

WHISPERINGS OF THE SOUL.

Who hath not felt, in some deep musing hour, Earth and its anxious care, all fade away Beneath the magic of some unseen power.

And as the Sea Shell, snatched from Ocean's foam, No longer now by restless billows hurled, Still sings the song that mourns its stormy home;

And where, when this dark pilgrimage is o'er, And it has flung its letters in the tomb, All free and unconfin'd, again 'twill soar,

But vainly Reason's lightning flashes fall, No eye can pierce the misty Future through; And Truth has hid her path the sable pall.

The spear of death alone can pierce the gloom, And shed the beams of Glory on the Soul: The torch of Truth, awaits us in the tomb,

THE TEMPLE OF SOMNAUTH.

The public journals have nobly performed their duty on the subject of our Indian policy and proceedings. All party interests have been merged in the one great subject—the stain on the British character in India by the atrocious cruelties of the British army in their march from Cabool, and the impious awarding of a triumph to Juggernaut by the restoration of the Temple of Somnauth, and the march of the sandal-wood gates from Ghuznee.

Juggernaut has been appeased and gratified, not only by the offering of the sandal-wood gates, but he snuffs from afar the blood of the slain. He whom that grim idol personates and enshrines will receive this damage with fiendish delight. What says an eye witness of the horrible nature of the worship which this monster-deity claims from his votaries, and of the scenes exhibited on his days of high festival?—and let the reader bear in mind that this is the idol propitiated, and this the worship restored, by the exercise of the British power in India!

The triumph of the first great murderer is nowhere more complete than in the immediate vicinity of the dark pagoda of Juggernaut. It is impossible to approach this region of the shadow of death, without inhaling the abominable effluvia of putrefaction, which, like pestilence, desolates the neighbouring shores. Innumerable human skeletons, bleaching in the burning air, proclaim the insatiable ravages of this Moloch of the East. So deadly is the superstition with which his myriads of votaries are infected, and on the great festivals every avenue to his temple, for several miles around, is crowded with voluntary victims, all of whom miserably perish—some by fatigue—others by ingenious devices of self-inflicted torture; their exclusive object is death, and if they can trail their charred and black-

ened bodies within the borders of a sanctuary, the walls of which they cannot hope to reach, they are happy.

But it is when the terrific pageant comes forth 'a moving palace' of enormous dimensions, supporting the enshrined image of this accursed deity, that superstition may be said to put on the sickle, and to reap the harvest of death. Dragged by the united strength of a thousand human bodies, priests, victims, bramins, and faqueers, its approach is the signal for every horrid species of immolation. Multitudes rush from time to time to prostrate themselves under its wheels, which crush them to atoms in a moment. Others cut themselves with knives and dye the ear and its line of progress with streams of blood; while their frantic relatives shout with delight at the heart revolting spectacle. Mothers cast their infants into the track of the sanguinary procession, and then turn to watch the wild and wanton dance of the Ahwaps, clapping their hands and keeping time to the silver bells that tinkle round their slight ankles, while their little ones writhe in the agonies of death.

From this diabolic idol-worship the British government derived and, we believe, still derives, no inconsiderable fund. We have given the above sketch that this Christian country may know what they gain in character when they are called upon to rejoice in the restoration of the Temple of Somnauth.—London Atlas.

CIVIL AND SOCIAL CHARACTER OF WESTERN AFRICA.

Of the population of a territory, of which the interior is so little known, and has such vague limits, it is difficult to form even an approximate estimate. In the supplement of the Encyclopædia Britannica, reasons are given, founded partly on actual enumeration, for supposing that the population may be about twenty-six to the square mile. If then we estimate the length of coast at 4000 miles, and assume an average breadth of 300, it will thus give 1,200,000 square miles, and a population of thirty-one millions. Yet after all, considering that there are desolate tracts of very great extent, this number may be beyond the truth, and perhaps, at a rude guess, we may find the population of this great tract of tropical Africa at about twenty millions.

The character of the negroes, of course varies extremely according to the variety of situations and government, among such a multitude of little communities.—In general they have progressed little in that which constitutes improved and civilized life. They are strangers to literature, the ornamental arts, and refined luxuries. Yet, whenever adequate objects are presented, they display energies sufficient to refute the cruel theories which would represent them as a degraded race, incapable of reaching any high degree of mental culture. In governments of a popular character they display an eloquence, address, and activity, surpassed by few of the most civilized nations. Even in the absolute monarchies, we discover a regular subordination, polished manners, and skill in the art of war, which, in a peo-

ple destitute of arts and letters, cannot but appear surprising. There is no room whatever to doubt, that if placed in favorable circumstances, the negro would attain to as high a degree of civilization, as the man of any other race. Ferocity in war is a universal feature of savage character; and in some of the sable nations it is carried to an extraordinary pitch. In his domestic character, the negro presents much that is amiable and pleasing; he is cheerful, gay, hospitable, and kind hearted. The negroes appear to great advantage, compared with the Moors, who, from the north, have over-run so great a part of Africa, and to whose gloomy and austere bigotry the black nations are entire strangers.

Of religion—as embracing the belief in a supremely wise and good ruler of the universe and in a future state of moral retribution, the negroes have very obscure conceptions. According to their ideas, the future world will be a counterpart of this—will present the same objects to the senses, the same enjoyment, and the same distinctions of rank in society.—Upon this belief are founded proceedings not only absurd, but of the most violent and atrocious description. A profusion of wealth is buried in the grave of the deceased, who is supposed to carry it into the other world; and human victims are sacrificed often in whole hetaombs, under the delusion that they will attend as guards and ministers in the future mansion. This strange superstition prevails to a peculiar extent in those great interior monarchies, which in other respects are more civilized than the rest of Western Africa.

In architecture and even in Masonry, the negro nations rank very low. There is not, perhaps, in all native Africa, a house built of stone; wood, earth, leaves, and grass, are the only materials. The traveller compares their villages to groups of dog-kennels, rather than of houses.—Murray.

EARTHQUAKE IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND.—A smart shock of an earthquake was experienced on the 16 ult. throughout Lancashire, and along the line of hills which separate the county from Yorkshire. Furniture was set in motion, windows rattled, "rumbings" were heard, and the concussion of the earth is said to have been as violent as is that produced by the "tumblers" a sort of earthquakes common in South America. Two shocks, very nearly simultaneous, were felt. They took place between the hour of midnight and one o'clock A. M. The vibrations were strongest at Manchester, where the tremendous motion lasted about ten seconds. Some of the inhabitants leaped out of their beds under the impression that their houses were attacked by snakes. The shocks at Manchester were accompanied by a noise like the faint sound of artillery, discharged at a great distance. At Poulton and Kirkham windows were broken.

The earthquake extended to Cheshire, and was generally felt in Wales. It was also felt throughout the Isle of Man, though slightly—in Cumberland, but not farther north than Carlisle. It also extended to the Island of Guernsey.

CASH RECEIVED FOR THE CATHOLIC. Hamilton—Mr. Baxter, 7s. 6d. London—Mr. H. O'Brien, for self, 7s. 6d. and Mrs. Major Bennett, 7s. 6d. *Penance Cr. only 2s. 6d. last remittance. Richmond—Rev. T. Smith, for Wm. Shea, 15s. Peter Cassidy, 7s. 6d. James Murray, 7s. 6d.

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But in consideration of this great reduction, he intends in future to exact payment on delivery from all, without distinction of persons, as the time spent in collecting small debts might be more profitably employed; from this rule he will not deviate.

Those who patronise him may rest assured that no pains will be spared to have his work done in a style that will bear comparison with any in the Province.

The price of Cutting is also reduced. SAMUEL McCURDY.

N. B.—The Spring and Summer Fashions are just received, in which a very material alteration in style will be observed from that of the last reports.

Hamilton April, 6. 1843. 31

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