14759.

The Weekly Observer.

Established in 1818, Under the title of "The Star." } Whole No 1533.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1848.

VOL. XX.—NO. 33.

The Observer,

Published on Tuesday, by Donald A. Cameron, at his Office, corner of Prince William and Church Streets, over the Store of Messrs. Jardine & Co.—Terms: 15s. per annum, half in advance.

Wholesale & Retail Warehouse

—Prince William Street,—

J. & J. HEGAN,

Have received from London, Liverpool, and Glasgow, a general assortment of FALL and WINTER GOODS—consisting of

FLANNELS, Blankets, Counterpanes, &c.
Pilot and Beaver Cloths, Cassimeres,
Buckskins, Doeskins, Fancy Trowserings, Rich VESTINGS, &c.
Gala Plaid, and all Wool CLOAKINGS,
Maude & Plaid Wool Shawls, H'dkfs, Scarfs, &c.
Orleans, Coburgs, Delaines, and Cashmeres,
Ottomans, Cambrian Stripes, and Lama Cloths,
Black & col'd Velvets, Silks, Sattinets, & Satins,
Ribbons, Gloves, Hosiery, Laces, & small Wares,
Grey, White, and Printed Cottons, Ginghams,
Scotch Homespuns, Shirting Stripes, Muslins
Linen and Cotton Tickings, Linen Sheeting, &c.
Osnaburg, Canvass, Duck, Hollands,
Linens, Lawns, Diaper, Huckaback, &c.
Lambswool and Merino Shirts and Drawers,
Gent's H'dkfs. Stocks, Scarfs, & MUFFLERS in great variety, Cotton Warp,
Worsted & Woollen Yarn, Knitting and Sewing Cotton, Linen Thread,
Victoria and Damask MOREENS, with Fringes and Trimmings to match,
Red and Green Baize, Printed Druggets,
Hearth Rugs, Patent Tapestry, Brussels and other Carpetings, Travelling Bags, Carpet Thrums, &c. &c. &c.—Which, with a variety of other Goods, will be sold either Wholesale or Retail at the lowest Market prices.

Saint John, N. B. 26th October, 1847.

NEW

Fall and Winter Goods.

J. & H. FOTHERBY

Have received per "Lion" from Glasgow, and "Mountaineer" from Liverpool, part of their Winter Stock, consisting of—

PILOT, Beaver and Broad CLOTHS,
Buckskins, Doeskins and Tweeds,
ORLEANS, Coburgs and CASHMERES,
Satin, Strip'd and Check'd Orleans & Cashmeres,
Grey, White and Printed COTTONS,
Red, White and Blue Flannels and Serges,
Blankets, Rugs, Quilts and Counterpanes,
LINENS, Lawns, Hollands and Diapers,
Jaconet, Book, Mull and Swiss MUSLINS,
Gala and all-wool Plaid and Fancy Cloakings,
Plaid, Maude, Cashmere and other fancy Shawls,
HANDKERCHIEFS in great variety,
Fancy Cashmere, Mohair and other DRESSES,
LACES, EDGINGS, NETS,
Striped Shirting Cambrics,
OSNABURGS, Canvass and Padding,
HEARTH RUGS and CARPETS,
Cloth, Fur and Scotch CAPS,
COTTON WARPS, &c. &c.

Also per *William Carson* and *Commodore* from London, and *Howard* from Liverpool:

CAPES, MUFFS, BOAS and CUFFS,—in Squirrel, Sable, Stone Martin, Fitch, &c.
Gro de Naps, Satins, and Satinetts,
VELVETS, Bonnet Silks and Flowers,
Lambs' wool and Thibet Hosiery and Gloves,
Fancy Dresses and Cloakings in great variety,
GIMPS, Fringes and Trimmings,
Tailors' Trimmings, &c. &c.

Which are offered at the lowest prices, wholesale and retail, for *Cash* only.

October 26.

MORRSION & CO.

Are receiving ex *Lion*, from Glasgow, part of their

New Fall and Winter Goods,

—CONSISTING OF—

SHAWLS in great variety;
Scarfs, Handkerchiefs, Mufflers,
CLOAKINGS in Gala and Plaid Wool, &c.
Tweeds, Plaidings, Regattas,
Osnaburg, Canvass, Muslins,
Linen, Lawns, Diaper, and Hollands,
Scotch Bonnets; Glengarry and Cloth Caps,
With a large assortment of Reels, Linen Thread, Braces, &c. &c. will be sold at the lowest prices for Cash. Oct. 5, 1847.

RECEIVED

Per ship Themis, from Liverpool,—

WITNEY, Bath, Rose, Merino, and Point BLANKETS,
Black, Blue, Rifle, and Drab Beaver and Pilot CLOTHS,
Broad Cloths, Cassimeres, and Kerseys,
Cloth and FUR CAPS, &c.

JAMES SMELLIE.

Prince Wm. Street, Nov. 2, 1847.

Writing Papers, Playing Cards and STEEL PENS.

SEVEN Hundred Reams Writing and Wrapping PAPERS, assorted—Ruled and Plain—from 3s. per Ream upwards;
200 dozen superfine English Playing CARDS;
300 gross STEEL PENS, assorted, from 1s. 3d. per gross upwards; 10,000 QUILLS;
SCHOOL BOOKS, Blank Account Books;
Family and Pocket BIBLES; Testaments;
Prayer, Psalm, and Hymn Books—together with a general assortment of STATIONERY and Miscellaneous Books, all of which will be sold at very low prices for CASH ONLY.

V. H. NELSON,
Book Store, King-st.

Dec. 7. *Victoria Bo...*

IRON, Sleigh Shoe Steel, &c.

C. & W. H. ADAMS have just received per Ship *British American*—
50 tons Bolt IRON;
2 cases Sled and Sleigh Shoe STEEL;
13 bundles Spring Steel;
2 packages VICES;
2 caske best Sheffield TOOLS;
2 cases *Hoole & Co.'s* Gang SAWS, and Files, Pit Saws, Hand Saws, &c. Dec. 21.

NOTICE.

THE Co-Partnership of the undersigned, under the Firm of JOHN KERR & CO., is this day dissolved, by mutual consent. All Persons having claims against the said Firm, will please present the same to the undersigned. JOHN KERR, for payment; and all parties indebted to the said Firm, will please arrange the same with either of the undersigned.

JOHN KERR,
EDMUND KAYE.

St. John, N. B., 16th November, 1847.

The Business formerly conducted by JOHN KERR & CO., will be continued by the undersigned.

St. John, 16th Nov. 1847. JOHN KRER.

SOAP.—Ex ship *Progress* from Liverpool—350 Boxes Steele's best hard SOAP,—landing at Paddock's Wharf, and for sale by

January 11. H. G. KINNEAR.

The Earland.

A VOICE FROM NATURE.

BY REV. E. H. BURRINGTON.

Is it a tone from angels' lips
My earnest spirit hears?
O, listen, and the emerald earth
Will be less sad with tears.
This voice of truth is never mute,
Nor hoarse its stirring tone;
It sing's around the peasant's cot,
And round the monarch's throne.

I hear it 'midst the piercing shrieks
Which come from screws and racks;
Above the tyrant's rod, which makes
A drum of human backs.
And echoed is this music voice
O'er every sea and sod,
"He who doth love humanity
Shall be beloved of God."

A father led two hungry boys
Adown a princely street,
And each one shivered with the cold,
And all had bleeding feet.
"They are imposters," muttered some—
"Mere idlers," answered others;
And few believed who looked on them,
They looked upon their brothers.

Then passed upon a high-fed steed
A lady proud and fair,
And hurried by the beggar's side
As if a snake were there;
And then the beggar turned his eyes
Upon his sons and wept;—
A father never held that faith
On which the stoics slept.

A laughing light sprung down the skies
Like God's approving smile;
And as the poor man's tears arose
It silvered them the while.
The lady's wealth, that beggar's rags,
O, they were things apart!
But who would give *his* weeping eye
For *her* disdainful heart?

EPITAPH ON A CHILD.

(From "Burritt's Christian Citizen.")

No bitter tears for thee be shed,
Blossom of being! seen and gone,
With flowers above we strew thy bed,
O blest departed one!
Whose all of life, a rosy ray,
Blushed into dawn and passed away.

Miscellaneous.

The Bishop of London's Pastoral Letter to the Clergy of his Diocese.

Rev. and Dear Brethren,—There is every reason to expect, as far as human judgment can look forward to coming events, that the Cholera, that fearful and mysterious disease, which is again traversing the surface of the globe, and tracing, in characters which even the careless can hardly fail to read, the power of God and the helplessness of man, will before long make its appearance on our shores. It is stated in the first report of the metropolitan sanitary commission, which has just been presented to Parliament, that, according to information promoted in Select Parliament, consuls abroad, ly its former track in 1832.

It appears to me that the near approach of this fearful malady, while it gives to all a solemn warning, suggests certain duties of a special kind as proper to be undertaken by the ministers of religion, in addition to what may be deemed the more peculiar functions of their spiritual office; and it is to these that I shall, in the first instance, request your attention. As on the one hand it is clearly one of your first duties to impress upon the minds of your people, whatever be their condition in life, the necessity of an implicit trust in God, and of an entire submission to his will, so on the other hand you will discharge an office of real piety and charity in urging upon them the importance of removing all those physical causes which invite the approach of disease and aggravate its malignity; and in endeavouring to persuade them that, while we may not look for a blessing upon the resources or contrivances of human skill if they are not employed in humble reliance upon the power and goodness of God, so neither, if we neglect to use all probable and practicable means of prevention and preservation, have we any reason to expect that He will especially interfere to rescue us from the consequences of our own negligence.

It is abundantly clear, from the inquiries which have been made during the last few years, that the most powerful predisposing causes and aggravations of disease amongst the poorer inhabitants of our great towns are, in the first place, a want of cleanliness, and, in an inferior degree, intemperance and an insufficiency of wholesome food.

With respect to intemperance, no fact was more clearly proved than this, during the prevalence of the cholera in this country, that it found its readiest and most helpless victims amongst the votaries of drunkenness and vice.

But as a preservative from this, as from every other epidemic disease, cleanliness is even more important than temperance; more important, because the want of it is more extensively mischievous. The intemperate man is rendered liable, by his vices, to fall an easy prey to disease. The evil cuts short his single life, and is so far personal only. But it is the property of uncleanliness to propagate itself and its injurious consequences. A drunkard may be indirectly the cause of his own untimely death; and there the mortality ends; but an uncleanly person will live in an uncleanly habitation; and that person, and that habitation, will be each a *fomes* of disease and infection, when sickness comes; a centre of contamination and death to a whole neighbourhood; and with this additional and fatal peculiarity, that uncleanliness speedily converts the milder forms of disease into the more malignant. The dirtiest neighbourhoods were, in every case, those where the cholera first appeared, and where it assumed the most fatal type: nor were instances wanting where it broke out to all appearance spontaneously, with no discoverable existing cause but that of extreme filth.

It is stated by the sanitary commissioners that whereas, "when it previously visited this country, it was believed that the most powerful predisposition to this disease is induced by improper or deficient food, and that for this reason its chief victims are found amongst the poor, it is now universally admitted that a far more powerful predisponent is the habitual respiration of an impure atmosphere; that the highest degree of susceptibility is produced where both these conditions are combined—that is, where people live irregularly, or on unsuitable diet, and at the same time filthily; and that, in places in which a great degree of cleanliness is maintained, the poor, as well as the rich, enjoy an exemption from this disease; that, on an examination of the actual state of the back streets, lanes, courts, and alleys of the metropolis, it is found that in general little or no improvement has taken place in their sanitary condition since the prevalence of cholera in 1832; and that, were this disease to break out again, in the present state of these localities, there is no reasonable ground to suppose that the pestilence would not spread as extensively, and prove as fatal, as on its former visitation.

These statements, which are borne out by abundantly sufficient evidence, appear to me clearly to point out a line of duty for the parochial clergy, in which they may render themselves eminently useful, and which is surely in close correspondence with the nature of their office as the ministers of a gospel of love; for, if to visit a sick parishioner and to minister to his recovery be one of their plainest duties, it is a still more blessed work of charity to rescue, under the blessing of God, whole masses of their poorer brethren from the inroads of disease.

Suffer me, then, reverend brethren, to urge upon you the duty of an active personal co-operation with the authorities of your respective parishes, or districts, in carrying out every practicable measure of sanitary precaution and improvement; and of calling their attention to the subject, and inviting them to form local committees for that purpose, where you perceive a want of knowledge or activity. Your own share in this work of real beneficence will, for the most part, be the not very easy task of convincing those who are its objects of the advantages of cleanliness; and of persuading them, by motives of the most powerful personal kind, to adopt the suggestions, and to submit to the regulations, which are intended to promote their safety and increase their comfort. You possess, from the nature of your duties, a larger experience than almost any other persons of the actual state of the dwellings of the poor, and of the nature and extent of that evil, which is sometimes, no doubt, the result of their own ignorance or carelessness, but much more frequently, at least in the metropolis and other great towns, of deficiencies, which they have no means of supplying, and of obstacles to cleanliness, which it is the duty of other persons to remove.

The poor of this country are not by nature, nor inclination, indisposed to cleanliness; on the contrary, it is almost always found that, if its means and appliances be placed within their reach, so as to be accessible without much cost or trouble, they gladly avail themselves of them; and it is never to be forgotten that, if thousands and tens of thousands of our fellow-Christians are at this moment living, and that, too, in the very neighbourhood of our most sumptuous palaces and halls, in the extreme depths of physical, social, and moral degradation, and exposed to the most imminent danger of perishing by disease, that is not entirely, often not at all, their own fault; but the fault of those whose duty it is, not only to teach them the benefits of cleanliness and decency, but to do something towards furnishing them with the means of being cleanly and decent, which, under their actual circumstances, is nothing less than an impossibility.

Intemperance and filthiness are two frequently the results of want; and unless something be done for the relief of extreme indigence it will be an empty mockery to tell those who are borne down and crushed by its weight that they would be less miserable if they were less filthy. Your wealthier parishioners should be reminded that their poor neighbours are, in too many cases, exposed to the danger of perishing by want, as well as by disease; and that if it be a work of charity to protect them, as far as human means can protect them, from the inroads of pestilence, it is a still more sacred and urgent duty to rescue them from death by starvation. But this is so obvious a truth that a passing allusion to it will be sufficient.

The extreme closeness and inconvenience of the miserable tenements or apartments occupied by the poorest classes, at rents the excessive amount of which cripples their means of support and cleanliness; the inadequate supply of water; the want of washing-places, ventilation, the absence of all sewerage in the most crowded parts of the metropolis, are causes which engender or aggravate disease, and hurry great numbers of our fellow-creatures and neighbours to an untimely grave.

I do not hesitate to express my opinion that such an amount of practical and personal attention to the removal of these evils, as may not seriously interfere with the discharge of those duties which are of a more purely spiritual kind, may be not unreasonably looked for on the part of those whose office binds them to every exertion of charity, by which they may promote the present and eternal well-being of the people committed to their care. I lay the greater stress upon this point because it is certain that persons immersed in hopeless misery and filth are for the most part inaccessible to the motives and the consolations of the gospel.

Let it, then, be one object of your pastoral visits to observe the state of the poor man's dwelling, with respect both to its internal economy, and to the condition of its immediate precincts. Call the attention of the proper officers to such cases as may appear to require their interference; and remind those members of your flock whom Providence has entrusted with the means of alleviating the misery of their fellow-creatures that a portion of their charitable expenditure can hardly be more safely or profitably directed than towards defraying the expense of cleansing and ventilating the miserable abodes of those by whose labour they are directly or incidentally benefited; and you may add, that a very moderate outlay, judiciously made, will acccomplish a great deal in the way of such improvements.

There is another point connected with this subject respecting which it is most desirable that you should instruct and enlighten your parishioners, especially the poorer classes; seeing that ignorance or misapprehension of the real state of the case may lead, as it has heretofore led, to a neglect of the most obvious duties of humanity, and to a grievous aggravation of all the horrors of an epidemic disease. I allude to the mistaken opinion as to the supposed contagious nature of the cholera, to which the sanitary commissioners refer in the following terms:—

"When cholera first appeared in this country the general belief was that the disease spreads principally, if not entirely, by communication of the infected with the healthy, and that, therefore, the main security of nations, cities, and individuals consists in the isolation of the infected from the uninfected—a doctrine which naturally led to the enforcement of vigorous quarantine regulations, the establishment of military and police cordons, the excitement of panic, and the neglect and often the abandonment of the sick by their relations and friends. Since opportunities have been obtained of a closer observation of the character of this disease, and of the mode in which it spreads through continents, nations, cities, towns, and families, facts have been ascertained which are incompatible with the foregoing view of its mode of dissemination, and of its prevention. They are of opinion that the disease is not, as it was then generally supposed to be, contagious, and that the practical application of that doctrine did no good, but was fraught with much evil."

It is stated by Mr. Greenhow, as quoted by the commissioners, "that, when several members of one family have been attacked, it has usually been either so precisely or nearly at the same point of time as to forbid the belief of one having communicated the disease to another; and that the true principle of the occurrence of such plurality of cases is to be found in the common existence of predisposing causes, natural or acquired, and a common exposure to the efficient cause of cholera.

"That in the hospitals of Newcastle and Gateshead, where, were there any such agent as contagion, it must have been present in its most concentrated form, no case has occurred of illness arising from attendance on the sick, either in the persons of the nurses, the resident apothecaries, or the attending or numerous succession of visiting members of the medical profession.

"That the notion of persons being infected by the dead bodies of cholera patients appears equally unfounded, since such suspected cases are referable to other causes, and those most exposed to contact with the dead, as medical men, in pursuing *post-mortem* examinations, have not in any instance suffered."

Other evidence of a striking kind to the same effect is produced in a report of the commissioners, who add that "the witnesses concur in stating their belief that the belief in contagion operated unfavourably both on the sick and on the attendants." "I daily see," says Mr. Hooper, "the pernicious effects of their belief in contagion. I see patients affected with typhus and other epidemic diseases neglected, and even abandoned, sometimes by relatives and friends, and always by neighbours, from the apprehension that they themselves shall become the subjects of the disease."

I do not presume to hazard an opinion of my own as to the much-disputed question of contagion; but I am sure that the deliberate judgment of the sanitary commissioners, grounded upon the evidence of able and intelligent members of the medical profession, and apparently borne out by facts, may well be considered to justify you, as friends and advisers of the poor, in labouring to relieve their minds from an apprehension which is calculated to chill and repress their natural sympathies at the very moment when they are most needed, and to make them neglect the discharge of those personal offices of kindness to their sick friends and neighbours, which are then most urgently required, to second the exertions of medical skill. With respect to your own duty in this particular, I feel that it would be something worse than superfluous to offer anything in the way of advice or exhortation. The fearless and untiring charity manifested by the parochial clergy during the former prevalence of cholera, in visiting and consoling their sick and dying parishioners, is too well known to require from me a single word of commendation for the past or of direction for the future.

I proceed now to offer some suggestions with respect to what may be more strictly termed your spiritual duty at the present crisis; and, if these suggestions come last in order, it is not because I deem them less important than those which I have already made in the former part of this letter; but because it seemed to me to be more necessary to invite your attention to the necessity of those charitable exertions which are only indirectly, as it were, and contingently, a part of your duty, than to those which are obviously bound upon you by the very nature of your office. If I advert at all to these, you will consider that I do it only in the spirit of friendly counsel and encouragement, and, as the Apostle says, "to put you in remembrance, though you know them, and be established in the present truth."

I have before said that we have no reason, humanly speaking, to expect an exemption from a second visitation of the cholera; and that it is our duty to use all the precautions which science and experience have suggested for mitigating the terrors, and checking the ravages, of that fearful disease. But we are not to forget that all events are in the hand of an almighty and merciful God; that it may possibly be His good pleasure, contrary to all human expectation, to spare us that infliction; and that, whether it be so or not, it is our plain and unquestionable duty to throw ourselves upon His mercy, and to implore His protection and indulgence. I would, therefore, suggest to you the importance of earnestly and affectionately exhorting your people to pray that God would not, for our sins, please Him to avert from us that calamity which we most justly have deserved; or that, if it should seem fit to him, in His inscrutable wisdom, to lay the scourge upon us, we may submit ourselves with all humility and meekness to His fatherly chastisement, and have grace to turn it to our profit.

In urging upon the people committed to your charge this most important duty of deprecation and intercession, you will have many motives to suggest, which it cannot be needful for me to particularize to those who are conversant with the promises of God contained in Holy Scriptures; but I would remind you of one topic, which appears to furnish a special ground of encouragement to the performance of that duty on the present occasion.

You are no doubt aware of the remarkable fact that when, fifteen years ago, this deadly malady was stalking through the land unchecked, baffling by its novelty and sudden force all the resources of human skill, the day of public fasting and humiliation, on which the nation proclaimed its dependence upon the power and goodness of God, while it earnestly besought Him to stay the plague, was immediately followed by a sensible abatement of the disease; and that in a very short space of time its entire disappearance called forth the voice of thanksgiving and joy.

Now, we do not presume to assert that this happy change followed from, though it followed close upon, our public acts of humiliation and prayer; but certainly the solemnity and apparent devotion which marked the observance of the day of fasting were not more remarkable than the speedy decline and cessation of the disease; and I hold it to be much more unreasonable for one who believes in God's providence to deny the connection between the two than it is to admit it, and to regard the deliverance which God then wrought for us in the light of a distinct answer to prayer; affording solid grounds of thankfulness for the past, and of hope for the future.

If the effectual fervent prayer of one righteous man availeth much; if the intercession of Abraham would have sufficed to rescue from destruction the devoted cities of the plain, had ten righteous men been found therein; who shall presume to set a limit to the efficacy of those prayers which ascend to the mercy-seat from the lips and hearts of a penitent and humbled Christian people?

Seek, then, to impress upon the minds of those whom you are appointed to teach, that, by earnest and persevering supplication in their private devotions, in the offices of domestic piety, and in the public worship of the sanctuary, made effectual by His intercession, in whose name and merits they are offered, they may do much towards the safety and happiness of those amongst whom they live as well as their own. Teach them to look upon the warnings and visitations of Almighty God in the light of solemn calls to repentance and amendment, and of invitations to strengthen their trust in Him, and to animate their piety; according to the Apostle's exhortation, "Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and godly fear: for our God is a consuming fire." Admonish those who are stationed on the vantage-ground of life that, after the most strenuous exertions of benevolence on their part to avert the threatened scourge from their brethren, they themselves may fall under it; and that the best preparation for all classes is to do their duty, and to put their trust in God.

I need hardly remind you that, while you endeavour to impress upon your people the duty of a special attention to prayer, they are also to be admonished that no prayers will be effectual but those which are dictated by truly penitent hearts, and seconded by godly, self-denying, charitable lives. Increased fervency in prayer will be vain and profitless if there be not a corresponding increase in the fruits of the spirit—love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. If, as is but too probable, the visitation which we apprehend to be drawing near should actually come upon us, it will be specially needful to inculcate upon those who are connected by the ties of family or neighbourhood the duty of acting fully up to the spirit of our Apostle's precept, which indeed relates to the sins and weaknesses of erring brethren, but is not less applicable to their bodily wants and diseases, "Bear ye one another's burden, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Trusting that the peculiar circumstances of the present crisis will be thought to justify me in addressing to you the forgoing suggestions, and earnestly praying that the hands of my fellow-labourers in the Ministry may be strengthened by larger measures of grace to meet the increased and increasing difficulties of their sacred calling,

I remain, reverend and dear brethren,
Your affectionate friend and servant,
Fulham, Dec. 10, 1847. C. J. London.

The Newspaper.—We occasionally meet with a business man who affects to care very little for newspapers and the information they furnish. Of course, we must give this class of men credit for meaning what they say, but, nevertheless, we cannot believe them to be as independent of newspaper aid as they imagine. We should like these men to have a momentary glimpse of the business world as it would be if all newspaper facilities were annihilated. Extinguish all the light which the Press has shed upon the wants and interests of society; let all the information it has gathered from all parts of the world, and scattered among its readers, be forgotten; let all the intelligence it has imparted, all the enterprize it has awakened, all the ingenuity and energy it has stimulated, be annihilated,—and in what stage of advancement may we suppose the mercantile world would now be found? How would a city without a well-informed Press ever compete with one having that aid? The one, in comparison with the other, would be less than half civilized, and would be constantly at fault in the common transactions of business. And what is true of a city would be true of an individual who should succeed in depriving himself of the aid and advantages of the modern journal. There are numberless ways in which the man of business is benefitted by even the glance at his paper, which we need not repeat. The advertisements may give him information, or suggest a valuable thought. The news department intimate to him the direction which his efforts should take, or the record of some stirring and sterling example of mercantile life may rouse him to those endeavours which will conduct to triumphant success. The expense of a newspaper, it is true, is something, but the probable expense of having no journal is often vastly greater. Ignorance is generally costly.—["New York Mercantile Times."

Death of the Archduchess Maria Louisa.—Italian journals bring word of the death of Napoleon's widow, Maria Louisa, Duchess of Parma and Placenza, who expired at Parma on the 16th ult. The demise of this Princess will facilitate those rearrangements of the Principalities of Central Italy which the imbecility of some of the sovereigns, the unpopularity of others, and the popular effervescence throughout the region, have rendered necessary. The ex-Duke of Lucca can now succeed to his patrimonial heritage of Parma; and the little territory, not so much disputed, between Modena and Tuscany, as itself resolute never to become Modenese, will have the satisfaction of returning permanently under the mild and liberal rule of the young by her affinity to the Napoleon to found a dynasty in France, and to impart to it at least some claims of imperial descent. Maria Louisa was more a dutiful than a devoted wife. She displayed in the moment of Napoleon's fall none of that energy and affection so usual in women, and which, had it been displayed by her, might have altered the fate of Napoleon. But her apathetic nature was roused neither by his fall, nor yet by the disinheriting of her son. Her history since she went to Parma, is made up of the usual events of an Italian Sovereign's life—miserle and exaction towards her subjects, and in her court a domestic and semi-legitimate connection with Count Neuperg in the first instance, and some other as unknown courtier since. It is astonishing how noiselessly and obscurely all the relatives and connections of the great Napoleon sink into their graves.

Death of H. R. H. Madame Adelaide of France.—We have the painful duty of announcing an event which we are certain will excite deep regret, not only in France, but throughout Europe; for the esteem in which the illustrious personage whose death we record was held was universal.—Her Royal Highness Madame Adelaide, sister of the King of the French, expired this morning at half-past three o'clock, at the Tuilleries, in her 71st year, having been born on the 21st of August 1777. This intelligence was as unexpected as it is painful, for although it was announced some days ago that her Royal Highness was affected with the prevailing influenza, the attack was stated to be a slight one. It appears, indeed, that the illness of Madame Adelaide had not until yesterday become so alarming as to preclude all hope of her recovery. Their Majesties the King and the Queen, were incessant in their attentions to her Royal Highness during the whole of her indisposition; and when real danger was apparent they did not quit her bedside. The death of her Royal Highness Madame Adelaide will leave a void in the royal family for which no equivalent can be found. She was not merely the affectionate and beloved sister of the King, his friend, his companion, and his solacer under the many trials which he has experienced, but also a sister to the Queen in every respect, as much as if the same ties of blood had united her to her Majesty as to her royal husband. In consequence of this lamentable event, all the receptions and other Court ceremonies for the new year have been countermanded.—[Galignani's Messenger for December 31.

Australia.—Australia has an importance in the eyes of England superior perhaps to all her other colonies. The climate is obviously more fitted for the English frame than that of Canada or the West Indies. The English settler alone is master of the mighty continent of New Holland, for the natives are few, savage, and rapidly diminishing. The Englishman may range over a territory of 2000 miles long, by 1700 broad, without meeting the subject of any other sovereign, or hearing any other language than his own. The air is temperate, though so near the Equator, and the soil, though often unfertile, is admirably adapted to the rearing of sheep and cattle. The adjoining islands offer the finest opportunities for the commercial enterprise of the Englishman, and its directness of navigation to India or China, across an ocean that scarcely knows a storm, gives it the promise of being the great eastern depot of the world. Van Diemen's Land, about the size with more than the fertility of Ireland, is said to resemble Switzerland in picturesque beauty; and New Zealand, a territory of 1500 miles in length, and of every deversity of surface, is already receiving the laws and the population of England.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

(Extract of a private Letter from Sydney, dated July 20.)—"As a piece of local news that will be interesting to you, I may mention that enormous quantities of lead ore have been discovered at Yass. I have seen several specimens, which consisted of, I should think, 90 per cent. of metal. The ore is said to contain a considerable per centage of silver. Since this has been made known there has been a sort of mania for finding minerals; every man has a hammer in his hand, and, strange to say, metals of various kinds are being discovered almost daily in different directions—copper at Lake George and Goulburn, at Yass and Wellington Valley. It is difficult to say what may eventually be the effect of the working of mines in the colony. The most sanguine expectations are at present indulged in."—*London Times.*

The Arabians.—In this picturesque narrative of Hagar in the wilderness there is much to interest the artist and the man of taste. But the thing of solid and surprising interest is the memorable prophecy of the angel, and which to this day manifests its own striking fulfilment in the lawless and predatory and marauding habits, but withal the independence, of the present Arabians. What materials, even in the state of the world as it now is, for such evolutions as shall make the truth and divinity of Scripture palpable to all men. And what a lesson here, too, of the ever-wakeful care and providence of God! What a noble and elevated freedom should be ours from those wretched anxieties which so distract and degrade us, did we bear about with us all the confidence we ought in that eye which never slumbers and never sleeps! "Thou, God, seeth me." What a protection from care, and at the same time what a stimulant to watchfulness from care about the things of this life, and to watchfulness, lest we should fall short of the things which belong to our true peace and life everlasting! Give me to be spiritually minded, and then I shall have both life and peace.—["Posthumous Works of the Rev. Dr. Chalmers."

The Regency.—We fear a novel reader must be literally of the old school to enter fully into the humour of the work (Vanity Fair;) for the scene is laid when George the Fourth was (not King, but) Regent; the most stirring period is the Waterloo year, 1815; and the dress, manner, modes of thought, amusements, &c., &c., are supposed to be in keeping. The war fever was at its height; Napoleon was regarded as an actual monster; the belief that one Englishman could beat two Frenchmen, and ought to do it whenever he had an opportunity, was universal (perhaps beneficially so, for "those can conquer who believe they can");) the stage coach was the only mode of travelling for the commonalty; gentlemen occasionally attended prize fights; top-boots and hessians were the common wear; black neckcloths were confined to the military; and tight integuments for the nether man were held indispensable; so much so, indeed, that when some rash innovators attempted to introduce trousers at Almack's, the indignant patronnesses instantly posted up a notification, that, in future, no gentleman would on any account be admitted without breeches.—["Edinburgh Review."

The world we live in.—Our globe consists of its earthy structure; of the ethereal fluids which move upon it and above it; of the watery masses and effusions of the vegetable kingdom; and of the animated races. It is subjected to the potent and varied agencies of the sun and moon. It rolls, with undisputed and unsupported freedom, through a boundless space; and it is connected by immediate relations with the planets of our system; more remotely with the splendid stars, whose nature and numbers we have not yet ascertained; into our vicinity they have not yet ventured; yet unknown, rather advertising us of their existence, and amazing us by their appearance, than exercising any perceptible effect, or imparting any knowledge of their composition, of the causes of their journey, or of the places from which they come, and to which they so mysteriously depart. In this grand system of existence, man is the most intelligent being that is visible to our material sense; and we have as yet no decisive evidence that any thing, below the Creator, will be ultimately his superior.—*Sharon Turner.*

Longevity.—A Trieste journal records the death of Luca Brissinc, an old soldier, at the age of 116 years, having enjoyed good health to the last. Of his life our authority says:—"He was born at Trieste, and baptised at San Guisto in 1731, according to the baptismal certificate, which we ourselves have examined, and which the old fellow was wont to show to the incredulous. He served in the Seven Years' War, and had seen Maria Theresa in Vienna, whom he could only describe as 'a fat lady, attired in black.' This was all he could tell us of the once famous Empress of Germany. He served as a soldier for ninety-six years; and for about forty years he 'played the apostle,' as he said, having been chosen from amongst the most aged for the office—more scriptural than savoury—of washing the feet of the rest. Such was his simple career."

Population and Poor Rates.—A return, printed by order of the House of Commons, shows that the annual value of the property rated to the poor rates amounts in England to £62,540,030; in Scotland, to £9,320,784; in Ireland, to £13,204,224. The expenditure for the relief and maintenance of the poor (1845-46) amounted, in England, to £4,954,204; in Scotland, to £295,232; and in Ireland, to £425,184. The rate in the pound, and expenditure for the relief of the poor, on the annual value of the property rated to the poor rates, amounted, in England, to 1s. 7d.; in Scotland to 7½d.; and in Ireland to 8d. The total number of paupers relieved, including casual poor, amounted, in England, to 1,330,557; in Scotland, to 96,326; and in Ireland, to 257,225. The proportion per cent. of the number of paupers relieved to the population was in England, 8.4; in Scotland, 3.7; and in Ireland, 3.4. The rate per head of the expenditure on the total number of paupers relieved amounted, in England, to £3 15s. 5½d.; in Scotland, to £3 0s. 9½d.; and in Ireland, to £1 13s. 0½d.

The Doom of our World.—What this change is to be we dare not even conjecture, but we see in the heavens themselves some traces of destructive elements, and some indications of their power. The fragments of broken planets—the descent of meteoric stones upon our globe—the wheeling comets wielding their loose materials at the solar surface—the volcanic eruptions in our own satellite—the appearance of new stars, and the disappearance of others—are all fore-shadows of that impending convulsion to which the system of the world is doomed. Thus placed on a planet which is to be burnt up, and under heavens which are to pass away, thus treading, as it were, on the cemeteries, and dwelling on the mausoleums of former worlds, let us learn the lesson of humility and wisdom, if we have not already been taught it in the school of revelation.—[North British Review.

The Grateful Physician.—A certain physician, when he visited his rich and luxurious patients, sometimes went into their kitchens and shook hands with their cooks. "My good friends," said he, "I owe you much, for you confer great favours upon me. Your skill, and your ingenious palatable art of poisoning, enable us medical men to ride in our carriages; without your assistance we should all go on foot and be starved."

A Christmas Box.—A poor man, with a wife and large family, residing in the vicinity of Woodford, received a letter on the morning of Christmas day, informing him that a distant relative had bequeathed him £2000.