

## GREAT BRITAIN.

From papers by the barque Athabasca.

**ONE OF THE SWELL MEN.**—A good-looking young man, dressed at all points in the very *plus ultra* of the mode, was charged with having adroitly practised the respectable avocation of pocket-picking. Police-officers No. 239 and 329 deposed, that they had received orders the preceding day, Monday, to attend upon the process on which was formed for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the new schools. During the performance of the ceremony, officer 329 saw the prisoner try, with great adroitness, the pockets of several ladies and gentlemen, but, seeing the respectable exterior of the individual, he determined to watch farther. He accordingly called the attention of his brother officer, and they narrowly watched the proceedings of the prisoner. Presently he was seen to nestle himself close to some ladies who were intent on what was going forward, and it was now perceived that he had some colleagues, well-known thieves, close behind him. In a short time, the prisoner insinuated his hand into the pocket of one of the ladies, and the officers rushed forward and seized him in the act. His companions made their escape. The prisoner had engaged Mr Dodd, to conduct his case, but that gentleman failed to shake the testimony of the officers. The prisoner then pleaded his innocence, most strenuously urging his great respectability. For the latter several officers of the Court vouched at once, declaring that he had been more than once at their bar charged with similar delinquencies. The prisoner was committed to the Borough Goal for one month. —*Liverpool paper.*

**DREADFUL CALAMITY AT SEA.**—The Volunteer, Clark, which arrived at this port on Wednesday last, from Ramshag, had on board the master (Clough) and five seaman of the Haunah, of South Shields, fallen in with in the course of their voyage, on the Western Ocean, water-logged. They were the survivors of a crew of twelve men, five of whom had died, and one been drowned, and were in the most distressed and deplorable condition. To such extremities had they been reduced that part of a human body was found on board, with which these unfortunate creatures had been compelled by starvation to eke out their miserable lives. —*Hull paper.*

**THE NEW VEHICLE RETARDER.**—Much curiosity has been excited in Oxford, by repeated trials of a new invention, intended to regulate the speed of carriages when descending a hill, by means of which the coachman can, instantaneously or progressively, lock both the hind wheels. The apparatus was applied to a four-horse stage, which was loaded with passengers, and, on ascending or descending a hill was found to answer all the purposes intended. The inventor then proposed that the coach should be taken down the hill without the horses, and it was frequently stopped at the rate of 12 miles an hour. Many practical gentlemen had ample proofs of the principle of the invention, by having the coach lifted up, and the two hind wheels allowed to turn free on the axle, when it was found that a two-pound weight, placed on the extremity of the wheel, would bring it gently round; but when the first degree of retarding power was applied, it took a weight, so placed, of fifteen pounds to bring it gently round: the second degree 36 pounds: the third degree, 56 pounds; and the fourth degree, three quarters of a hundred; but with this weight no person was capable of moving either wheel on its axle. Mr B. Pearson, organist of the city church, is the inventor. —*Oxford paper.*

**THE KING.**—The fact of the Duke of Bedford having subscribed to the O'Connell fund was not made known to his Majesty until a few days ago, when, we are informed, and our information may be fully relied on, the King appeared much surprised, and expressed his indignation at the conduct of his grace by ordering the bust of the Duke of Bedford, which stood in the gallery at Windsor, to be immediately removed, at the same time observing, that, although every man was perfectly right to stand by his party, if he chose it, he would not allow the bust of any nobleman to remain at the castle who should subscribe to the O'Connell tribute. —(*Northampton Herald*).—The *Globe* hazarded a contradiction of this story—supposing it impossible that William the Fourth would have been guilty of such an exhibition of party spite. It is perfectly true, nevertheless, that the King did command the removal of the Duke of Bedford's bust from the Windsor gallery; and moreover he desired it should be pounded to dust! The latter order has not been executed, but the bust no longer offends the eye of Royalty. Is it not probable, that William the Reformer should have been degraded into the King of a Faction? —*Spiritator.*

**ASTONISHING DISCOVERY.**—At the late meeting of the British Association at Bristol, Mr. Cross, of Broomfield, Somerset, stated that he had devoted much of his time to electricity, and he had latterly been occupied in improvements in the voltaic power, by which he had succeeded in keeping it in full force for twelve months by water alone, rejecting acids entirely. Mr Cross then proceeded to state, that he had obtained water from a finely crystallized cave at Holway, and, by the action of the voltaic battery, had succeeded in producing from that water, in the course of ten days, numerous rhomboidal crystals, —resembling those of the cave. In order to ascertain if light had any influence in the process, he tried it again in a dark cellar, and produced similar crystals in six days, with one-fourth of the voltaic power. He had repeated the experiment a hundred times, and always with the same results. He was fully convinced, that it was quite possible to make even diamonds, and that at no distant period, every kind of mineral will be formed by the ingenuity of man. By a variation of his experiments, he had obtained blue and gray carbonate of copper, phosphate of soda, and twenty or thirty other specimens. Mr Cross, some years ago, was engaged in carrying on the most gigantic experiments attaching volt lines to the trees of the forest, and conducting through them the streams of lightning as large as the mast of a seventy-four gun ship, and even turning them through his house with the dexterity of an able charioteer.

LONDON, September 2.

**GREAT FIRE.**—One of the most dreadful fires which has occurred for several years past in the metropolis, and which has destroyed buildings and merchandize to an amount which is variously estimated at from £300,000 to £500,000, burst forth between two and three o'clock on Tuesday morning at the end of Tooley street, Southwark, and at the corner of the new street, called Duke street, where these streets abut upon the south-east foot of the new London Bridge.

**BILLS OF EXCHANGE.**—An Act of Parliament has just passed which settles a disputed point in regard to bills of exchange, and which ought therefore to be known to men of business generally. The point alluded to is that respecting acceptors or referees for honour, in which no uniform practice existed, some houses presenting the bills so marked on the day when they became due, and others the day after. It is now declared, however, that it shall not be

necessary to present such bills of exchange until the day following that on which they become due, and if the address of the acceptors or referees for honour shall be in any other place than that in which the bills shall be made payable, they need not be forwarded until the day succeeding that in which they become due. If the following day shall be either Sunday, Good Friday, or Christmas Day, they need not be presented or forwarded until the day succeeding such day of non-business. —*Liverpool Albion.*

From the London Morning Herald.

**THE BANKS.**—We are enabled to state with some degree of confidence, that it is the intention of the joint stock Banks in Lancashire to call a meeting of their various directors, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of declining to receive Bank of England notes, and of taking the notes only of such banks as oppose the measures of the Bank of England, with the view of putting an end to that constant tampering with the currency by the Bank direction, under which the property of every merchant and manufacturer is placed in constant jeopardy. The natural consequence of this important measure will be the complete excretion of the manufacturing, commercial, and agricultural interests, from the thralldom by which they have so long been oppressed. In fact, it becomes daily more evident to every practised mind, that, however adequate the Bank of England may have been to give a circulation to the country 50 or 60 years ago, it is now no longer able to meet the increased wants of the empire, more especially when two-thirds of its capital is foolishly lent to government, instead of being applied to the commercial purposes for which the Bank of England was originally intended. We cannot conclude these remarks without stating that we are fully aware that the notes of the Bank of England have become a legal tender; but a determined demand for gold will soon remedy that point, and create a feeling in favour of a provincial circulation; and we only regret that an establishment which, under wholesome and monetary laws, might be the foster parent of many other useful banking establishments, and confer a benefit upon the country, should, from the ignorance and perverseness of its directors, resolve itself into a national pest.

From the Liverpool Times.

There has been a suspicion all along that the motive for the visit of the deputation of Liverpool bankers to London to confer with the bank directors has not been fully explained, and we are now enabled, by the courtesy of a party who is not likely to be very wrong in the matter, to throw some further light upon it. It has struck every one who has bestowed any reflection on the subject as very strange that the casual rejection of a few bills, however good, at the discount-office of the Bank, which is no very uncommon event, should have brought up to London three gentlemen among the first in wealth and consequence in Liverpool. The fact is that they had received an impression that the Bank Directors intended to place under an absolute stigma, as to credit, some of the most eminent houses in London, no possible motive for which could at the time present itself to their minds. It arose in this way:—The bank directors, on the day when they created such general consternation in the commercial world by throwing out the bills of the houses in question, naturally reflected that they had branch establishments in Liverpool and in Manchester, where the same bills might possibly be presented, and if they were, that they would certainly be discounted. Letters were