

plied with wine and other popular liquids in which to drink "the health of the Englishmen who were sleeping on Mont Blanc." This ceremony was performed very zealously, and repeated in the most willing manner again and again till long after midnight. When in the evening the party from Mont Blanc approached the village, nearly all the inhabitants assembled to meet them. Guns were fired in quick succession; the harp and fiddles of the valley were in quick requisition, and a sort of a half comical, half triumphal scene ensued. The travellers and guides looked very jaded and sun-scorched, and had very bloodshot eyes and rather dilapidated costumes, but, in other respects, seemed to be in tolerable condition. This successful ascent by four Englishmen, turns the scale of numbers in favour of the English: the French tourists having been hitherto accustomed to point with satisfaction to the fact that more of their countrymen than of ours had succeeded in reaching the top of the King of the Alps. The present forms the 25th ascent—the first dating in 1787. The cost as well as the labour and danger of these daring excursions is very great. The talk of the village declares that the ascent will cost the party of four travellers fully £150.

*Cleopatra's needle*, a relic of the remotest period of Egyptian history remains on the sand in the harbour of Alexandria, waiting until it may suit the English to take some efficient steps for its removal. Authoritative reports from the spot informs us that the inscription is partly defaced upon one side, but in no other respect. The sand from the desert has in a great measure preserved the monument; but in the article in the *Times*, it is said that if the obelisk "be not removed at once, it will doubtless, ere long, become utterly ruined and worthless." This result will not be attributable to the ravages of time, but to the injuries inflicted by idle or mischievous persons on this valuable record and monument of by-gone days. When a proposition for effecting its removal to England was made, twenty years ago, in the House of Commons, the expense of such an undertaking was set at about £15,000. It is now stated that an offer has been made to bring the obelisk to England for £2,500. The month before last, the Marquis of Westmeath asked, in the House of Lords, at the request of many military and naval officers, who look upon this monument as a trophy of our warlike glory, if no steps were to be taken for its removal. The Marquis mentioned to the House, that the opinion of the late Sir Robert Peel, stated to himself, was, "that it was a monument which ought to be brought to London and erected as a memorial of Sir Ralph Abercromby and others who had fought and died in Egypt." The answer of the earl of Carlisle was, "that he apprehended that there were certain mechanical difficulties in the way."

*Statistics of Liverpool.*—It would no doubt be gratifying to those gentlemen who had honoured him with their company, to be informed how rapidly the important seaport town of Liverpool had risen into its present position, and he would therefore briefly trace its history. In the reign of Charles II., they had but fifteen boats at this port, the tonnage of which amounted to 2,560. In the reign of Queen Anne their vessels had increased to 170. He thought they had seen enough that day to form an opinion as to the present number. In 1756, their dock dues amounted to £2,200; in 1801, they had increased to £23,000; and last year they were £230,000. Their docks now cover an area of between 200 and 300 acres, and has cost in their creation no less a sum than £10,000. The population of the whole county, in 1700, was 170,000, and at present it was upward of 2,000,000; but the increase in the inhabitants of the town itself had been still more remarkable, having been in 1700 only 6,000; in 1801 it was 78,000; and in 1851 upward of 400,000. In 1760 it took 4 days to go by coach from Liverpool to London; now they were enabled to reach the metropolis in six hours, while by those splendid vessels, one of which they were then on board of, they could travel from Liverpool to New York in nine or ten days.—(From a recent civic speech by the Mayor.

*Items.*—The first part of a curious work has just been published in Paris—a catalogue of the manuscripts and autographs stolen from the public libraries in France. Abstractions, during the last fourteen years, have amounted to not fewer than ninety-five, comprising 58,000 pieces. M. Arago has publicly announced that he holds two valuable letters,—one of Descartes, the other of Huygens,—and that, though he obtained them honestly, he will give them up, if it can be proved that they were pilfered.—An unpublished correspondence of Charles the First with his confidential servant, Captain Titus, was lately bought at an auction sale in London, for £125. Titus was the author of the famous pamphlet against Cromwell, entitled, "*Killing no Murder.*"—The *Quarterly Review* enumerates the letters of Horace Walpole which have already seen the light, at 2,600. The publisher of the Mason correspondence announces it as "the last series,"—"on the contrary," says the *Review*, "recollecting how comparatively few of the already published letters are addressed to the persons with whom we know he delighted to correspond, we are led to hope that we are not yet *au fond du sac.*"—A Tablet has been erected to the memory of Wordsworth near the place where he lies buried. It is thus described by the *London Spectator*: "Surmounted by a band of laurel leaves is the

inscription, written by Professor Keble, under which the poet's head is sculptured in relief. The meditative line of the face, the thoughtful forehead and eye, the compressed sensitive mouth, are rendered with refined intelligence. In two narrow spaces, at each side of the head, are introduced the crocus and celandine, and the snowdrop and violet, treated with a rare union of national beauty and sculpturesque method and subordination. Throughout, the delicately-studied execution shows that the work has been a labour of love."—An artizan employed in one of the iron foundries in England, has produced a book, the leaves of which are iron, rolled so fine that they are no thicker than a piece of paper. It is neatly bound in red morocco, and contains forty-four of these iron leaves, the whole being only the fiftieth of an inch thick.—The celebrated Neapolitan Astronomer, Signor de Gasparis, has discovered another planet. This is the fifth we owe to his successful exertions. At present the planet has the appearance of a star of the ninth or tenth magnitude.—A meteor was observed at Lyons on the 13th ult., at about 11 o'clock at night. It proceeded from the East, and remained for a short time as if poised over the Plaine du Dauphine. It then followed a sort of an irregular course from south to north, and, gradually descending, disappeared at once with a loud detonation.—During the course of the ensuing winter, the Egyptian Government has determined upon running steamers regularly every fortnight from Cairo up the Nile as far as the Cataracts, making stoppages at all places of interest on the way. This will be a very great saving of time and expense.—It appears that last year there were taken 520 patents for England, 221 for Scotland, and 62 for Ireland; the proportion of patents being, for the English Patents, 444 Englishmen, 27 Scotchmen, and 3 Irishmen; for the Scotch patents, 173 Englishmen, 26 Scotchmen, and 5 Irishmen; and for the Irish patents, 44 Englishmen, 6 Scotchmen, and 4 Irishmen; or a proportion, upon the whole returns, of some 500 Englishmen to five-and-twenty Scotchmen and about five Irish inventors.—The sum of £750,000 has been spent in the ordnance survey of England, £320,000 in twenty-two years on the survey of Ireland, exclusive of £200,000, the estimated expense of revising and contouring the map of Ireland, which is now in progress, while in Scotland only 1-60th of the whole country has been surveyed and published, and the average annual expenditure in the survey since its commencement, in 1849, has been only £2,418.—The bills for establishing the European and American Telegraph Company and the United Kingdom Telegraph Company have received the royal assent.—Mr. Bennet, C. E., of Westminster, proposes that a national monument to Prince Albert should be erected to commemorate the Great Industrial Exhibition of 1851, and the chief events connected therewith—the latter to be effected by castings in relief in bronze, and by emblematical sculpture, illustrative of the noble object his royal highness had in view as the originator of the enterprise. The design exhibits a considerable amount of skill and ingenuity.—The late Dr. Lingard has left his library to St. Cuthbert's College, Ushaw.—Mrs. Harriet Lee, the joint author, with her sister, Mrs. Sophia Lee, of "The Canterbury Tales," and other works, has just died at the advanced age of 94.—An exact inventory of the Imperial and Royal Cabinet of Coins and Antique Medals, at Vienna, has just been drawn up. The total number of pieces is 107,647, of which 25,602 are Grecian, and 35,044 Roman. In the latter, the numismatic cabinet of Vienna is richer than all those which exist even in Italy.—Some Spanish professors have arrived in Germany, with commissions from their Government, to make all necessary enquiries respecting the progress of education in their respective branches, and also to purchase German works for the public libraries of Spain.—Mr. Simoudis, a Greek, pretends that he has discovered, by research among the archives of the Greek convents, a record of the spot where is deposited the original MS. of the Acts of the Apostles. He says that it is in the island of Antigonus.—A pension of £200 a-year on the civil list has been conferred upon Mr. Silk Buckingham, who has contributed much to literature, especially by his useful records of travel. A pension of £200 a-year has also been given to Colonel Torrens, the author of several works on political economy.—There are ten newspapers in Austria, fourteen in Africa, twenty-four in Spain, twenty in Portugal, thirty in Asia, sixty-five in Belgium, eighty-five in Denmark, ninety in Russia and Poland, three hundred in Prussia, three hundred and twenty in other Germanic States, five hundred in Great Britain and Ireland, and one thousand eight hundred in the United States.—Traces of the exploring expedition of Sir John Franklin have at length been discovered, and the graves of three of his companions discover northward of Point Inuit, Wellington channel, the place of his first and protracted encampment.—A gentleman has made a calculation which shows that if every article in the Crystal Palace were to be examined for three minutes, it would occupy 26 years to examine the whole.—Lord Seymour has expended £1000 in forming a mechanics' institute, a library, and a reading room for the free use of the inhabitants of Totnes without distinction of sect or party.—A pension of £300 a-year has been conferred upon Professor Wilson. The letter of Lord John Russell, intimating the bestowal of the pension, was dated from Holyrood Palace.—During some recent excavations made at Mont