

of course, most often repeated; and most conspicuously displayed. The windows and balconies above were as densely crowded as the thoroughfares below, and the winding line of this magnificent avenue presented at once as gay and imposing a picture to the aspect of the visitor as the most vainglorious of Sovereigns could wish his capital to display. A somewhat keen and cutting north wind heralded more appropriately than pleasantly the approach of the representative of the Czar, who made his appearance with a punctuality that did credit to the arrangements of the Lyons Railway Company. His highness had passed the previous night at Maçon, and thus, by an easy journey, reached the Paris station at a quarter to five o'clock, where he was welcomed by Prince Napoleon, Marshal Magnan, Commander-in-Chief of the army of Paris, by the prefect of the Seine, the entire personnel of the Russian Embassy (the Ambassador himself arrived in the train of the Duke), and a host of Russian celebrities, including General Jomini and the Russian Pope resident in Paris, whose cross, worn on his breast, the Prince was observed to kiss respectfully as he saluted the prelate. After three quarters of an hour expended in ceremonies and salutations, the two Princes entered their carriage, and, preceded and followed by a numerous escort of Guides in full costume, favoured us with a sight of their august persons upon the Boulevards. The appearance of the Grand-Duke Constantine is, I think, best described by pronouncing him to be one of the least formidable looking personages that can well be imagined; and the thought which irresistibly flashed across one at first sight of whether that slight, pale-faced young man in spectacles, with thin sandy hair and whiskers to match, could really be the terrible Duke Constantine, High Admiral of All the Russias, the leader of the war party at St. Petersburg, the influencer of the councils even of the iron Nicholas, the impetuous sailor who, if he had been allowed his own will, would have crippled the English fleet at the expense of one half of the Russian navy, though he perished in the exploit, provided only that the other half might spread its sails for the panic-stricken coasts of Great Britain. Certainly it would be impossible to discover all, or even half, the amount of daring in the external physiognomy of the Grand-Duke, who bears the appearance of a mild and somewhat delicate and even insignificant looking young man. Persons who have had the opportunity of approaching him closely assure me that, under these circumstances, his aspect is more imposing and that his eye expresses great firmness and resolution of character. I can only say that a second inspection of his countenance did not change my opinion and first impression; and therefore must suppose that a much closer look into the Duke's "eyes" than I am likely to enjoy the privilege of, is required to fathom the full depths of their expression. His Highness, at all events, betrays a laudable curiosity, and has hitherto shown himself an indefatigable lioniser. One of his first visits was to Notre Dame, after having been previously present at the performance of *Te Deum* in the Russian Chapel in the Rue de Berry. He has since been busily going the rounds of the thousand and one sights and monuments of Paris. The first theatre he visited was, strangely enough, the Palais Royal, from which one would conclude that his Highness is a relisher of French humor, and that of the broadest character. The Roman and Greek Church being equally zealous promoters of "Sunday managements," the Duke and the Emperor proceeded yesterday, en tête-à-tête, to the new racecourse of the Bois de Boulogne, whither also one half, or indeed to judge from the appearance of the roads converging thither, the whole of Paris flocked to bear them company. They happened to pass me in a comparatively quiet corner of the wood, which they had evidently taken to avoid the crowd and dust. Just at that moment Louis Napoleon's dark moustached visage was approached close to the pale face of his companions, and with the fore-finger of his right hand applied to that of his left, he was laying down some proposition, or imparting some information, with, for him, unusual animation. It was almost impossible to refrain from a wish to know what he was saying, and to be able to "tell it" for the gratification of your readers.—*Corresp. London Guardian.*

THE JERKS.—In 1804, I first witnessed that strange exercise—the jerks—although I had heard much about it before. It took subjects from all denominations and all classes of society, even the wicked; but it prevailed chiefly among Presbyterians. I will give some instances:—

A Mr. Doke, a Presbyterian clergyman of high stand-

ing, having charge of a congregation in Jonesboro, Tenn., was the first man of prominence in this region, that came under its influence. Often it would seize him in the pulpit with so much severity, that a spectator might fear it would dislocate his neck and joints. He would laugh, stand, and halloo at the top of his voice, finally leap from the pulpit, and run to the woods, screaming like a madman. When the exorcism was over, he would return to the church calm and rational as ever. Sometimes at hotels this affection would visit persons, causing them, for example, in the very act of raising the glass to their lips, to jerk and throw the liquor to the ceiling, much to the mortification of some, and the alarm of others. I have often seen ladies take it at the breakfast table; as they were pouring out tea or coffee, they would throw the contents towards the ceiling, and sometimes break the cup and saucer. They ha tening from the table, their long suits of braided hair hanging down their back would crack like a whip. For a time the jerks were the topic of conversation—public and private—both in the Church and out of it. Various opinions were expressed concerning it, some ascribing it to the devil, others to an opposite source; some striving against it, others courting it as the power of God unto salvation. In many cases its consequences were disastrous, in some fatal.

A preacher, who in early life was a dancing master, joined the Conference, and when the jerks were at their height, was stationed on this circuit. He declared it was of the devil, and that he preached it out of the Methodist Church. He commenced the work with great zeal and high expectations; but before he had got once round, he took the jerks himself, or, rather, they took him. When the fit began he would say, "Ah, yes! O, no!" At every jerk he used his hands and arms, as if he was plying the violin. One morning, being seized as he was going to his appointment, he let go the bridle and the horse ran off till he was stopped by a gate. The rider having dismounted, in order to steady himself laid hold of the palings of the fence, which, unfortunately, gave way, the lady of the house coming to the door to see what was the matter, heightened his mortification. Attempting to hide himself by running into the orchard, his strange movements, as he ran fiddling along, and the tail of his long gown flying in the wind, attracted the attention of the hounds, the whole pack of which pursued him with hideous yells. Being afraid of dogs, he turned and went into the house by the back door, and running up stairs, jumped into a bed, where he lay till the fit was over. His proud heart would not submit, and the disease—as he termed it—growing worse and worse he gave up the circuit, and withdrew into retirement, where his sun went down under a cloud. Poor man, I loved him.

Usually the subjects of this strange affection were happy when they had it, and happy when it was over, and it did them no harm. The wise ones of the day, such as William McKendree and Thomas Wilkerson, said little about it, but preached, exhorted, and prayed as if it was not in the country.—*Young's Autobiography.*

CHINESE CUSTOMS THE ANTIPEDS OF AMERICA.

The very striking contrarieties in comparison with our own, are amusingly given in the following extract from a work published at Macao:—"On inquiring of the boatman in which direction Macao lay, I was answered in the west-north, the wind, as I was informed, being east-south. We do not say so in America, thought I; but imagine my surprise when, in explaining the utility of the compass, the boatman added, that the needle pointed to the south! Wishing to change the subject, I remarked that I concluded he was about to proceed to some high festival or merry making, as his dress was completely white. He told me, with a look of much dejection, that his only brother had died the week before, and that he was in the deepest mourning for him. On landing, the first object that attracted my attention was a military pandarin, who wore an embroidered potticoot, with a string of beads round his neck, and who, besides, carried a fan; it was with some dismay I observed him mount on the right side of his horse. On my way to the house my attention was drawn to several old Chinese, standing on stilts, some of whom had grey beards, and nearly all of them huge goggling spectacles; they were delightedly employed in flying paper kites, while a group of boys were gravely looking on, and regarding the innocent occupation of their seniors with the most serious and gratified attention. Desirous to see the literature of so curious a people I looked in at a bookstore. The proprietor told me that the language had no alphabet, and I was somewhat astonished on opening a Chinese volume to find him begin at what I had all my life previously considered the end of the book. He read the date of the publication—"The fifth year, tenth month, twenty third day." "We arrange our dates differently," I observed; and begged that he would speak of the ceremonies. He commenced by saying, "When you

receive a distinguished guest, do not fail to place him on your left hand, for that is the seat of honour, and be cautious not to uncover the head, as it would be an unbecoming act of familiarity." Hardly prepared for this blow to my established notions, I requested he would discourse of their philosophy. He reopened the volume, and read with becoming gravity, "The most learned men are decidedly of opinion that the seat of human understanding is the stomach!" On arriving at my quarters, I thought that a cup of 'Young Hyson' would prove refreshing, feeling certain that, in this at least, I should meet with nothing to surprise me; imagine my astonishment when I observed that the 'favourite leaf' the Chinaman was about to infuse, looked quite different to any I had ever seen, in being, in colour, a dull olive, having none of the usual bloom on its surface. I remarked on its appearance, when my attendant quietly said that they never used painted tea in China, but as the foreigners pay a better price for it when the leaves are made of one uniform colour, they of course had no objection to cover them with powders. On drinking the infusion made from the pure leaf, I at once resolved to become a convert to this fashion, leaving the other Chinese customs for future consideration."

ANOTHER MODEL PARISH.—The following is a Daguerrentype, taken from the life, somewhere out West. The writer is speaking of the resignation of a parish by a brother clergyman:—

He is a most worthy, meek, and faithful brother. . . . That he ought to resign you may judge, when I tell you that a few months since his parishioners gave him a "donation party," of all kinds of gifts, from cotton shoe-strings up to strings of dried apples. The sum total brought about \$130, at least so estimated by us committed, who put them probably at the best market price, and then charged the whole amount to him, deducting it from his Salary! This is the same Parish, one of whose Vestrymen charged the Rector \$150 per annum rent for a miserable house of three rooms down stairs and three unlathed and unplastered ones up stairs; his salary being (missionary stipend, shoe strings and all) \$500. This is the same parish, where one of his families begged permission to use one of his rooms down stairs for a few days, and lived on the clergyman some two months, without paying a penny in return. This parish now wants a clergyman;—if you know of any that would like to take it, please send him along—they will give him the privilege of using the Church and preaching to them, provided he will pay his own way.

Yours very truly,

BIBLE BONDS.—An old man once said: "For a long period I puzzled myself about the difficulties of the Scripture, till at last I came to the resolution that reading the Bible was like eating fish. When I find a difficulty I lay it aside and call it a bone. Why should I choke on the bone when there is so much nutritious meat for me? Some day, perhaps, I may find that even the bone may afford me nourishment." Would that there were less of picking of bones, and more of feasting on the substantial food with which infinite love has spread the spiritual board!

TOO SOON IN APPLICATION.—"It amazes me ministers don't write better sermons—I am sick of the dull, prosy affairs," said a lady in the presence of a parson. "But it is no easy matter my good woman to write good sermons," suggested the minister. "Yes," rejoined the lady, "but you are so long about it; I could write in half the time, if I only had the text." "Oh, if a text is all you want," said the parson, "I will furnish that. Take this one from Solomon; 'It is better to dwell in a house top than with a brawling woman in a wide house.'" "Do you mean me, sir?" inquired the lady quickly. "Oh, my good woman," was the grave response, "you will never make a good sermonizer, you are too soon in your application."

ENEMIES.—Have you enemies? Go straight on and mind them not. If they block up your path, walk around them, and do your duty regardless of spite. A man who has no enemies is seldom good for anything—he is made of that kind of material which is so easily worked that it resists nothing, while every one who thinks for himself and speaks out what he thinks, is always sure to have enemies. They are as necessary to him as fresh air; they keep him alive, active. A celebrated character who was surrounded by enemies used to remark: They are sparks which, if you do not blow, will go out themselves.