some English the Englishman fell immediately into the other extreme, overwhelmed him with questions, with philosophical and economical treatises upon Spain and how every thing there ought to be differently arranged. All this, uttered about a country which the speaker had entered for the first time three days before and in the language of which he could scarcely speak three words correctly, so thoroughly satiated and even disgusted Antonio with his own favourite subject that without remarking it himself he gradually became a zealous defender of that which his companion and himself frequently were pleased to call Spanish barbarism.

At the same time with all this, it annoyed him not a little that the Englishman always observed him with a condescending curiosity. An enlightened and well-informed Catholic priest was a kind of *lucus à lupo* in his eyes, and the heat alone prevented his immediately laying hold of his journal and noting down his observations. All the facts which Antonio opposed to his English and Protestant prejudices about Spain could not shake him one moment in his conclusions, and in the triumphant wisdom of his civilization: and it has only the increasing heat of the day which procured any repose for his harassed antagonist.

We will close with one of the closing scenes, when one of the sad catastrophes is drawing near.

SPANISH PRISONERS.

The entrance wicket of the great gate, which the porter had opened to Dolares as an acquaintance of the house, was again closed and Antonio found himself with his sister in the dark ante-court, or *zaguan* of the convent, which only received light through a small strangely-barred window, looking upon the street. The space was filled with people; but it was only after the eye had gradually accustomed itself to the scanty light, that could distinguish objects.

A party of soldiers, whose whole appearance, their sunburnt countenances perspiring with the heat, their blood shot eyes, and torn uniforms covered with dust, indicated a long and difficult march stood leaning on their arms, which seemed scarcely to sustain them. Their gloomy looks and angry mien, and the muttered curses with which they waited to be relieved after their troublesome duty. Behind them, along the wall, the prisoners who were about twelve in number, had lain themselves down, enjoying the rest of which their guards were still deprived. Some very young men as if completely exhausted, lay stretched out upon the pavement; others cowered against the wall half concealed in torn cloaks or woollen blankets. Their eyes glowed wildly from the dim obscurity, and their features expressed obstinate defiance. Without uttering a complaint or deigning a movement, they seemed ready to pierce their guards and vanquishers with their glances alone.

The aspect of women who had followed these unhappy men was heart rending.—Two of them had pressed themselves against the narrow grated window and begged the assembled crowd by all the saints, to give them food and drink; whilst some compassionate people without endeavoured in vain to thrust something to them through the closely-barred aperture. On a stone post against the wall, sat young a woman with torn and bloody feet; and the child in her arms sought in vain its accustomed nourishment at her feverish breast, whilst the mother watched its movements in mute affliction.

Amongst the prisoners who for the most part wore the dress of poorer country people of the mountains, were two who were distinguished by the remains of richer clothing. One of them lay with his hands bound along the wall against which he endeavoured to hide his face. The other sat upon a great stone which lay there, and seemed to keep himself upright with difficulty. His eyes were closed, and a bloody cloth was bound round his head, which was thrown back and reclined against the wall. A young woman knelt before him, and hid her countenance in his lap, while she grasped one of his hands with hers.

FLOUR.—More than 17,000 barrels of Flour arrived from up the river on Tuesday, and 13,500 yesterday. During the whole week 35,654 whole barrels have arrived at the different landings, besides several hundred half barrels.—This quantity we believe is unusually large.—Large quantities remain behind. During the week thus far, all kinds of produce has been brought to market in great abundance.—*N. Y. Express.*

The circulation of the various banks has diminished more than nine millions of dollars since the 1st of January and is now less than it has been for years.—*Id.*

The New York papers state that the election which is just over in that city has resulted in a clear majority of nearly 3000 against the administration, being a gain of about 4000 to the opposition since last year.

Three hundred Indians of the emigrating Creek Tribe have been drowned in passing up the Mississippi, by the sinking of a Steam Boat.

The Paris Papers bring no news of importance. Everything that showed that, whether inclined or not, the Government would be obliged by the new Chamber to attempt retaining possession of Constantine and the other points held by the French in Africa. It was again stated, and rather believed, overtures had been made to the Bey of Tunis to accept the Government of Constantine. A Turkish ship of war arrived on the 9th inst. in Toulon, bearing an autograph letter of the young Bey to the King of the French, and expressing his gratitude for the support given him by the French squadron on the occasion of the death of his father, and tendering his assistance for the maintenance of the French conquests in Africa. Gen. Marshall Vallee had applied to be recalled.

The King of Prussia.—This day (Nov. 16) is the 40th anniversary of the accession to the throne by Frederick William III. His Majesty has forbidden all public demonstrations upon the occasion, but a large military promotion was expected.

Private letters state that since his return to the Basque Provinces Don Carlos has received pecuniary supplies, varying according to different accounts from £56,000 to £96,000.

In the past year the amount of Bills discounted at the Offices of the Bank of Ireland, in Cork, was £356,900; in Belfast, £123,800; Waterford, £118,400. Interest received on same—at Cork, £18,045; Belfast, £6,143; Waterford, £5,946. Loss sustained on the discount bills—at Cork, £1,750; Belfast, £800; and Waterford, £800. In the same period the Bank of Ireland, at the parent institution in Dublin, discounted £4,078,554 Dublin bills; £1,319,885 English bills; and £84,852 Scotch bills.

Eating and Drinking. It will rather take the reader by surprise, we think, to be told, that in a life of sixty five years' duration, with a moderate daily allowance of, say mutton, he will have consumed a flock of 350 sheep, and that altogether for dinner alone, adding to his mutton a reasonable allowance of potatoes and vegetables, with a pint of wine daily, for 30 years of this period, above thirty tons of solids and liquids must have passed through his stomach!

State of Fertility in Guernsey.—The territorial surface of Guernsey contains 15,366 English acres of which 10,240 are under cultiva-

tion. The estates are small, not exceeding 70 acres; and the average amount of land attached to each house throughout the nine country parishes may be computed at five English acres. The minute subdivision causes the whole land to be cultivated as a garden; not an inch of soil is lost; and even the hedges are planted with furze for winter fuel. The crops are abundant, and far exceed those of England. The average produce of wheat per acre is 33 Winchester bushels, and as much as 55 to 60 have been raised. Five hundred bushels of potatoes per acre is an ordinary produce, and the hay crops and a half English weight. Twenty-two tons parsnips per acre is considered a fair crop. Vegetables, fruit, poultry, eggs and cyder are most abundant, and the quality excellent. Now the question arising out of these facts is simply this: where, in Great Britain or Ireland, can be found 10,000 acres equally productive? And here we speak in the restricted sense of the political economist of mere wealth—where are we to look for the same amount of produce from an equal surface? Let it not be said that we have richer land, a more favourable climate, or better implements of husbandry; that is not true. We have many disadvantages, as tremendous gales of wind in winter, and scorching droughts in summer; but we have one paramount superiority, and that is our mode of tenure, the true source of our agricultural wealth.—*Guernsey paper.*

A New Light.—An ingenious chemist in France, having found, after many experiments, that a void produced by electricity in a glass vessel became luminous, has, at last, succeeded in forming a long bottle, of three inches by thirty, from which having exhausted the air, and otherwise acted upon it by galvanic battery, a light is now emitted, being hung up in his apartment, equally clear, but not so oppressive to the eyes as that of the sun.

Punishment by Death.—We have no doubt that our young and amiable Queen spoke the native and genuine feelings of her heart when she uttered the sentiments of mercy which graced what was in a two fold sense her 'maiden speech' to the assembled parliament. Nor have we any doubt either that the education which "the princess" received, under the superintendence of an affectionate parent, was, well calculated to cultivate the natural goodness of heart which invests with so pure a lustre the character of "the Queen." In marking with her august approbation the principle of clemency as an active element in legislation, Victoria produced an extraordinary impression upon the minds of those who heard her, because she spoke the language of a sincere & sensitive nature, and trusted less to the artificial grace of studied elocution than to the charm of truth. The godlike attribute of mercy, "which becomes the sceptred monarch better than his crown," she spoke of as she felt it, and in a manner likely to make others feel. To us the spectacle of a young and lovely girl, crowned with the imperial laurel of one earth's mightiest monarchies, addressing the assembled estates of her realm, and teaching them how to value mercy in the exercise of

power, has something in it touchingly beautiful and impressively grand. Within a few days from this time our Gracious Queen goes to open the first session of the new parliament. During last session, and, we believe, very soon after its commencement, ministers will be called upon again, in the name of an enlightened and Christian people, to remove completely from our laws the reproach which still attaches to them of being uselessly and wantonly lavish of human blood. For our own part we have never argued in favour of such reform as the public demand and must obtain, on the ground of expediency alone. If we were to rely upon that ground, as some do the statistics of punishment and crime, as they appear on record in this and various other countries of Europe, would irresistibly establish our case; but we see in those statistical proofs only the practical acknowledgement of the incapacity of princes and parliaments to legislate against the divine command without evincing, in the failure of their laws, the folly of their pretensions and the impotence of their power. We have always denied the right which the legislature assumes of inflicting the punishment of death for any offence which it pleases, in its contemptuous disregard of the sixth commandment, to make a capital crime. We are glad to observe that in a recent speech delivered at a public meeting by Lord Fitzwilliam the same high ground is taken. We allude to a speech at a Liberal meeting at Doncaster, wherein his lordship speaks on capital punishment thus: "With one exception, I entertain great doubts whether men have any right to take the lives of their fellow-men for what they please to constitute a capital offence. And I never can understand the reason upon which a community, which only, after all a collection of individuals, is invested with a right which individuals themselves have not. I cannot understand, the taking away of life being prohibited by the law of God, upon what principles it can accrue to the community." Let us remind the public, that the proposition to restrict capital punishment to cases of actual murder was only defeated by a majority of one last session.—*Morn. Herald.*

It is a curious and interesting fact in the history of the world and demonstrative of the progress morals and religion as well as of what is called civilization that Meunier, the pardoned French regicide, wanders from port to port in various parts of America, and that no country will receive him. The vagabond regicide is alike rejected by Monarchists and Republicans. He has long since wished to be back again in his prison. This is a serious and solemn lesson of high morality.

THE STAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1838.

SHIP NEWS

Port of Carbonear.
ENTERED.
January 27.—Cornhill, Meadus, Poole, 40 tons coal, 4000 brick, 20 tons potatoes, and sundry merchandise.
CLEARED
February 8.—Perseverance, Ford, Poole, train oil & fish.
Port of St. John's.
ENTERED.
January 2.—Avalon, Greenock, soap, potatoes, bricks, manufactured goods.
Margaret Ann, P. E. Island, timber, mackerel, staves.
6.—Royalist, —, Hamburg, bread, flour, pork, beef, butter, oatmeal, peas, brick, hams, fitches bacon.