

## SLAVERY IN EUROPE.

Who can estimate the evils of slavery, even in its mildest form of serfdom. Let the insurrections that have from time to time occurred in all countries where it has existed testify. The latest of these is the somewhat extraordinary massacre which occurred a few months ago in Galicia, we extract from a British paper of high character, the following statement.

**THE LATE MASSACRES IN GALLICIA.**—The detailed atrocities which took place in the Austrian province of Galicia, during the recent Polish insurrection, are unparalleled, or at least are without example in the modern history of Europe. It appears that the army of Austria entered the town of Cracow, and took away all its authorities and municipal officers; that the inhabitants then formed a provisional government; and the consequence was, that the town was declared in a state of insurrection. Certain refugees passed over the Austrian frontier, which is within a few miles of the city, and subsequently there arose in Galicia a series of the most fearful events which ever occurred either in ancient or modern times—events of such a nature that we cannot sufficiently express our astonishment at the manner in which they have been smothered up in Germany. And on the Continent generally. The relations between the proprietors and the people in Galicia were somewhat like the old system in this country. The nobles represented principally the proprietors and the freeholders of the country, while the people remained somewhat in a state of serfdom. Certain amendments were sometime ago proposed in the condition of the lower orders by the Austrian government, which rendered it popular with those classes. When the Austrian officers, however, went into Galicia, they seem to have thought that the whole of the nobles and proprietors were about rising in opposition to the government, and an order was accordingly issued to the peasantry to possess themselves of the custody of the proprietors by any means they could use. An order to the following effect was promulgated on this occasion: "I call upon the inhabitants of this district that they shall take possession of all the turbulent spirits therein—that, armed with their scythes and their hatchets, they shall deliver up such parties to the government; and I am authorised for this service immediately to give to those who so deliver these parties up a sufficient recompense." Can we wonder that such an order as that should be followed by the most disastrous consequences? But that was not all. The peasantry were told to bring these people alive to the government, if they could, by fair means, but to bring them at all events; and the local authority who gave this order declared that he had been fully authorised to do so. How was that order followed? No less than 1478 proprietors and individuals were brutally murdered and brought to the government. Of these there were between 70 and 80 priests, the teachers and religious instructors of the people of the district. A large portion of them also were ladies of the highest distinction. In one family alone the entire of its members, consisting of sixteen persons were destroyed. But when this was all over, what took place? Has the government come forward to denounce the perpetrators of these outrages, and declare that their authors shall be punished? Is it credible that the men who committed such crimes have been subsequently addressed as "faithful Gallicians," and told they have discharged their duty efficiently to the government?

## MINUTENESS OF ANIMAL LIFE.

Take any drop of water from the stagnant pools around us, from our rivers, from our lakes, or from the vast ocean itself, and place it under your microscope; you will find therein countless living beings, moving in all directions with considerable swiftness, apparently gifted with sagacity, for they readily elude each other in the active dance they keep up; and since they never come into rude contact, obviously exercise volition and sensation in guiding their movements. Increase the power of your glass, and you will soon perceive, inhabiting the same drop, other animals, compared to which the former were elephantine in their dimensions, equally vivacious and equally gifted. Exhaust the art of the optician, strain your eye to the utmost, until the aching sense refuses to perceive the little quivering movement that indicates the presence of life, and you will find that you have not exhausted nature in the descending scale. Perfect as our optical instruments now are, we need not be long in convincing ourselves that there are animals around us so small that, in all probability, human perseverance will fail in enabling us accurately to detect their forms, much less fully to understand their organization. Vain, indeed, would it be to attempt by words to give any thing like a definite notion of the minuteness of some of these multitudinous races. Let me ask the reader to divide an inch into 22,000 parts, and appreciate mentally the value of each division; having done so, and not till then, shall we have a standard sufficiently minute to enable us to measure microscopic beings. Neither is it easy to give the student of nature, who has not accurately investigated the subject for himself, adequate conceptions relative to the numbers in which the infusoria sometimes crowd the waters they frequent; but let him take

his microscope, and the means of making a rough estimate at least are easily at his disposal. He will soon perceive that the animalcule inhabitants of a drop of putrid water, possessing, as many of them do, dimensions not larger than the 1.2600th part of a line, swim so close together, that the intervals separating them are not greater than their own bodies.—The matter, therefore, becomes a question for arithmetic to solve, and we will pause to make the calculation. The *Monas termo*, for example—a creature that might be pardonably regarded as an embodiment of the mathematical point, almost literally without either length, or breadth, or thickness, has been calculated to measure about the 22.000th part of an inch in its transverse diameter; and in water taken from the surface of many putrid infusions, they are crowded as closely as we have stated above. We may therefore safely say, that, swimming at ordinary distances apart, 10,000 of them would be contained in a linear space of one inch in length, and consequently a cubic inch of such water will thus contain more living and active organized beings than there are human inhabitants upon the whole surface of this globe!—*Rymer Jones.*

## WEALTH OF MEXICAN CHURCHES.

Major Noah, of the *New-York Times*, speaking of the immense treasures the Mexican churches contain, says—"In the cathedral of Puebla de los Angeles, hangs a grand chandelier of massive gold and silver, not of ounces avoirdupois, but whole tons of weight, collected under the viceroys from the various tributary mines. On the right of the altar stands a carved figure of the Virgin, dressed in beautiful embossed satin—executed by the nuns of the place. Around her neck is suspended a row of pearls of precious value, a coronet of pure gold encircles her brow, and the waist is bound with a zone of diamonds and enormous brilliants. The candelabras are of silver and gold, too massive to be raised even by the strongest hand, and the host is one mass of splendid jewels of the richest kind. In the Mexican cathedral there is a railing of exquisite workmanship, five feet in height, and two hundred feet in length, of gold and silver, on which stands a figure of Remedios, with three petticoats—one of pearls, one of emeralds, and one of diamonds; the figure is valued at three millions of dollars. In the church of Guadalupe there are still richer and more splendid articles; and in that of Loretto they have figures representing the Last Supper, before whom are piles of gold and silver plate, to represent the simplicity of that event. It is the same in all the churches and cathedrals in Mexico. The starving Lepero kneels before the figure of the Virgin worth three millions, and yet would die of want before he would presume to touch one of the brilliants of her robes, worth to him a fortune. About a hundred millions of dollars are thus locked up in church ornaments, while nothing is laid out for public education, roads, canals, public improvements, and true national glory."

## SELECTIONS.

**SERVICE OF ROCKS.**—It ought to be generally known, that, in former times, the North American colonists having banished the grakles (their rocks), the insects ate up the whole of their grass, and the people were obliged to get their stock of hay from Pennsylvania and from England; and, in the island of Bourbon, the poor eastern grakles disappeared under similar persecution. The islanders suffered in their turn, for clouds of grasshoppers consumed every green blade; and the colonists were compelled to apply to Government for a fresh breed of grakles, and also for a law to protect them—*Waterton's Essays.*

**BREAKING UP OF HINDOISM.**—The Calcutta correspondent of the *Morning Herald* says:—"A few days ago Baboo Mutty Lall Leul proposed to the Dharma Subha, a society of orthodox Hindoos, to petition Government for some enactment in favour of the re-marriage of Hindoo widows. It appears that his proposal caused a great stir in the meeting, and was loudly exclaimed against, which is not to be wondered at when it is remembered that the society was originally established to oppose the abolition of *Suttee*. You may not have heard that this same Mutty Lall, some time ago, offered a premium of ten thousand rupees to any Hindoo who would marry a widow. The prize has never been claimed."

**MISTAKING THE BRANDS.**—A merchant engaged in the West India trade sent to a French customer of his, in one of the Islands, a lot of pork, of various brands, such as "Duffield," "Miller and Brown," "Davis," &c., of Cincinnati. Among the rest was a small lot marked "Measly," which term means pork made from animals diseased. No mention was made of the difference in the pork, but it was left to take its fate. The next year our merchant had occasion to go to the same Island, and inquired of the Frenchman about the pork. "Oh," said he, "some of de pork var good. Monsieur 'Duffield,' goot—"Miller & Brown," and 'Davis,' all var goot—but dat Monsieur 'Measly,' he von great scoundrel!"