The Church.

"Her Foundations are in the holy hills."

"Stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the Old Paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls."

VOL. XIX. HAMILTON, C. W. FEBRUARY 28, 1856. No. 28.

Poetry.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

"Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The bells are tolling with a plaintive chime
That melts and mingles with the air around
Mourning for her who died in vernal prime
Queen of the village by her virtues crown'd.

Last week she bounded full of girlish life
Feet o'er the turf, elastic as the breeze
Radiant as morn, and with such freshness rife
As fills the wave that gambols o'er the seas.

But Christ recall'd her for His home on high
To harp in glory God's redeeming love,
Ere guilt had waken'd one remorseful sigh,
Or earth untuned her for a heaven above.

Oh! gently lay her where the yew-trees wave
In tender darkness o'er some grassy tomb,
And sunbeams learn the language of the grave,
Tinging their brightness with a soften'd gloom.

There shall the daisy rear its infant head,
And fairy wild flowers drink the dew of spring;
Or, round the turf that meekly wraps the dead
Autumnal winds their frequent descant sing.

'Tis the same spot her rosy girlhood sought,
Where fresh from school with bright companions gay,
For maiden-face, free from troubling thought
She work'd her sampler or retired to play.

Dear is the quiet village church to me—
Saxon and simple, touch'd with thoughtful gloom,—
Lifting its widow'd form so gracefully
As though 'twere conscious of th'encircling tomb.

Whatever shade expressive clouds can throw
Or hills wood-crested may around it cast,
I love to view it in the vale below—
Connect the present with our storied past.

Oft have I paused, when lull'd by pensive bliss
To hear the curfew mellow'd by the wind,
Waft the farewell of day to scene like this.—
Soft to the ear as soothing to the mind:

But far excelling all chaste morn bestows,
The hush of twilight, or the harvest moon,
Or what mere landscape to the minstrel shows
When silent thoughts their sanctity attune,

Is felt, when village funerals wind their train
Slowly and sadly to some church-yard gate
And our deep service tones its heaven-born strain,
To scatter darkness from bereavement's fate

Hark! from the woodland wafts the forward breeze
That low sweet dirge the village-maidens sing
Whose white robes glisten through the waving trees
As on the dead to her last home they bring

Nay, sob not, mother! for thy beauteous child
Though like a tendril from thy heart it grew,
Eternity she gains ere time defiled,
Or made the soul untender and untrue;

For One is present, whom no eyes can see
Except by faith, and that is Christ the Lord!
And 'Weep not,' childless mother, comes to thee,
If thy heart open to His gracious word.

Thou blessed ritual! throbs of Jesus' heart
Still in thy tones of thrilling mercy live:
When yawns the tomb, most wonderful thou art
By echoing all God's inspirations give.

'The Resurrection and the Life' is near,
By spirit present, and in love as deep
As when He touch'd the young man's open bier,
And softly bid wild anguish not to 'weep.'

While o'er that grave the 'dust to dust' awakes
A dismal echo in the bleeding soul;
How the damp earth-clod on the coffin breaks
'Till the deep tides of inward anguish roll!—

Yet o'er the tomb, heaven's canopy unfolds!
And hark! these words of soothing magic sound,
While grief looks upward and by faith beholds
The Lord of life and resurrection crown'd,—

'Blest are the dead who in the Lord depart;
Yea, saith the Spirit, for their pangs are o'er,
Serene as heaven Christ keeps that sainted heart,
Whose works are ended and who weeps no more!'

☞ President Pierce has sent a special message to Congress on the Kansas question. It is so pro-slavery in its tone, that it has given deep offence to the Abolitionists. The New York *Tribune* characterizes the message in the following language:—"The message, is intensely Border Ruffian. In this unprecedented document Mr. Pierce grossly assails Gov. Reeder, denounces the Emigrant Aid Society, upholds the Border-Ruffian Legislature and its enactments, declares the Free State movement to be treasonable, and proposes that Congress shall originate a movement for the organization of Kansas as a State under Border-Ruffian auspices. He is utterly silent with regard to the Missouri raid on Lawrence, and the Border-Ruffian murders of Dow, Barber and others. So base a document never till now emanated from the White House."

☞ A bill has been introduced into the New York Legislature to allow married women whose husbands are drunkards, and who refuse and neglect to provide for their children, to transact business in their own name, and dispose of their children's earnings as they may deem best, that they shall also have the power to execute indentures of apprenticeship for them, and that it shall be necessary to the validity of such indentures to have their name and consent.

☞ The New York *Herald* states that the Hon. Geo. M. Dallas has accepted the mission to England, tendered him by the President, vice Mr. Buchanan.

THE FIRST GLASS OF WINE.

"One glass," said a sweet voice, "it is just one glass with me," said the speaker, a dark-eyed girl, looking bewitchingly at her companion and gracefully proffering him a goblet, flushed with the rosy wine.

They were sitting at a richly-laden dinner table, and the choice liquors, which for years had mellowed in the host's cellar, were circulating freely. Ladies and gentlemen, the young and the old, even little children, were drinking at the grand Christmas feast. Of all the merry company gathered there only one abstained from the inspiring beverage, and that was he to whom these winning words of persuasion were so musically addressed.

He glanced around at the guests who were watching him, and replied firmly, but gently,

"No thank you; I never drink wine."

This was noble language from one, and proved that he was not destitute of that moral courage which leads its possessor to dare anything rather than make a sacrifice of pure and lofty principles. But not a few applauded the deed. Many gazed at him in astonishment, and the lady's face wore an expression that said plainly enough how seldom the slightest wish was disregarded.

You surely will not refuse me so small a favor," she continued in a manner half proud and haughty

"Ask anything but this," was the reply, in a low tone, which was only audible to her for whom the answer was intended—"My father died a drunkard, and over his grave I made a solemn promise that I would never taste the poison that ruined him."

"But you are too particular," rejoined the light-hearted girl; "you can drink moderately, without any danger. For my sake now, take this," and she again held up the sparkling Madeira.

For a moment there was a terrible conflict in the young man's soul; duty, long established habits, and a desire to win the regard of the temptress waged a stern warfare. At length the latter conquered, and he drank the *first glass of wine.*

Do you say it was a harmless act reader? It was the first step in a path that ended in woes that no pen of ours can describe; the germ of a harvest of misery, which he reaped ere time had silvered his hair or measured out half the span allotted to mortals.

A year after that hour of trial he stood at the altar with that fair girl who had thrown around him the spell of inebriation. She was pronounced his bride; and when friends crowded around them to offer congratulations, his cheek wore the flush, his eye the fatal brilliancy which the red wine had kindled. But his hopes were bright; he was gifted and wealthy, and none prophesied that his star would soon set, or be soon obscured in fast gathering clouds.

Time went on, and he drank daily with his brother lawyers in splendid saloons, and at his own festal board. Fortune yet smiled, business increased, honors and wealth poured in upon him; but there were those who marked in the meteoric brightness of his intellect and the expression of his countenance that pernicious practice which was yet to prove the curse of his life. Years again rolled away, and his affairs began to assume a changed aspect. He had grown neglectful of his profession and his own clients had lost their confidence in his ability. Half his estates had been sold, his library was mortgaged, and even the old homestead which he had resolved to keep as long as he lived, had passed into the hands of strangers.

His wife had grown pale and care worn; all her vivacity had fled, and you would scarcely have believed her the same gay girl who urged him to drink his *first glass of wine.*

Five years were past, and he was a confirmed sot. His property had been wasted; his intellect deadened; his lofty aims crushed. A mere hovel sheltered him and his destitute family. There was no fire there; none of the comforts which he had bartered for strong drink.

In his bloated visage and trembling frame there was little to remind the beholder of the elegant and intellectual looking young man who once so nobly refused to partake of the intoxicating draught, and then yielded and sank into the snare.

The fair temptress now lies in the church yard in a pauper's grave, and sometimes a group of ragged children gather there to weep over their lost mother, while their father idles away his time in the lowest haunts of the vile and degraded.

At that moment, when the crisis in his destiny came, had he possessed power to turn a deaf year to the syren and adhere to his principles; how much better it would have been for him here and hereafter. Oh reader, whoever you are, let us beg of you to beware of the *first glass of Wine!*

PRISON LABOR.—We percieve that arrangements have been made by which prisoners in the County Jail can be hired to work at half-a-dollar a day, the person so hiring being responsible for their safe keeping. Is it not possible that one might more profitably do his own work than stand by to watch these while doing so; or in case a prisoner did "slip," would the employer be compelled to take his place in the prison cell. Truly this is an arrangement both cheap and convenient for the inhabitants of the town! Very!!—*Simcoe Messenger.*

LORD BURY.—It is stated that the post of Secretary to the Governor General and Head of the Indian Department is now vacant by the resignation of Lord Bury. The cause is not stated. The appointment is in the gift of the Governor General.

SKETCH OF MACAULAY.—The following graphic little etching of Thomas Babington Macaulay, was made a few months ago by the clever London correspondent of the *Inverness Courier.*

I saw Mr. Macaulay in the Strand the other day, as sturdy and healthy-looking as ever. He marched in his old emphatic style, held a stick, not his umbrella *this time*, perpendicularly and at four or five inches distance from his body, thumping it with lusty strokes upon the pavement, and muttering to himself as usual. The right honorable gentleman stayed his steps for one moment to cast a glance at the brilliant uniforms displayed in a Jew's shop window, and then resumed his

"Long-resounding march and energy divine."

FIGHT OF WILD BEASTS.

Captain Mundy, in his work on India, gives the following account of one of these fights of wild beasts at Delhi.—

"His majesty, before he retired, informed the commander-in-chief that he had given orders for the wild beast fights to be prepared for his edification on the morrow, and as these sports are conducted on a grand scale on which they are conducted at Lucknow, we were all very anxious to witness them. Early in the morning, therefore, the whole party [illegible] [illegible] to the scene of the spectacle, mounted [illegible] [illegible] to the [illegible] gate of the palace, where the King and the commander-in-chief, and conducted him and his party to a private [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the arena for the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

In the centre was [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] their cells, communicating by sliding doors with the open theatre, were tenanted by every species of the savagest inhabitant of the forest. In one large enclosure, together, and presenting a formidable front of broad, shaggy, horns, were armed with [illegible], several grey and [illegible] [illegible] sternly awaiting the conflict, with their [illegible] select fiercely opposed against the barriers. The trap doors being lifted two tigers, and the same number of bears and leopards rushed into the centre. The buffaloes instantly commenced hostilities, and made complete shuttle-cocks of the bears, and however finally escaped by running up the bamboos beyond the reach of their horned antagonists. The tiger, one of which was a beautiful animal, [illegible] scarcely better—indeed, the odds were much against them there being five buffaloes. They appeared however, to be no match for these powerful creatures, even single handed, and showed little disposition to be the assailants. The larger tiger was much gored in the head and in return took a mouthful of his enemy's dewlap, but was finally, as the fancy would describe it, "floored to the ropes and floored." The leopards seemed throughout the conflict sedulously to avoid a breach of the peace.

A rhinoceros was next let loose in the open court yard, and the attendants attempted to induce him to pick a quarrel with a tiger who was chained to a ring. The rhinoceros appeared, however, to consider a tethered foe as quite beneath his enmity,—and having once approached the tiger, and quietly surveyed him, as he writhed and growled, expecting the attack, turned and trotted awkwardly off to the yard-gate, where he capsized a palankeen, which was carrying away a gaily tangued with the sight of these unfeminine sports.

A buffalo and a tiger were the next combatants; they attacked furiously, the tiger springing at the first onset on the head, and tearing his neck severely but he was quickly dismounted, and thrown with such violence as nearly to break his neck, and, quite to disable him from renewing the combat. A small Elephant was next impelled to attack a buffalo. The battle was short and decisive; the former taking [illegible] and thrusting his blunted tusks nearly thro' his antagonist.

On our return from the beast fight, a breakfast awaited us at the royal palace; and the white table cloth being removed, quails, trained for the purpose were placed upon the green cloth, and fought most gamely, after the manner of our own [illegible].

This is an amusement much in fashion among the natives of rank, and they bet large sums on their birds, as they lounge luxuriously around, smoking their hookahs.

Elephant fights were announced as the concluding scene of this day of strife. The spectators took their seats in a long veranda. The narrow stream of the river Goomty runs close under the palace wall, and on the opposite bank a large, open, sandy space presented a convenient theatre for the operations of the gigantic athletes. The elephants educated for the arena, are large powerful males, wrought up to a state of fury by constant feeding with exciting spices. On the plain before us, we counted several of these animals parading singly and sulkily to and fro, their mahouts seated on their backs, which were covered with a strong net-work for the driver to cling by in the conflict. In attendance upon every elephant were two or three men, armed with long spears, a weapon of which this animal has the greatest dread. We soon discovered two of the combatants advancing towards each other from opposite sides of the plain. As they approached their speed gradually increased, and they at length met with a grand shock, entwining their trunks, and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] his charge to the rear. This was so violent that the mahout of the flying elephant was dislodged from his seat, but fortunately fell wide of the pursuer, and escaped with a few bruises. Five or six couple were fought, but showed little sport; the sagacious animals instantly [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

I had long been ambitious of witnessing [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

MR. BRYDGES AND THE G. W. RAILWAY.—We clip the following from the London *Prototype*:—A report has reached us through a well authenticated source, that the English Board of Directors of the Great Western Railway, have declined to accept the resignation of Mr. Brydges; and they have ordered Mr. Ratcliffe to acknowledge the superintendence of that gentleman. It is now expected that the latter will make such arrangements with regard to the road as he may deem desirable, and consistent with his increased authority.

THE MASONIC MESSENGER.—This neat little work will be found both interesting and useful to the craft. It takes considerable interest in Canadian affairs. Published by Mr. J. Drummond, New York.

A WHITE SLAVE FOR SALE.

From Parker's Lectures on Slavery.

Mr. C., a dry goods merchant in Boston, was with me at the hotel in [illegible]

'That girl [illegible] Mr. C., [illegible] [illegible] Why, [illegible] [illegible]

Now, Mr. C. had heard that likely quadroons [illegible] [illegible] sold in the market, but he had never believed such a young lady so cheaply. And a handsome young lady, so much as [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] red and white Caucasian complexion, was in the same degraded condition, as the Negro girl. And his fine [illegible] greatly shocked at [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] girl, so beautiful, was doomed to such a [illegible]. His heart was stirred against the [illegible] for the blacks, for it [illegible] on the side toward the white race, to which his nature, wife and daughter belonged. He [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] when I said to him, 'She [illegible] [illegible]'

There was a precise number including her, advertized in the bill, still incredulous, M. C. stepped up to the drover and asked, 'Is that white girl a slave, sir?'

'That's not a white girl; she's a nigger, sir,' replied the drover.

Mr. C. bit his lips with suppressed indignation, paused, and then ejaculated, 'Is it possible?'

'Does she belong to you?' said he to the drover.

'Yes, sir,' replied the drover.

'What do you ask for her?' inquired Mr. C.

'I was offered eighteen hundred dollars for her last night. I want two thousand for her.'

'What do you ask for that one?' said Mr. C. pointing to a light quadroon sitting next to the white girl.

'I will take fifteen hundred for her.'

'Well, how much for the black one, here at this end of the row?'

'I will take eight hundred apiece,' replied the slave dealer.

'Why, can that white girl [illegible]'

'That isn't a white girl, that's a nigger, sir, I tell you,' interrupted the drover, contemptuously. At the same time he removed a woollen cap from her head, exposed the light brown hair, and added, 'you see her hair is waved.'

This is regarded as evidence that African blood is mingled with this white. Mr. C. had now become excited, and he exclaimed, 'Well, then, can that white nigger do more work than one of your black niggers, that you ask so much more for her?'

'Oh, no,' replied the drover, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ability as a slave, he added, 'But you know she is a high-priced fancy girl.'

'By heaven!' vociferated Mr. C., [illegible] [illegible] and turning to me, with clenched hands raised towards the [illegible] [illegible] I will never say another word against the abolitionists as long as God lets me live!'

ST. CATHARINES' WELL.

We took occasion some months since to speak of the virtues of this very extraordinary water, the product, not of a spring flowing over the surface of the ground, but of an Artesian Well sunk five hundred and sixty feet into the bowels of the earth. The boring was commenced and continued to obtain a salina for the manufacture of salt, when instead of an ordinary salina, there came gushing forth a stream of medicinal water, which we verily believe is superior to anything of the kind vouchsafed to man.

We speak strongly and positively, because we doubted and believed ourselves imposed upon, and became alarmed lest we had been made the instrument of an imposition upon the public, designed to foster *quackery* at the expense of the health of confiding invalids. This prompted investigation, and resulted in a visit to St. Catharines, where we not only became a believer in the *curative* qualities of the water, but an actual participator in what we cannot fail to consider one of the greatest blessings bestowed by a beneficent Creator upon the afflicted of our species.

We speak not from report, nor do we simply give currency to inventions of the designing, when we say, that in most, and possibly in all cases of Chronic Rheumatism, Gout, Rheumatic Neuralgia, and scrofula, the waters of St. Catharines' Well, are, apparently, a specific cure. In one week we were entirely relieved from an attack of *Neuralgia* in the head and eye, which rendered us alike incapable of either reading or writing; and we saw and heard from the lips of invalids, the evidence of the *curative* qualities of these waters, upon which we base our strongest recommendation of them to the afflicted. We are warranted too, in adding, on the authority of a medical gentleman of high character, whose letter to us we published in September, that in the whole range of complaints peculiar to females, these waters have effected cures which are almost incredible; and we emphatically add: "Twenty drops of the concentrated water taken in a tumbler of water, an hour and a half after dinner, constitutes the best diuretic I ever met with."—*N. Y. Courier and Enquirer.*

☞ Belgium is the great glove manufactory of the world. It stated that from one establishment, last year, 405,000 dozen pairs were exported to England and America. There are 3,000 hands employed there.

A MONSTER IN CRIME—A WIFE, A BROTHER, AND SEVERAL OTHER PERSONS POISONED IN ENGLAND.

From the European Times.

The accused, Wm. Palmer, is still a prisoner in the jail at Stafford, and although he refused to take food for nearly a week previous to his arrest, and up to Thursday last, on that day he was induced to take nourishment, after being threatened that food would be forcibly administered to him if he still refrained from taking it. He is now in tolerably good health, and perfectly free from any disease calculated to cause death. Before the apprehension of the prisoner he sent for the postboy who was engaged to convey the contents of the stomach and intestines of the late John Parsons Cook to the railway station preparatory to their transmission to Prof. Taylor for analysis in London, and offered £10 if he would upset the conveyance and break the jars. Since the prisoner's apprehension, it will be remembered that the whole of his fine stud of horses and other effects were sold, under a bill of sale for £17,000, by a solicitor from Birmingham, and it is now rumored that the prisoner will be declared a bankrupt.

It is also stated that three writs have been served on Mrs. Palmer, the prisoner's mother, a lady residing at Rugeley, for the recovery of bills amounting to between £20,000 and £30,000 said to be accepted by her on behalf of the prisoner, and which are now alleged to be forgeries. The analyses of the stomachs and intestines of the prisoner's wife and his brother, Walter Palmer, whose bodies were exhumed at Rugeley last week, is still being prosecuted by Professor Taylor. Although the analysis is at present incomplete a small portion of the arsenic has been found in the intestines of Mrs. Palmer, on whose life there was an insurance of £13,000 effected, and which the prisoner had shortly before wished to increase to more than double that amount.

It is not improbable, but that six or seven other bodies will be exhumed before the investigation of the case is completed—one is said to be that of a gentleman from London, who a year or two ago visited the prisoner for the purpose of receiving payment of a large debt owing him, and who, although then in good health, after four or five days illness, died at the prisoner's house. Every effort to find the betting book of the deceased, Mr. Cook, has at present proved fruitless. Bell's Life states that some extraordinary letters have been intercepted, showing the extent of the gambling transactions between the prisoner Palmer, the deceased and other persons, which when made public, are likely to create a still greater sensation in sporting circles, than the case has already produced.

The following insurances were effected on the life of the late Walter Palmer, of Rugeley; Athenæum, £10,200; British Equitable, £500; Era, £2,500; Falcon £500; Saxon, £250; Security, £300; Office not named, £600—£28,150. The deceased was brother of Wm. Palmer, accused of the murder of Cook. A copy of the list was furnished as early as September last to the different insurance offices of London. Proposals, were, it is said, also made to the Gresham and other offices, which, however, were not accepted. The medical examination employed by the insurance officers could find no trace of organic disease in the deceased Walter Palmer, but some of them observed symptoms for which there was no means of accounting.

The adjourned inquest on the body of Ann Palmer and Walter Palmer, wife and brother of the accused William Palmer, were resumed on Wednesday at the Talbot Inn, Rugeley. Mr. Gardner, solicitor, attended to watch the proceedings on the part of the relatives of the deceased John Parsons Cook; and Mr. Deane, solicitor, of London, was present on behalf of the several insurance companies, who it is understood have joined together to further the ends of justice, with reference to this investigation. After the jury had answered to their names, the coroner observed that the inquiry had been adjourned for the purpose of giving Dr. Taylor time to complete the analytical examination of both the bodies. That analysis, however, would not be complete before the early part of next week, and Dr. Taylor had named Wednesday next as being inconvenient for him to attend and report the result of his investigation. In answer to a question from the foreman of the jury, whether Friday week would suit Dr. Taylor as well as Wednesday, that day being more convenient for the jury, the constable, John H. Halton, stated that he could get no definite reply. Dr. Taylor informed him that he would be ready with his analysis on Wednesday next, and that with the sanction of the Secretary of State, Dr. Rees had been associated with him in the analyzation of the contents of the stomachs and the inquiry was subsequently adjourned to the 11th.

After the jury had retired, the chief constable made an application [illegible] Mr. Ward, for the copy of a letter which he had in his possession, and which it was understood he had received from the prisoner before his committal. The letter referred to is the copy of a confidential one written by Dr. Taylor to Mr. Gardner of Rugeley, relative to the result of the analysis of the stomach of the deceased at the late Mr. Cook, and which got into the possession of the prisoner, and was sent by him to the coroner. Strong suspicions are entertained with respect to the source from whence the contents of Dr. Taylor's letter became known, but at present nothing conclusive has been elicited.

It is not generally known that the deceased Mrs. Palmer, was a ward in Chancery. During a long period before her marriage to Palmer, her guardian resolutely opposed the union, and the Master in Chancery also withheld his consent for some time. Yielding, however to the entreaties of the young lady herself, both objectors ceased. Respecting the sporting proceedings of both the prisoner and Cook, and the great intimacy which subsisted between them, a sporting paper says:—"Among sporting men the subject of the alleged murder, or murders, is still the ruling topic of conversation, and the sensation which was created on the first disclosure of the horrid particulars is rather deepened than diminished. Both Palmer and the deceased were well known to every person connected with the turf; their horses were trained together; they lived on the most intimate terms, and invariably lodged at the same hotel at different race-meetings which they frequented. They were both devoted to betting, and were in racing matters, and poor Cook placed the most implicit confidence in Palmer's judgment. Of Palmer he would always speak familiarly as "The Doctor." Once, in the month of October, Palmer was driving Cook to Rugeley in a gig, when the vehicle upset, but we believe that Palmer was the more injured of the two. Palmer was considered to be rather a fortunate man on the turf, and a quiet careful better. He won some large stakes in the course of his time. In 1853, his horse Goldfinder, carried off the Chester Cup. During the past racing season he was not quite so successful; still by his horse Chicken, which he purchased for a large sum, he won many good stakes, besides bets. The Chicken, however, was twice beaten at the Liverpool Autumn Meeting, when he was heavily backed; and once at the last meeting at Shrewsbury, where it is supposed that the first dose of poison was administered to poor Cook. Nettle, who was the first favorite for the Oaks, and who fell over the chain, by taking her rider's thigh, also belonging to Palmer. Mr. Cook had a long career of ill luck. His losses during the past season could not fallen short of £7,000. By the success of his mare Polestar, however, at Worchester and Shrewsbury, he won nearly a moiety of that amount."

"Disclosures of a most startling character, and of a nature almost unsurpassed in the history of crime, are expected to be made before the termination of the inquiry into this extraordinary case. It is confidently asserted that, upon resuming the inquiry, evidence will be given to show that Mrs. Palmer, before her death, exclaiming to a female attendant in reference to her husband, "Is that wretch in the house?—He's murdered me." The symptoms exhibited during her illness and at her decease are alleged to be precisely similar to those detailed as manifested by the unfortunate Cook. A surgeon in Stafford, who attended Walter Palmer several times during the short illness which preceded his death, will depose that on the occasion of one visit Walter complained to him that the pills he had sent him to take the previous night had made him awfully ill. The surgeon, not having sent any pills, told him so, and was answered that he (Palmer) had given him the pills, and declared that he (the Stafford surgeon) had sent them. Of the £22,000 for which William had insured Walter's life, we are assured not a farthing was paid by any of the various offices, and, therefore, if the crime of fratricide, as supposed, was committed with the view of gaining that sum, the intent was happily frustrated.

Startling as it may appear, the names of no fewer than sixteen persons are mentioned at Rugeley, as suspecting whose death by poison at the hands of the prisoner, statements are made.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.—The *Times'* Paris Correspondent writes: "When the Emperor Alexander returned to Moscow, he was much more warlike than before. Whether it was thought of the ruins of Sebastopol that awoke the spirit of vengeance within him, of that hope arose as he witnessed the vast preparations in his more secret arsenals, I know not; but I know for a fact that he was ready to fling defiance not only at France and England, but expressed himself about Germany in terms of the utmost indifference."

CANNED PROVISIONS FOR THE ALLIED ARMY.—Such is the demand for cured provisions put up in hermetically sealed canisters, that one establishment (the Messrs. Hogarth of Aberdeen) are killing as many as 60 fat cattle a-day besides using an immense quantity of fish. The French Government receives most of its supplies from this establishment.

THE BALTIC FLEET FOR 1856.—The *Globe* gives as nearly as possible, an accurate list of the Baltic fleet for 1856. It is to consist of thirty-eight line-of-battle ships and heavily armed frigates, mounting 2812 guns; eighteen corvetts and steam-frigates, mounting 302 guns; twenty smaller steamers with 105 guns; seventeen dispatch gunboats, with 73 guns; three floating batteries with 52 guns; four heavy mortar-ships, mounting [illegible] 137 gunboats and mortor-boats carrying two heavy pieces [illegible] [illegible] on an average. There will be also a store ammunition-ship, hospital-ship, and a floating factory, Total, 243 ships of war all with the exception of a store-ship and a hospital-ship, propelled by steam. Total guns, 3667.

It is rumored that a strong force of the royal marines will be organized for service in the Baltic next spring.

The steam transport La Dordogue has just embarked 1,000 men of the 1st and 2nd Regiment of Zonaves at Algiers, to convey them to the Crimea.

On the 15th carts were carrying butter and cheese from Balaklava to the camp, presented to the troops by her Majesty.

THE NEW ENFIELD RIFLE.

It may be as well to echo "the voices from the ranks" respecting the new Enfield rifle. As it is admitted to be nearly a perfect weapon, there is no reason why the few defects alleged to be in it should not be pointed out to the authorities. In the first place, the men—and not only the men, but intelligent armourer-sergeants—say, that the new way of securing the barrel to the stock is not as good as the old way. We have adopted the French plan of metal bands around the barrel and stock, instead of the old English fashion of passing bolts through the wood and through eyes projecting into the wood from the barrel.— The armourers say that the wood expands, and prevents the removal of the barrel in wet weather—that the iron in summer is too loose, and in winter is too tight. In the next place, they object to the ramrod, notwithstanding the recent improvement in making the upper part better, the ramrod end of a greater diameter, so as to project beyond the rest of the ramrod into the fluting, because the ramrod is still subject to stick from the swelling of the wood, whereas it came out easily from the old metal sheath as long as it was kept clean. The metal sheath did not add much to the weight of the gun and it is not desirable perhaps that the new Enfield should be quite so light, as it is found after hard firing to become somewhat of a "kicker and heavy in the heel." Thirdly, there is an objection on the part of the new men to the new plan, copied from the French (and Russians,) of fixing the bayonet by a moveable ring, instead of retaining the spring of the Minie rifle.

BITING THE CARTRIDGE.

Every officer of experience knows the excessive thirst produced by the saltpetre and sulphur of the gunpowder getting into the mouth each time a man bites the cartridge. In hot weather this thirst is nearly insupportable, and interferes with the steadiness of the men in firing. But the action of biting off the cartridge end not only causes at all times a little confusion of the ranks, but strains the teeth and hurts the gums after some 60 or 70 pulls at tough paper. The necessity of doing so obliges the regimental surgeon to refuse all recruits who have not good front teeth, though they may be otherwise quite serviceable. Would it not be a boon to the service, and an advantage to the army and to the country if this thirst and fatigue were prevented, and the necessity for biting the cartridge obviated, provided that no change were produced in the drill, and no inconvenience created by the alteration. It certainly strikes one that the answer ought to be in the affirmative. [illegible] Surgeon [illegible] dale, of Her Majesty's ship Triton, having observed the evils consequent on the present plan of biting the cartridge, devised a very simple remedy. In the end of each bayonet spring of the Minie is flatted so as to afford space for the pressure of the thumb in the fold down [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] armourer, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] By pressing the [illegible] [illegible] cartridge against this slit with the thumb, and jerking gently the part [illegible] [illegible] it is held, the paper is at once cut or torn off, and the cartridge is ready for use. The hands are still in the proper position. There is no violent alteration of drill; the Minie is not injured, and the change can be made without a farthing's expense by the regimental armorers. New, files and pricklers might be made henceforth with a cutting edge inside towards the barrel, against which to take off the waste paper, or, at all events, some improvements could be made on the present mode, which has a smack of barbarism about it. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the alteration [illegible] [illegible] has been submitted to General [illegible] [illegible], but unfortunately most of the [illegible] in the Fourth Division, which was then commanded by the gallant officer [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. It may be objected that the bayonets would be loosened by the pressure, so that they would be apt to fall off if they were used at the time of firing; but many officers are of opinion that it would be a great advantage, but an evil to the practice of firing with fixed bayonets, which is sometimes [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Gen. Sir James Yorke Scarlett, brother of the present and son of the late Lord Abinger, has arrived at Malta on his return to England, from the Crimea.

The Italian Legion is progressing favourably. The Legion much requires the services of some good English lieutenants or captains of companies who can speak Italian, and whose colonels will vouch for their thoroughly understanding the internal economy and discipline of a company.

A Paris correspondent writes that the *Gazette de Breslau* [illegible] [illegible] from a good source that the Emperor has addressed a private letter to Admiral Hamelin, Minister of Marine, in which his Majesty [illegible] a [illegible] to furnish the approaching [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] mortar-boats and 150 gunboats, instead of the 200 [illegible] of the [illegible] and 25 of the latter which have been employed [illegible] [illegible].

The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] pamphlet to set forth the great and absolute results obtained by the allies after two years of war, [illegible] [illegible] the capture of [illegible] and the destruction of the Russian Black Sea fleet is mentioned as "[illegible] [illegible] result," according to this author, to decide whether, upon the whole review of the two years' war, the advantage belongs to Russia or to the allies.