

PERSONAL SAFETY IN ITALY.*

I am in one of the most populous cities in Italy; a young lady, whom I accompany home from a party says to me, "Go back the same way; do not cross over at the end of the street; that is a lonely place." I travel from Milan to Pavia to see the celebrated Scarpa.

I fix the time of my departure at 5 o'clock, it is two hours before sunrise; my driver very coolly refuses to put his horse to the carriage. At first I could not comprehend this absurdity, but at last I understood that he is afraid of being plundered by the way. I arrive at Lucca; a crowd of people stopping the road I ask the cause. A man coming from Vespers had just been murdered, being stabbed with a dagger in three places; when the murderer struck his victim, he exclaimed "At length the French gens-d'armes are gone, who have stood in my way these three years!" and he went off with the bloody knife in his hand.

I come to Genoa. "It is strange," said the chief magistrate to me; "two and thirty French gens-d'armes maintained the public security: now we have two hundred and fifty of our own people, and murders are every where committed." I go to the opera; I return home I see that every body is on his guard.

The young men have thick sticks; all walk in the middle of the street, and bounding a half-circle round the corners. In the pit people affect to say aloud that they never carry money about them. While I was in garrison at Novarra, I observed two things:—That treasures were often found in the country, which had been concealed by robbers who had been overtaken by death before they could discover them to their comrades; and that people, when attacked in the city by robbers, took care not to call out thieves!—in which case nobody would have come to their help,—but fire!—Prudent people are deeply impressed with these dangers.

Travellers always form caravans, or take an escort. The absurd proportion of conversation which is occupied by the robberies arises from long prescription. For these three centuries assassination has descended as a profession from father to the son, in the mountains of Fondi on the frontiers of Naples.

Piedmont is full of peasants who have notoriously enriched themselves by assassination. The Postmaster at B—— has a similar reputation; and, if you lived in the country, you would also have some respect for a scoundrel who has your life in his power half a dozen times in the year. I wished to see certain meadows in the neighbourhood of Bologna, which are stated to be mowed eighteen times a year. I was referred to a farmer in the district: as we were walking about, I showed him four men lying in the shade of a tree, near the road. "These are robbers," said he.

Perceiving my astonishment, he told me that he was regularly attacked in his farm every year. The last time the attack had lasted three quarters of an hour, during which there was an incessant fire of musketry. Despairing of success, the robbers attempted to set fire to the stables; but in this attempt a musket-ball struck the leader in the forehead, and the band retired, promising, however to come again.

DEFERRED ARTICLES.

CHURCH SCENES IN OHIO.

Camp-meetings, as such, are never held by Episcopalian. Yet occasionally, for want of a church, our services are performed in the open air, and I recollect with pleasure an interesting occasion of this kind in Delaware county, Ohio. The place of worship was a beautiful orchard, and the time was the month of May, when the abundant blossoms of the apple and the peach filled the air with their delicious odour. A table for the communion was placed on the green grass and covered with a cloth of snowy whiteness. Adjoining the rustic altar a little stand was erected for the clergyman, and a number of benches were provided for the congregation. A large number of persons attended, who behaved with the strictest decorum and propriety. Besides the service

* Written by an English Traveller in 1819.

for the day, baptism was administered by the missionary to three or four adults, a stirring extempore sermon was delivered, and the Lord's Supper completed the solemnities.

I happened to be witness of a curious scene in a similar place of worship near Kenyon College. It was the time of the annual convention of the diocese of Ohio, and the clerical and lay delegates assembled at Gambier. It was also the period appointed for the annual commencement of the college, and a gathering of the neighbouring population was expected. Rosse chapel being incomplete, there was no room in Gambier sufficiently capacious for the occasion, and accordingly a large arbour was erected for temporary service. It was formed of a number of poles fixed in the earth, united at the top by cross-pieces, and covered with a profusion of green boughs. The sides were protected in a similar manner, and thus a complete chapel was formed about sixty feet square. On a platform, at one extremity, was a pulpit and a communion table, and the rest of the area was occupied by benches. The convention assembled and was duly organized, after which morning service was performed, and Bishop Chase proceeded to read his episcopal address in the presence of a numerous congregation. In the course of this address, he animadverted severely on the conduct of the Rev. Mr. West, in respect to his agency in England in behalf of Kenyon College. Just as the condemnatory expressions were about to issue from his lips, a tall figure in black was seen gliding behind the boughs, and Mr. West himself, who was supposed to be at least a thousand miles distant, quietly entered the arbour, and, unobserved by most of the assembly, seated himself in front of the bishop. Bishop Chase not perceiving him continued his address, and at the conclusion was about to give out a hymn, when, to the surprise of all, Mr. West stood up, and requested that a copy should be furnished him of that part of the address relating to himself. The bishop complied with his request, and on the following day Mr. West was heard in defence. It will be recollected that the same Mr. West afterwards asserted his Episcopal character on the ground of an alleged consecration by Bishop Chase; and made some ineffectual attempts, near Liverpool, to produce a schism in the Church of England. He has since been suspended from the performance of the clerical office.

Places of worship like those mentioned above are certainly very agreeable during the warm days of an American summer. But it is obvious, that, even in the most sequestered regions, all who have any relish for the regular service of the sanctuary will desire something more permanent and better adapted to the great varieties of weather. Accordingly the erection of a log-church is often one of the first efforts of the well-disposed settlers of the western forests. Such a church was that at Perry in the vicinity of Gambier. It was the work of a few Irish Episcopalian who had been educated in the established religion, and who in this distant land remained faithful to the Church of their fathers. Their pious undertaking was quickly accomplished. They sailed forth into the woods with their axes, and, having chosen a spot, felled the tall trees, hewed them square, cut them into regular lengths, and with their united efforts heaved up the great logs and constructed the walls of their sylvan temple. The floor was soon formed of planks, and the roof was easily superadded. Benches supplied the place of pews, and the same stands answered for both the reading-desk and pulpit. In a building of this kind, of course, both tower and bell are out of the question, and nothing can be expected in the way of decoration.—*Rev. H. Caswall's America and the American Church.*

TRINITY CHURCH, NEW YORK.

Trinity Church is now disrobed of all its time-honoured walls but the steeple-less tower, making it like a ruin indeed, and recalling its once pointed beautiful spire with tears of regret. How many endeared associations is this most ancient of English Churches in our city invested with! Here lie entombed around 4,015 guineas for 4,015 medical attendances. The lid, each in his massive vault, or "narrow cell forever laid," the cavaliers and the old English gentlemen of the colonial times, or the poor emigrant and adven-

turer whom the conquest of the provinces from the Dutch, near two hundred years ago, attracted to this city to seek their fortunes in a new world. The "pealing anthem" and the beautiful ritual of the Church of England consigned each victim that death yearly summoned to the silent mansions of earth.—There lie buried some of the wisest, best, and most notable of those worthies that New York, divested of her Netherland name, saw landed on these shores. Some years ago we descended some of the most ancient vaults; here lay, in terraces, the confined ancestry of many of our most respectable English names of to-day—each well preserved, and enclosed in a black velvet pall, neatly fastened on the edges with long rows of brass nails, while silver plates bore the inscription of the deceased. It took us back to those days of the old school, when the powdered peruke, the silver knee and shoe buckles, and the gold-headed cane, were the symbols of a gentleman's costume.—Those days are gone, and much good has gone with them.—*Ban. of the Cross.*

ENGLISH ITEMS.

House of Commons.—On the motion that £31,661 be granted to Her Majesty to defray the expenses of non-conforming and seceding ministers in Ireland, Mr. Hume said, this is a very improper vote.—They cannot be dissenters if they take money.—(Hear, and a laugh.) The very principle of dissent is not to take money. (Laughter continued.)

Colonel Perceval thought that the hon. member for Kilkenny had made a small mistake. The principle of dissent was not to pay money. (A laugh.) As far as his knowledge went, they had no objection to take it (Hear, hear.)

The grant was agreed to.

Dr. Hook.—On Wednesday last a splendid folio Polyglott Bible was presented to the Rev. the Vicar of Leeds, by a part of the communicants of the parish whom he has been accustomed to meet weekly in the school-room attached to St. John's Church. The following was the inscription:—"To the Rev. W. F. Hook, D.D., their respected and beloved pastor.—This Bible is most gratefully and dutifully presented by a small part of his affectionate flock." It is pleasing to have so soon to record another of these kindly proofs of the reciprocal interest of the spiritual pastors and their flock in this vast parish. Surely it is a great thing that the minister should be enshrined in the hearts of his people, both as an evidence of what has been done, and as a sign, and in some sort an instrument of what will be done, with God's blessing, we may congratulate ourselves on the happy retrospect, and on the cheering prospect.—*Leeds Intelligencer.*

A Poser for a Chartist Leveller.—Two colliers, a little to the west of Newcastle, having a colloquy upon the anticipated appropriation system taught by the Chartists, one of them addressed his "marrow."—"Hey, Gaordy," says he, "when we hes wor grand levellin I think I'll just be content wi' Hamsterley Hall for my share." "Hamsterley Hall," rejoined his comrade, "far less will de for me, I'll be vara content wi' Weddle's close and thy cow." "How," said the first spokesman, "what hey thou to de wi' my cow?" when his friend coolly replied. "Why, just as much has thou has to de wi' Hamsterley Hall."

The late Lady Hester Stanhope.—At the period of her death this distinguished lady had no English attendant upon her person, though the number of her domestics amounted to twenty-three. It was only the day before her decease that she sent for medical advice to Beyrout, but it was too late to be of service. The excellent British consul in that city offered every assistance in his power, but it was unfortunately unavailing.

Physicians' Fees.—At Somersetshire assizes, on Monday, an action was brought by Dr. Hickey, of Bath, against a Mr. Fraser, to recover the sum of 4,015 guineas for 4,015 medical attendances. The trial lasted two days, and the jury at length decided in favour of the defendant.