

He was accessible to complaints from every quarter. A woman from a remote Persian province came to his audience, and complained that her son had been killed and her property carried off by a set of plunderers. The king replied that this was a distant conquest, in which it was impossible for him to prevent some disorders. The woman warmly rejoined, "Why then do you conquer kingdoms which you cannot protect, and for which you will not be able to answer in the day of judgment?" That this rebuke could be addressed to the king was no small honour to his character, and still more when we find that it roused him to establish order in those distant parts of his dominions. A still more signal act of justice is recorded. A citizen of Ghizni represented that a powerful lord of the court, having become enamoured of his wife, arrived nightly, thrust him out of his own dwelling, and forcibly supplied his place. Mahmoud, with the deepest indignation, desired that information should be given to him the first time that this outrage was repeated. The injured person came three nights after with the expected notice, and Mahmoud, attended by a guard of soldiers, hastened to the house. Having ordered all the lights to be extinguished, he advanced in the dark with a weapon, and, seizing the offender, with one blow severed his head from his body. He then caused a light to be brought, and having seen the victim, fell on his knees and uttered a prayer. Being asked the meaning of all this, he replied, that he had extinguished the light lest the guilty person should prove to have been a favourite, the view of whom might have shaken his just resolution; but, on being relieved from his apprehension, he had returned thanks to Heaven.—*Edinburgh Cabinet Library.*

CONFUCIUS.—The great Chinese philosopher, whose system has probably affected a larger number of human minds than that of any other philosopher, was the son of a district magistrate in what is now Shantung province, and was born about 550 years before Christ. In his youth he became remarkable for his learning and wisdom. Three years of retirement and mourning for his mother, he devoted altogether to study and thought. He subsequently travelled extensively and became acquainted with princes and learned men, and gathered all he could from them. He was soon resorted to by many disciples whom he taught as he travelled about. He at one time became prime minister to a prince, whose country greatly prospered under his administration. He died in his 73d year. His memory and writings are held in great veneration, as are also his descendants, the genealogy having been preserved till the present day. These descendants now number 11,000 males, the present being reckoned the 74th generation. The chief of the family is called the Holy Duke.

TIGER HUNTING.—The wooded tracts of Indostan, where nature revels uncontrolled, are filled with huge and destructive animals. The two most remarkable quadrupeds are the elephant and the tiger. The former, of a species distinct from that of Africa, is here not merely pursued as game, but being caught alive, is trained for the various purposes of state, hunting, and war. The tiger, the formidable tenant of the Bengal jungle, supplies the absence of the lion, and, though not quite equal in strength and majesty, is still more fierce and destructive. These two mighty animals are brought into conflict in the Indian hunts. The elephant is then used as an instrument for attacking his fiercer but less vigorous rival. The hunter, well armed, is seated on the back of this huge animal, and in the first advance, the whole body of the assailants are ranged in a line. When the combat commences, the elephant endeavours either to tread down the tiger with his hoof, crushing him with the whole weight of his immense body, or he assails him with his long and powerful tusks. Whenever either of these movements can be fully accomplished, the effect is irresistible; but the tiger, by his agility, and especially by his rapid spring, resembling the flight of an arrow, often succeeds in fastening upon the legs and sides of his unwieldy adversary, and inflicts deep wounds, while the latter is unable either to resist or to retaliate. Even the rider, notwithstanding his elevated seat and the use of arms, is not on such occasions wholly exempt from danger.—*Edinburgh Cabinet Library.*

THE DESTINY OF WOMAN.—The destiny of woman, as we see, is not a trifling destiny—the mission of woman is not a trifling mission—the influence which she possesses and exercises is not a trifling influence? Ought women then to be triflers? Ought their education and their pursuits to embrace only a round of elegant trifles? Should the cultivation of external graces form the chief object in the training of beings so influential and responsible? Such training adds to their influence, while it takes from them the power of directing it, and increases their responsibilities without imparting the capacity requisite for their fulfilment. There is nothing so dangerous as the possession of influence, undirected by conscientiousness, and it seems playing with the destinies of society to allow such powers to remain in hands so little fitted to direct them.

The influence of woman is, or ought to be, a moral influence, and that it may have its full effect, the main object of their education ought to be to expand and perfect their moral nature, and to implant deeply the fact of their influence, and their consequent responsibilities. This foundation being laid, let woman be elegant, be accomplished, be every thing that society requires of them; but let them not forget that these powers are not given for themselves, but for God's glory and the good of their fellow creatures. Thus shall they be not only caressed, admired, honoured, but happy, happy in the happiness of unselfishness, of devotedness, of love—the only happiness here below which can give us any foretaste of that which is to be enjoyed above.

THOUGHTS.—If the intellect requires to be provided with perpetual objects, what must it be with the affections? Depend upon it the most fatal idleness is that of the heart; and the man who feels weary of life, may be sure that he does not love his fellow creatures as he ought.

We hold that the life of brutes perishes with their breath, and that they are never again to be clothed with consciousness. This inevitable shortness of their existence should plead for them touchingly. Poor ephemeral things, who would needlessly abridge their dancing pleasure of today?

A habit of thinking for himself may be acquired by the solitary student, but the habit of deciding for himself is not to be gained by study. Decision is a thing that cannot be fully exercised, until it is actually wanted. You cannot play at deciding. You must have realities to deal with.

ROMANTIC DEATH OF A HIGHLAND GIRL.—The *Inverness Herald* details the following incident, which occurred during a snow storm in the north on the fatal and memorable 13th of January:—A piper, residing at or near Riconich of Rea, Sutherlandshire, arranged with a young female, of the name of Dolina M'Askill, servant to a shepherd in Assynt, to meet her on the 13th ult., at her sister's house in that parish, and accompany her on a visit to her mother, residing at Edderachylis. Although the day was snowy and drift, the piper kept his appointment, but as the girl did not make her appearance, he proceeded on his journey to her mother's, leaving injunctions that the girl should not attempt to follow him on so stormy a day. Shortly after the girl arrived, and accustomed to the inclemency of the weather, would listen to no caution and brook no delay.—She took the road and soon missed it, and became benumbed and overcome with cold. When it was discovered that she had not arrived at her destination, the whole inhabitants of the countryside turned out in quest of her. After several days of fruitless search she was at last found frozen, in a sitting posture beside a stream, within a mile and a half of the ferry of Kyle Sku. She appeared to have been in the act of changing her stockings for a dry pair she carried with her, when she was arrested by the hand of death; and was found with one hand holding her plaid about her head, and the other resting as a support to her body, upon her knee.

THE WEEPING WILLOW AT WALMER CASTLE.—Now that Walmer Castle has been rendered more interesting by the visit of the Queen, it is strange that the weeping willow on the grass plot of the garden has not been alluded to. This willow has grown from a slip which was presented to the Duke of Wellington by a gentleman

who cut it from the willow overhanging Napoleon's grave at St. Helena. The great conqueror of that wonderful man cherishes this tree with peculiar care; and her Majesty and Prince Albert were observed to regard it with the deep interest which his historical character is calculated to inspire in great and reflecting minds.—*Kentish paper.*

THE influence of woman in the present life is extensive: the sister the daughter, the friend, the wife, the mother—each have a wide and widening circle of influence, which must, in some way or other, affect us in every stage of our existence. But even this is comparatively nothing to her influence as to eternal and undying realities. Every zeal she gives to virtue—every tear she wipes away with her soft and delicate hand—every sigh she heaves over the wretched and the destitute—while they bless for the *present life*, directly point to immortality. Oh, it were, after all, but little that woman could do for us to soften human woe, in this vale of tears, if she did not point to that calm and happy world whose light is immortal—the music of which is unending—the air of which is serene, pure and holy—the pleasures, the hallowed pleasures of which are undying—and the honors of which are unfading and everlasting. Any influence less than this attributed to woman, falls far below her moral dignity, and her inestimable worth!

If you have performed an act of great and disinterested virtue, conceal it. If you publish it, you will neither be believed here, nor rewarded hereafter.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

WE have of late been favoured with numerous arrivals from Europe, bringing dates to the 4th April.

The news is not very important. News of the disturbances at Canton had been received, as also of the massacre by the Chinese, at Formosa, of the crews and passengers, (amounting to a hundred persons) of two British vessels, the *Nerbudda* and the *Crig Ann*, subsequent to the Treaty of Nankin, and it is said by the order of the Emperor. A proclamation was issued on the 22d November, by Sir Henry Pottinger, expressive of his horror and astonishment at this cold blooded atrocity. The proclamation states that the degradation from office, and the confiscation of the property of the local authorities, would be demanded by the British Plenipotentiary, and that in the event of the Emperor's refusal, (which was not anticipated) hostilities would again be renewed.

Commercial business was considerably improved, and a better feeling pervaded the manufacturing classes. The Cotton market had been brisk, with higher prices, although the news by the Great Western of the extensive crops on this continent has caused a slight fall in the previous prices.

Another attempt had been threatened upon the life of Her Majesty, and upon that of Sir Robert Peel.

Money was plentiful in London, and securities high.

CANADA COMPANY.—The general court of Proprietors was held in London on the 29th ult. The nett profits of the past year amount to £40939, being an increase of £21,000 over the profits of the previous year. A dividend will be declared in July.

A deputation, consisting of Lord J. Russell and some of the most eminent merchants and bankers of London, had an interview with Sir Robert Peel on the 1st inst., to present a memorial from the merchant bankers, shipowners and others of London on the subject of systematic colonization. It is believed that the matter is seriously under the consideration of the Government, and that if any attempt be made to aid or systematise emigration, Canada will be the field of the experiment.

Southey, the Poet Laureate, died on Tuesday, March 21st, at his residence at Keswick. He held the office of Laureate since 1812.

It is observed by the papers that a most extraordinary falling off in foreign emigration, as compared with that of previous years, has taken place this season. Probably not more than one fourth of the usual number have gone out. The principal reason is stated to be that a great many who had left for the United States have returned during the past few months, unable, as they say, to get employment abroad.

Nearly 6,000 persons are now receiving relief from the funds of the corporation of Bristol.

London has been, and continues to be, visited by a severe epidemic. The Fever Hospital is so crowded that the officers are under the daily necessity of sending away persons brought for admission.

Sir Charles Napier has been elected a member of the United Service Club, by 195 to 13 black balls, one in ten excluding. The opposition proceeded from Sir R. Stopford and his friends. Most of the old veterans of the service attended to vote for Sir Charles.

The opening of the Thames Tunnel took place on Saturday. During the ensuing two days, 50,000 persons passed through, on the payment of 1d each. It has cost nearly three-quarters of a million sterling.