

into the diplomatic controversy on a point which will certainly not be decided by the weight of argument, but either by the application or the threat of force. From the speeches of Lord Stanley and the Marquis de Moustier, and from the declarations of the Prussian official press, we gather that both parties have already appealed to the great Powers who signed the treaty of 1839, under which Luxembourg was guaranteed to Holland. We also know that both England and Russia have expressed an opinion that that treaty does not in any way contravene the proposed cession; does not in the present case entail any right or responsibility of intervention upon the Powers, who became parties to it, and leaves the matter entirely for Prussia, France, and Holland to settle amongst themselves. It has also been intimated that the King of Holland has withdrawn from the discussion; and so far as we are at present informed, the controversy is now entirely confined to the two former States. There we trust that it will be allowed to remain, so far as England is concerned. Neither our duty nor our interest requires us to intervene in any other way than by the offer of any good offices we may be able to exercise in the way of mediation. At the same time we shall not be absolutely indifferent spectators of a war, should one break out. As a mere matter of right, Prussia has certainly a better title than France to our sympathy, because although the Luxemburgers do not wish to separate from Holland, there is no doubt, that as Germans, they would infinitely prefer to join their compatriots, than to be sold to France. There is indeed something utterly detestable in this mercantile transaction of a slave-trading kind, the real character of which it is vainly sought to cover by a hypocritical appeal to universal suffrage; and we cannot help feeling that in standing out for her right to keep the fortress of Luxembourg, Prussia is also, to a certain extent, protecting the people of the minor State. Nor is that all. If either France or Germany must be aggrandised, we should prefer the gain to rest with the latter; because we know there is far less risk that she will use any advantage of position for offensive purposes. There is no danger that she will seek to annex Holland or to invade Belgium. But there is no security that if France gets to Luxembourg she will be content to remain there. After all, the little Duchy is but a paltry compensation for the strength which Germany has gained during the last twelvemonths. There will be great temptation to use it as a means to further advance. Its possession would materially facilitate an attack upon the Rhine provinces, but it is more important for us to observe that its occupation would enable France to check any German army which should advance to the assistance of Belgium, in case the independence of the latter country were threatened. Now, as England has, in common with other Powers, guaranteed that independence, it is clearly not our interest that any difficulty should be placed in the way of our co-signatories—of which Prussia is one—fulfilling their obligations. We cannot too strongly deprecate a war the legitimate cause for which might be so easily put an end to by the destruction of the fortress of Luxembourg; but if a conflict should break out, considerations both of interest, and of a larger and more generous kind, arising out of our respect for the principle of nationality, will necessarily incline us to desire the success of Prussia rather than of France.—*Border Review.*

A PHOTOMAGNETIC COMPASS.—An ingenious contrivance has been recently invented by a naval engineer, M. Corridi, for ascertaining a ship's course during a voyage. On the dial of the compass, instead of the star which indicates the north, a circular opening is made, furnished with a small lens. The light shining upon the compass penetrates through the lens, and traces a black mark or line on a sheet of sensitive paper underneath, which is made to move at a certain speed by means of clockwork. The sensitized paper turns with the ship, and as the needle remains perfectly steady, every deviation or alteration of the course is photographed on the paper.

PIPES AND TOBACCO.

IN these days, when oaths are kept as carefully out of a lady's hearing as grey hairs are from her sight—alas! much more carefully than vice of another description, and which our ancestors forty or fifty years ago, winebibbers and blasphemers though they might be, would have blushed to speak of even to their sons,—in these days, I say, it is rather difficult to imagine the state of society, when one of a gentleman's qualifications was a string of oaths which would put a Billingsgate fishwoman to shame, and it was in those days that the anecdote from which I have borrowed my title took place.

An uncle of my father's (a gentleman fully accomplished as the times went, competent to drink and swear, ride and attend cock-fights, with the greatest nobelman in the land), happened to be one of three passengers inside the night mail from Edinburgh *via* Newcastle to London. He had taken his place from the first-mentioned city, though he did not intend to occupy it until the "Highly r" stopped to change horses at a small country town named Wooler. Having greeted the coachman, admired the team, and fortified himself with a stiff tumbler of brandy and water, he proceeded to arrange himself in his corner, and had just placed his legs comfortably on the seat opposite, when the two passengers who had travelled all the way from Edinburgh, and had been refreshing the inner man in the dining-room of the "Taukerville Arms," appeared.

"Friend, thou hast taken my place," said one of them, smiling blandly, and pointing to my uncle's legs, which were removed with a proper compliment of expletives. The stranger, still smiling, took possession, the second followed, and off went the eager team.

My uncle knew every acre of ground for the next twenty or thirty miles, and coming from an agricultural family, he made no attempt to conceal his approval or disapproval of the system pursued by the different men whose farms lay along the turnpike. Of course, each exclamation began, continued and ended with the usual string of oaths,—at last he was induced to relate an event, which, though of no moment in this history, had caused considerable excitement in the neighbourhood. When he had finished, his opposite neighbour, whom we have already mentioned, remarked—

"Friend, I can tell thee a better story than thine, and one thou wilt do well to remember and remark.—A neighbour of mine—pipes and tobacco!—was,—pipes and tobacco!—yes, he was—pipes and tobacco!—going out. Oh!—pipes and tobacco!—to walk, when—pipes and tobacco!—who on this—pipes and tobacco!—earth, should he meet but the—pipes and tobacco! parson, walking along with his—pipes and tobacco!—face as long as to-day and to-morrow. My friend started, yes sir!—pipes and tobacco!—he started, and, said he—pipes and tobacco!!"—My uncle had gradually stared harder and harder, something in the speaker's face, made him think there was a good story, but if it went on in this way, what could he make of it; so out of all patience he shouted:—

"D—n it, sir! what the devil's the good of saying, 'pipes and tobacco?'"

"Even so, friend," said the quaker, smiling; "thou perceivest it to be a foolish, useless expression, marring the interest of my tale, and yet it is harmless. Pipes and tobacco offend not the Spirit of God; but thou, friend, didst condemn thy soul and my eyes to hell twenty times in the space of five short minutes. Thy expressions not only marred the interest of thy discourse, but made me tremble lest the Maker thou blasphemest shouldst call thee to fulfil thy chosen fate."

It is from this story, told me by my dear mother, that I have chosen my title; and having effected that most difficult of all things in writing an article, namely a beginning, I shall go on to say what I intended about "Pipes and Tobacco."

When tobacco was first introduced into Europe, is a subject upon which there appears to be considerable doubt. One thing, however, is certain,

—nobody smoked before the 15th century in that portion of the globe. In that eventful era, the mighty continent of America was discovered, and amongst other wonders related by Columbus and his companions touching the inhabitants of this new world was that they "carried firebrands about with them, and puffed smoke from their mouths and noses." Oviedo, the historian, calls it very pernicious, and states that it brought on insensibility, going to say that they inhaled it through the nostrils by means of a forked tube or cane, the shape of the letter Y. Be this as it may, Columbus, on his return, stated that the inhabitants of Paragnay opposed his men landing, by charging them with their mouths full of a herb called tobacco, the juice of which they squirted into the Spaniards' faces, aiming always at their eyes.

Francisco Lobez de Gomora, Chaplain to the expedition which, under Cortez, conquered Mexico, speaks of smoking as the usual amusement of the people; and another writer, of the same date, in narrating his personal adventures in America, says, "There are some bushes, not very large, like reeds, that produce a leaf in shape like that of the walnut, though rather larger, which (where it is used) is held in great esteem by the natives, and very much prized by the slaves whom the Spaniards have bought from Ethiopia. When these leaves are in season they pick them, tie them up in bundles, and suspend them near their fireplace till they are very dry: and when they wish to use them, they take a leaf of their grain (maize), and putting one of the others into it, roll them tight together; then set them on fire at one end, and putting the other end to the mouth, they draw their breath up through it; wherefore the smoke goes into the mouth, the throat, the head, and they retain it as long as they can; for they find pleasure in it; and so much do they fill themselves with the cruel smoke, that they lose their reason, and remain the greater part of the day or night stupefied."

Harcot, in writing his account of the voyage on which he accompanied Sir Walter Raleigh, says the natives of Virginia looked upon tobacco as the especial gift of their gods, using it as incense when they made sacrifices. The North-American Indians have a tradition of somewhat similar tendency; namely, that in ages gone by a goddess descended from the heavens, and on being hospitably treated by the chiefs promised they should be amply rewarded, and that upon the very spot where she stood they would, thirteen moons hence, find certain things that cheer them through all ages. At the appointed time they returned, and found maize, kidney-beans, and tobacco.

They have, since then, made use of the pipe both as a daily comfort and sacred sign of peace. The same habit extends among the natives of the west coast, and in most of the Pacific Islands. When old graves have been opened, pipes of every shape and material (many hitherto unknown) come to light, and puzzle mankind by their quaint devices. Some of these are so formed that, being fitted to the top, a vessel containing tobacco, a dozen or more tubes could be inserted, and thus a party of friends smoke the social pipe together. This description, though now unknown, seems to have, at a remote period, been very common, and are made of a peculiarly hard and close-grained clay.

No diminution in the prevailing habit has taken place among the few that remain of the aborigines of America. The pipe still holds its wonted place at feast or gathering, and the sacred pipe of peace is still the most inviolable pledge they make use of: it is under the protection of their gods, and is carefully preserved until occasion makes its sanction necessary. Catlin, in his delightful account of North America, relates many new and interesting anecdotes and incidents connected with the calumet as the pipe of peace is named, and describes it as surmounted with "war-eagles" quills, and never allowed to be used on any other occasion than that of peace making, when the chief brings it into treaty, and unfolding the many bandages which are carefully kept around it, has it ready to be mutually smoked by the chiefs, after the