

THE QUEBEC TRANSCRIPT.

MISCELLANEOUS SELECTIONS.

preserved a heart so noble? said Matilda, in a low distinct voice, that seemed unnatural to her from the excess of emotion. Albert dropped on one knee before her, touched the spring and placed the miniature in the trembling hands of Matilda. In an instant she recognised her own resemblance. She was above the effluence of false modesty—her eyes filled with grateful tears—she kissed the encrimsoned painting, and so bed adieu. "A father's heart-felt blessing!"

In a moment she was in the arms of the happy soldier, whilst one hung over them with unspeakable rapture, bestowing that best boon upon a daughter's love. "A father's heart-felt blessing!"

THE YELLOW SERPENT OF MARTINIQUE.

The yellow serpent of Martinique has for a long period been the object of so much dread, that it has almost entirely retarded the population of the island for a century. In spite of the assiduity with which it is pursued, and the numbers that are killed, it still occasions annually the death of a considerable number of individuals, especially among the negroes. Its length is sometimes greater than seven feet. It is called the yellow serpent because frequently found of that colour, but there are some which are blackish, and others spotted with black. Its venomous denticles are about fifteen lines long. Along the belly it has from 220 to 240 scales, but uniformly 62 on the under side of the tail. In other respects it has all the characteristics of the other species of its kind. Its celerity of motion, except in the time of digestion, is alarming. Its force instinct teaches it to dart out upon passengers, and commonly it has already assumed a hostile position as it is perceived; rolled up spirally, its head being the top of the sort of cone which it forms, it takes but a moment to reach its victim. M. Moreau de Jones asserts that it is able to erect itself upon its tail, and then exceeds a man in length. Its ear is very acute and it is roused by a slight noise. Its eyes, projecting and lively, by means of enlarging or contracting the pupil, can be made to look or not like those of a cat. It keeps in dark places, and chooses sunset or lowering cloudy days as the seasons for taking its prey; it lives to a great age. When the head of one is struck off, the body continues to be spontaneously agitated for eight hours and longer, if any external force is applied. It has been believed that a person may become aware of its being near by the faint smell which it exhales, but nothing is more dangerous than trusting to this indication—as they do not all emit this odor, and those which do, not at all times. The productiveness of this dangerous animal is extraordinary; from thirty to sixty young ones at a litter. At birth, they are from eight to twelve inches in length, and already possess all their faculties. Frequently sixty or eighty of them are discovered in gathering the crop of one field of sugar-canes, and these the offspring of one or two mothers. The immense breadths of cane afford them their principal retreats, and thus it is that the advance of cultivation is favourable to these noxious creatures, and increases instead of diminishing their numbers. Their means of subsistence, no less than their places of shelter have been multiplied, as the prodigious quantity of rats which come along with the Europeans now fill the whole island. They prey upon birds, other reptiles, and all small four-footed animals.

What is perhaps, the most extraordinary thing in the history of this serpent is, that all the Antilles are free from it, with the exception of three—Martinique, St. Lucia, and Beconia, the others have no venomous serpent whatsoever. The Caribbees pretend that they were introduced from the Continent, along with a hostile settlement; but it is also possible that they may have been brought by the currents, if it were only upon the trunks of trees which are so often hurried on with them. It is very dangerous at Martinique to pass the trunks of hollow trees in the woods, as this animal frequently reposes there; or to push the hand into bird's nests, where they often remain squatted, after having devoured the eggs or the young. They retreat also during the day into the holes of rats or crabs. The inefficiency of the efforts of man to destroy this plague, has led to the introduction of some English terns of a particular kind, which have already been very serviceable.

Remember that labor is necessary to excellence. This is an eternal truth, although vanity cannot be brought to believe, or inducement to heed it.

DUTIES OF GUESTS.—The primary duty of a guest is punctuality. It saves much scandal, confusion, and cold viands. A guest who knows the world, will never enter upon a conversation before the end of the first course; until then, dinner is a serious matter, whence it would be imprudence to call the attention of the company. A skillful diner-out always proposes the health of the host when there is no more wine upon the table; it is a certain means of procuring a fresh supply; this is a golden precept. An approving smile should follow every sally of the host. A guest would be culpable if he spoke an ill word of his host for at least three hours after dinner, gratitude ought to last until digestion at least commences. The guest who quits table prematurely, deserves the fate of a deserter.

DR. WARREN.—It is understood that the Bishop of Chester has promised ordination to the above gentleman, who was for a time considered the head of a party, who some two years since seceded from the Wesleyan Methodists. From his party, however, he seceded about twelve months ago, on the alleged ground that the constitution, or body of laws by which it was governed, was too democratic. The R. v. gentleman is now taking those steps essential to his formal recognition as a minister of the Established Church.

NEATNESS AND TASTE.—Neatness and taste, in a female particularly, well deserve the name of virtues, for without them, whatever may be her excellencies, she has none that will be honored and acknowledged. A woman may be industrious and economical; she may possess a well cultivated mind; but destitute of neatness and taste, she depresses rather than elevates the character of her sex, and poisons instead of purifying the fountain of domestic happiness.

Religion has not unfrequently lost her pure and benign influence by needlessly arraying herself against all those personal accomplishments, which, though not the first, constitute one of the appropriate and important duties of the female sex. You may discover a neatness and taste in the mind of a praise-worthy woman, but her condition in life ever so humble. You shall see them interwoven with her thoughts, expressions, and conduct, giving a cast to every thing she is, and every thing she does. Her manners will partake largely of these qualities, and in every respect be the emanation of a neat and polished mind, and a well cultivated and benevolent heart. Equally removed from that affectation of softness which is disgusting and nauseous, and that intrepidity, which sets at defiance the maxims of ordinary discretion; they will be modest, pleasing, and dignified, with the natural and unstudied expression of that cautious delicacy which is the best guardian of female reputation.

DISCIPLINE.—When Kleber was in Egypt, he sustained, during five hours, with only two thousand men, the united efforts of twenty thousand. He was nearly surrounded, was wounded, and had only a narrow defile by which to escape. In this extremity he called to him a chief de battalion, named Chevardin for whom he had a particular regard—"Take" said he to him, "a company of grenadiers and throw the enemy at the ravine; you will be killed, but you will save your comrades." "Yes, General" replied Chevardin. He gave his watch and pocket book to his servant, executed the order, and his death in fact, arrested the enemy and saved the French.

STATISTICS OF LONDON.—POPULATION. In the reign of Henry II., London contained 40,000 inhabitants. In that of William III., the number was 674,000; George III., 676,000; ditto, 1801, 1,097,000; ditto, 1811, 1,304,000; George IV., 1821, 1,575,000; William IV., 1831, 1,860,000. Of this population there were within the bills of mortality, in 1821, 660,578 men, and 768,007 women, being thirty-eight women to thirty-three men. Of this number, according to the census, 8,851 families were agriculturalists; 199,502 mechanics, and 116,834 of other professions. Allowing four persons to each family, there were 800,000 persons of the industrious class and 464,000 without any particular useful profession. In 1836, amongst this great population there were 69 bankers, 1,680 stock brokers, 300 physicians, 680 chemists, 1,800 surgeons, 131 notaries, 1,150 lawyers,—1,560 merchants, 3,490 commercial agents, 1,100 bakers, 1,800 butchers, 200 brewers, 4,300 public-house keepers, 3,900 tailors, 2,800 shoemakers, 390 hatters, 200

carriers, 520 architects, builders, &c. But the number of persons attached to each of these professions is about ten times that of the masters. There are 16,502 shoemakers, without including the apprentices; 14,552 tailors, 19,025 carpenters and joiners—in all, 450 sorts of businesses. In 1836, there were 267 hotels, 447 taverns, 557 coffee-houses, 597 public-houses and beer shops, 8,659 gin palaces, and 16,839 various shops. From 1744 to 1800; during the period of 56 years, the deaths in London exceeded the number of births by 267,000, being on an average annually a loss of 4,800 persons. Whilst from 1801 to 1830, during a space of 30 years, the births exceeded the deaths by 102,976, or on average 3,600 per annum.—London Mirror.

WELLERISMS.—"You're a 'ee 'pone," as the pig said to the butcher's knife, when it stuck him. "Always take time by the forelock," as the pickpocket said, when he drew out the gentleman's watch by the chain. "Freq'nt settlements make long friends," as the squatter said to the allotger, when he found him snugly burrowed under his log cabin. "Necessity is the mother of invention," as the cook said, when she used her night-cap for a pudding bag. "I don't stand in need of your services," as the nigger said to the curling tong. "You are always welcome to my table," as the farmer said to the turkey, when he cut off his head. "Reas are enormous," as the loafer said, when he looked at his breeches.

LADIES' FASHIONS FOR JANUARY.

Morning Walking Dress.—Redingote of grey merino; worked muslin collar, trimmed with lace; chape de peluche gace, trimmed with chenille; dark blue velvet bonnet, edged with lace. Full Walking Dress.—Redingote of lavender glace, slate coloured and red, trimmed in front. Collar of guipure; dark velvet bonnet with falling plumes; chape of violet coloured velvet, trimmed with a black fringe of cashmere; muff, embroidered handkerchief, trimmed with lace, fall at the corners.

Nightgown du Soir.—Blue cashmere dress, trimmed with two volants; berth of guipure; black lace cap, with golden or jewelled pins at each temple.

Full Dress.—Rose coloured satin gace, with white, trimmed with a deep volant of point lace; hair ornamented with diamond flowers; richly painted fan.

Ball dresses are much ornamented with flowers.—when the corsage is crossed, a rose or other flower is placed on the joining; the sleeves are short, flat above, and with bouillons or a manchette below. Ball dresses bear generally a single flounce, with a bouillon attached. One of the most elegant dresses we have seen is a white satin slip, trimmed with a bouillon of the same, covered with a short crepe tulle, ornamented with a garland of flowers rounded in front; the sleeves short and a little full; the corsage crossed and ornamented as stated above.

Milaines are now brought to wonderful perfection; the gold and silver is woven with silk no matter how fine the tissue may be; they are the most fashionable wear for full dress.

Bracelets are much worn. An ornament much seen at present, is a large cross in gold, a Marie Stuart, suspended from a band of black velvet, about a finger wide. Fans also are fashionable; the richer the painting, the more a la mode.

UNITED STATES.

A couple of negro boy slaves have recently been sentenced to death at Norfolk, (U. S.) upon a conviction for burglary. They are about sixteen years of age, and are both to be executed on the second Friday in April—their owners being paid their value out of the State treasury—one of them one thousand and the other eight hundred dollars.

EARTHQUAKE AT MARTINIQUE.

From the New Orleans Bee, Feb. 4. The Pauline, which arrived yesterday from St. Pierre (Island of Martinique,) which she left on the 12th ult., brings us the unpleasant intelligence, that on the 11th, a dreadful earthquake took place in that colony. The town of St. Pierre has suffered greatly; but the destruction has been far greater at Port-Royal, in which town the number of victims to this dreadful calamity is not less than four hundred. At the departure of the Pauline, however, the entire extent of devastation produced by

the earthquake was by no means accurately ascertained. Hundreds of plantations on the islands had been utterly destroyed, and intelligence of new disasters was continually pouring in town.

LOWER CANADA.

Montreal, Feby. 19th.—At eleven o'clock, last night, it was discovered that the outhouse belonging to, and in the rear of Mr. Kurczyn's house in St. Joseph Street, were on fire. For some time, the flames raged furiously, threatening the destruction of the surrounding buildings, and particularly the houses belonging to Mrs. Yonance and Miss Easton, in Bonaventure Street, the outbuildings of which were destroyed. Fortunately, however, the evening was calm; and the activity of the police and the inhabitants, served to suppress the fire without doing further injury than burning the property we have mentioned. A party of the Grenadier Guards was on duty, guarding the property carried out of the houses, and several of the officers were very active in rendering assistance.—Gazette.

Intelligence has been received from England, by which it appears that the proceedings of the last session of the Special Council, including the Ordinances passed by that body, from the first to the twelfth chapters inclusive, had reached the Colonial Office, and we understand had received the full approbation of Her Majesty.—Hud.

HISTORICAL.—With respect to the cause in which he had been engaged, he declared he had been led into it by the misrepresentations of Duvernay, R. Nelson, and others—that he was determined to find that the Canadians, instead of an oppressed people, as he had been led to believe, were or ought to be, the art happy and contented peasantry in the world, and were it not for the gross delusions propagated upon them by such men as those above mentioned, they would be contented and happy. He declared repeatedly (and even less than half an hour before leaving his cell for execution) that it was his intention to state these things on the scaffold, and call upon the Canadians to take warning by the example of himself and his fellow sufferers, and to beware of being further deluded by such miscreants as these promoters of rebellion had proved themselves to be. And yet, notwithstanding all this, he addressed the assembled throng in terms diametrically opposite, declaring that he died in a good cause—that the tribunal which condemned him was illegal, and his condemnation unjust—that he, nevertheless, forgave them, and hoped he was forgiven by all whom he had injured—and addressing the Canadians, said, he had espoused their sacred cause under the impression that he would have been more numerous and more zealously supported, and concluded by shouting "vive la liberte" on being asked why he had spoken in terms opposite to his repeatedly declared intentions, he replied, "c'est ma conviction qui est plus forte que moi." He subsequently expressed regret for having made that speech, and imploringly asked the clergyman to pray for him. With the halber about his neck, and just before he dropped fell, he said, "Lord Jesus receive my spirit."—Montreal Herald.

The post-master of a letter from Messrs. York, announcing that will leave that city on

The Upper Canada Militia General Order, set 140 pirates who were 2 of whom were acquitted to death, 20 have been 7 and 11 have been executed and the remain received sentence of death to mercy, six c ed,—so that they have

Messrs. Young and I appointed as Delegates assembly of Nova Scotia ment.

The weather has been Nova Scotia. At Hal frozen over,—an occurrence happened for nearly to constant had to anchor low the town.

INVASION OF BRIT The Frederick Seni this morning furnishes lars of the recent inva the disputed territory, i of militia from the Stat

It appears that during t the Legislature of Maine, voted for an experimental this Province, which is de

In accordance with this nine instructions from the was armed subequipped, c Land Agent, two lawyers and two or three hundred two hundred men hired a armed with muskets, to a of peace officers and militi had also with it three pi upon sleds with four-hor this expedition entered week, driving in some they met with, and encam the mouth of the Restook 2 lumbermen as we under Woodstock, who possesser assumption, by forcibly e at that place; and on their

THE TRANSCRIPT.

QUEBEC, SATURDAY, 23rd FEB. 1839.

The packet ship Hibernia arrived at New-York on Friday last, having sailed from Liverpool on the 17th ult., and brought papers to the day of her sailing. The dates are several days later than those brought by the Cambridge, and make twenty-three days later intelligence received within the space of three days; and should the Great Western sail, as was expected on the 28th ult., she may now be considered due, and will bring down the dates eleven days later still.

The packet ships Pennsylvania and St. Andrew will not be got off; part of the cargo will however be saved.

The case of the Canadian prisoners was brought before the Court of King's Bench on the 14th, by Mr. Roebuck, and had not terminated on the 16th. The Court is said to have been extremely crowded. On the bench, near the Judges, were Mr. Justice Haliburton, of Nova Scotia; Lord Howick, and the Right Hon. C. Poulett Thomson. Mr. Hume was in the side box usually occupied by the jury. The proceedings are very long, occupying a