

washing clothes at night for some persons in the neighbourhood, for which she was to be paid, (and to effect which in secrecy she was found standing nearly up to her middle in a pond concealed under the trees,) afterwards confessed, in order to avoid a flogging, that she had produced the swelling in her arms by thrusting them into a beehive, and keeping them there till they were thoroughly bitten and stung; and when the swelling began to subside, she repeated the same operation to revive them."

I inquired, "Why, if this were the state of things, they did not cure it by giving freedom to their slaves?" and the answer was this—"That up to a very recent period the feeling was almost universal in Kentucky, that it would be better to do so, especially as the neighbouring state of Ohio, *without slaves*, was making so much more rapid strides in prosperity than Kentucky *with them*; and that probably in a few years their emancipation would have been agreed upon, but that the Abolitionists of the North wounded their pride; and they determined that they would not submit to interference or dictation in the regulation of their 'domestic institution.' " To this feeling was added another, that of "standing by" the other Slave States of the South, and making common cause with them in a determination not to do any thing by coercion or by threat, but to abide their own time, and act independently of all fear or intimidation.

Mr. Buckingham pays a high compliment to the state of society in the south, which, he says, is characterised by great elegance. "The men are perfect gentlemen in their manners, and the women are accomplished ladies. A high sense of honour, and a freedom from all the little meannesses and tricks of trade, seem to prevail universally among the gentlemen, who are liberal, frank and hospitable, without ostentation, or much pretence; while the ladies are not only well educated, but elegant in their manners, and mingle with the pleasures of the social circle much of grace and dignity, blended with the greatest kindness and suavity."

The book is full of short descriptive paragraphs which we should delight to quote, did the limits of "Our Table" permit us to indulge our readers and ourselves. We must, however, be content for the present with recommending, to all who have a desire to scan the leading features of the southern character, to read the book at the earliest opportunity which presents itself.

THE JACQUERIE—BY G. P. R. JAMES, ESQ.

THE name of the author of "The Jacquerie" is a passport to the favour of those who delight in the "Romance of History." The perusal of it will not disappoint the highest expectations to which it must necessarily give rise, for it is well worthy of its paternity, and will add another laurel to the crown its author has already won. The scene of the story is laid in France—the time, the middle of the fourteenth century; and the stirring incidents which impart to it its character for "thrilling interest" are partly founded upon the forays of the "free companions" who, after the battle of Poitiers, spread themselves over France, waging war on their own account, and as a more dignified method of plundering those whom the fate of war had spared. The greater part of the second volume, however, has its origin in the struggle of the "Villeins," or serfs of the soil, to throw off the fetters with which their masters bound them, and the terrible excesses which marked the outburst of the popular torrent are sketched with the pencil of a master. As a historical romance, or merely a pleasant fiction, the book cannot fail to attract attention, and to afford an agreeable excitement to those who read it; but as a picture of men and manners at the period of which it treats, and of the danger of ruling even the meanest men with rods of iron, it will be highly valuable. We predict for the book a large share of public approbation, and to its author no inconsiderable accession to his fame.

TREATISE ON THE PRONUNCIATION OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE, BY JEAN B. MEILLEUR, ESQ. M. D.

WE have before spoken in terms of well deserved commendation of this small but comprehensive treatise. It contains, within the limits of little more than a hundred pages, a complete exposition of the whole theory of the pronunciation of the French tongue, a knowledge of which in this country, is not only desirable but necessary. The author has taken the question at its root, and followed it through with a skill and industry which is as honourable to himself as it must be useful to those who will avail themselves of the result of his labours. The work might be introduced into general use in schools, with a certainty of advantage to the pupils.