

## THE LAST OF THE SAMARITANS.

In the valley of Palestine where Abraham and his grandson built their altars to Jehovah, and where some 16 centuries later the Saviour talked with the woman of Samaria by "Jacob's Well," the last remnant of the sect of the Samaritans, numbering about forty families, is now rapidly dwindling away. A traveller, who has recently resided three months among these unmixed descendants or the best blood of Ancient Israel, assures us that as regards their dress manners, social customs, religious rites, and other tribal peculiarities, they are the facsimiles of their ancestors of thousands of years ago. They have never intermarried with any other race, and claim to be the true "sons of Joseph," whose tomb is their valley.

It is said that to observe their domestic life is to live in a Biblical atmosphere, and to return to the days of the patriarchs. The law is read to them from Gerizim, as it was read to their forefathers from the same sacred mountain as early as the days of Joshua: and, along the base of Mount Ebal, camels wend their way, carrying on the traffic between Jerusalem and Galilee as it was carried on in the era of the Evangelists.

From 1806, until 1846 the Samaritans were prevented by the Mohammedans from celebrating the Passover on Mount Gerizim: but twenty years ago, through Christian intercession, the privilege was restored to them. Their days are numbered, but their history and traditions will cling to the "Valley of Shochem," as long as time lasts. The Greek church has purchased the Well of Jacob, and filled its mouth preparatory to erecting a temple over it. It would have been in better taste to leave it as it was when the patriarch watered his flocks there, and as it remained when the Holy Founder of the new dispensation drank of its sweet water.

The few surviving Samaritans are said to be worthy of their lineage and of the ancient name of their sect,—upright, benevolent, and remarkable for their physical beauty and lofty bearing. Their surroundings are so grand and solemn, that they could scarcely be otherwise than a poetic people. Tabernacled under the shadow of Mount Moriah, on the side of the City of Refuge, and with the rock of the Holy Place, the stones set up by Joshua, and the spot on which Abraham prepared his son Isaac for the sacrifice, close at hand, we may well suppose that these noble specimens of the Hebrew race pass their lives in a sort of religious ecstasy, in which the comparative degradation of their present condition is forgotten in the contemplation of a miraculous past.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

The Swiss Government has ordered 15,000 Peabody rifles.

In Ireland there is a barrack accommodation for 2,030 officers and 41,972 soldiers.

George Augustus Sala, it is said, will succeed Mr. Jennings as American correspondent of the London Times.

Registration in Louisiana is completed, and shows that the colored voters have a majority of 38,175.

It is reported that a marriage is arranged between the Crown Prince of Denmark and the Princess Royal of Sweden.

The *Tribune* says that Mr. Johnson seems to have a mania for making removals, and asks, "Does it never occur to him that the people may catch the infection?"

The whites and blacks broke out in open war at Washington, East Tennessee, on Wednesday, the fight resulted in the wounding of a number of persons. A general war among the races it is feared will be the result in that region.

James Stephens, the late Head Centre, is still residing in Paris in seemingly distressed circumstances; he is engaged in writing a history of his connection with the Fenian plot, and hopes to prove satisfactorily that he made no improper use of the funds of the society.

A Spanish officer's despatch, of the 27th, states that 1000 insurgents, in Catalonia, had taken advantage of the amnesty and surrendered. The rest of Spain is quiet.

The Greek loan had reached ten million drachms. The greater portion had already been spent in the purchase of vessels and munitions of war. Three steamers were bought in England and two other iron clads were ordered.

The late speeches of the Emperor Napoleon have had a tranquillizing effect in London. In Paris, however, his assurances are not equally appreciated.

PRESENTS FROM THE SULTAN.—The Sultan has sent thirteen Arab horses as a present to the Emperor Napoleon, and eleven to the Empress of Austria. Of the Arab horses sent to Europe, three are intended for the Prince of Wales, one for the Duke of Beaufort, and others for various personages.

Berezowski, the would-be regicide, is to be transported to New Caledonia, an island in the South Pacific Ocean, belonging to France. Its inhabitants are Papuan negroes who diversify their diet occasionally by eating a white man, if any such are unfortunate enough to fall into their hands.

PENITENTIARY REVOLT.—There was a serious revolt in the Nova Scotia Penitentiary on the 18th ult. The prisoners were at dinner, numbering about forty. It commenced by their complaining of bad food, and breaking the dishes and furniture, and smashing the windows. The military were called in and three of the ringleaders shot and badly wounded, it was thought mortally. The prisoners were quickly subdued, and locked up in their cells.

CHILDREN'S EYES.—A child's eyes!—those clear wells of undefiled thought—what on earth can be more beautiful? Full of hope, love and curiosity, they meet your own. In prayer, how earnest; in joy, how sparkling; in sympathy, how tender! The man who never tried the companionship of a little child has passed by one of the greatest pleasures of life.

The prize fighter, Jones, who was beaten by Mc'ool, on Saturday, had his ribs broken in the contest. It is reported that he fought five rounds after this little "accident," and the reporter adds:—"He would have continued had not the broken ribs entered his lungs." Sixty newspaper reporters were sent to describe the details of this brutal fight, and three thousand persons looked on, undisturbed by the police.

The Strasburg journals state that an order for 130,000 Chassepot muskets has been given to the arms manufactory at Mützig, in the vicinity of that city. They are to be delivered in three years—60,000 per annum.

The Brazilians have abandoned a very important position, to gain which the allies made most strenuous efforts to their advance through Paraguay. This movement appears to be very like an acknowledgment of defeat. The retreat will not be accomplished without difficulty, as on the return they will have to encounter the Paraguayans, who have thrown up a number of fortifications.

A DOUBLE SUICIDE.—A soldier of the Sixty-ninth Regiment and the wife of a sergeant committed suicide together at Dublin, by leaping into the river at Carlisle Bridge. They were seen struggling in the water; an ineffectual attempt was made to rescue them. When taken out they were found to be tied tightly together by a scarf passed round their necks. The woman was only twenty years of age.

A LIVELY PLACE.—The people of Java have rather a lively time of it. According to the latest official statistics contained in the *Tijdschrift voor Nederlandsch Java*, the tiger has in one single year consumed exactly one hundred and forty-eight human beings, and in another year one hundred and thirty-one. The crocodiles cleared an average of fifty people a year, while serpents accounted for between forty and forty-three.

GRAPE-GROWING IN CALIFORNIA.—The single valley of Sonoma, California, produces annually over a million gallons of wine, and the total product of the State this year, in spite of a short crop of grapes in some localities, will be from 3,500,000 to 4,000,000. To this may be added 400,000 gallons of brandy, representing nearly a million more gallons of wine. From these figures we can form some idea of the grape-growing interest of California, which yet is in its infancy. In a few years the State will produce 100,000,000 gallons of wine annually, or even more.

The Danish Minister of War made a speech at a banquet given him by the Danish Military Club, at which the King, Crown Prince and Czaritch were present, in which he declared all his efforts had been directed towards the formation of an organized, well equipped and enthusiastic army, to be in readiness when the moment should arrive for the recovery of the territory which Denmark had lost. The King looked very serious during the delivery of this speech, and later in the evening had half an hour's conversation with the Minister of War.

A Parliamentary return, presented by the Government, gives an account of the distribution of the sum of £2,000, voted by Parliament for the purpose of rewarding certain members of the Irish constabulary force who, being under fire in defence of their barracks against the Fenians, or in collisions outside the barracks, particularly distinguished themselves by their courage, gallantry, and fidelity. Three sub-inspectors—R. Gardener, D. F. Bourke, and O. Milling—received £104 each; the head constables in charge at Killmallock received £70, two other head constables received £50 each, five constables in charge received £34 each; one acting constable in charge £22; nine constables, £20 each; two acting constables, £18 each; 74 sub-constables, £15 each.