

## SELECTIONS.

**TOTAL ABSTINENCE—MODERN HOMAGE TO IT.**—The party of Royal Sappers and Miners who are to form the searching party to be despatched on a boat expedition in search of Sir John Franklin and his party, in case no intelligence of them should reach England before next spring, embarked on board the *Prince Rupert* and *W. Sturminster*. The detachment consists of one corporal, 2 lance corporals, and 12 privates, all of whom have been examined by Sir John Richardson, and have been selected from Woolwich, Chatham, and Sandhurst, out of a large number who volunteered for the expedition. The instructions to the party are to land at Fort Jack, and proceed to the Company's station on the McKenzie River, where they are to winter, and in the event of any unfortunate doubts still hanging over the fate of the intrepid Arctic voyagers, they will be joined by Sir John Richardson in the spring of 1848. *The men are all to be teetotalers, that is, no grog or spirits will be served out to them, but they will receive double pay and rations, and will have an abundant supply of pemmican, or the dried flesh of the Buffalo. Winter dresses, prepared from the skin of the moose-deer, are also provided for them, and every provision has been made to meet the rigour of the terrible cold they will have to endure. The men are all accustomed to the use of boats, which they will have in continual use on the McKenzie, and have been selected from the trades of Carpenters, Smiths, &c.*

**CORRECTION.**—Professor Olmstead denies that he is the author of the communication attributing to the Telegraph the power to prevent thunder storms. He says, "the idea that we shall have no heavy thunder showers, or hear of lightning striking, as long as we have telegraph wires spread over the earth, could not, I should suppose, be entertained by any one who reflects how small a portion such structures of art bear, in extent, to the grand operations of nature."

**THE POWER OF THE PRESS.**—In the year 1272, the wages of the labouring man were just three half-pence per day; and at the same period, the price of a Bible, well written out, was thirty pounds sterling. Of course, a common labourer in those days could not have procured a Bible with less than the entire earnings of thirteenth years! Now, a beautifully printed copy of the same book can be purchased with the earnings of half a day.

**JOHN ANDERSON, MY JO!**—"The clause inserted (in the new English Poor Law bill,) on the motion of Mr. Borthwick, for conferring on old poor couples in the workhouse when both were more than sixty, an absolute right of living together according to the laws of nature and religion, was negatived [in the British Parliament] without a division; as also was the clause for opening to the public the proceedings of the Board of Guardians. There was a time when men dreamed of almshouses. In fact, there were a good many in this country; and Lord Brougham is very well aware that millions of acres have been laid under special obligations, which they do not perform, for the decent board and lodging of old married couples. But the days are gone by when an old labouring couple was thought worth its keep in Old England. Young ladies shed tears when they hear Wilson singing "John Anderson, My Jo!" and laugh heartily and innocently as he describes the domestic wrangles of gudewives and gudemen. Poor things! little do they know that if their Pa's catch such a piece of useless lumber as a real John Anderson in the country, they forthwith clap on a felon's coat upon his back, and shut him up in a dismal ward, from which he only emerges to crush hemp in a shed, or break stones in a yard; while his gudewife is breaking her heart among a nameless class of unfortunates at the other extremity of the prison.—*London Times.*—Real John Anderson's are seldom found living.—*ED. WIT.*

**THE THEATRE AND STEEPLES.**—An actor who had been engaged to take charge of a theatre in a city which he had never visited, is said to have remarked, as he approached in full view of the place, that "he did not like the appearance of things—there were too many steeples—quite too many to afford any prospect of success in his avocation."

**ECONOMICAL MODE OF CUTTING CAULIFLOWERS.**—Instead of cutting off the whole head of a cauliflower, leave a part on, of the size of a gooseberry, and all the leaves; second, and even third heads will be formed, and thus they may be eaten for two or three months; when, at present, by cutting the head completely off, the bed of cauliflowers is gone in two or three weeks.

**TO REMOVE DUST OR MOTES FROM THE EYE.**—Fill a cup or goblet with clear cold water, to the brim, and place the eye in distress in such a position as to be completely within the water in the cup; then rapidly open and shut the eye a few times, and the dust or mote will be immediately washed away. If a cup or other vessel be not at hand, the eye may be placed in a spring or bucket of water.

**TO FIX AMMONIACAL GASES IN VAULTS.**—The most effectual substances that can be employed for the purpose of attracting ammoniacal gases, are green vitriol or common copperas (sulphate of iron) and sulphuric acid. A pound of either of these substances, diluted in a gallon of water and thrown into a vault, will immediately render it inodorous.

**TO GLEANS THE TEETH AND IMPROVE THE BREATH.**—To four ounces of fresh prepared water, add one drachm of Peruvian bark, and wash the teeth with this water in the morning and evening, before breakfast and after supper. It will effectually destroy the tartar on the teeth, and remove the offensive smell arising from these that are decayed.

**THATCH.**—On the roofs of houses, thatch may be rendered incom-

bustible by a common flame, by coating it over with a mixture of white-wash and alum. One pound of alum will suffice for five gallons of white-wash.

**THE DISTRIBUTION OF CARBONIC ACID IN ROOMS FROM THE BURNING OF CHARCOAL.**—It is commonly supposed that the carbonic acid resulting from burning charcoal in a brazier remains as a heavy stratum of vapor upon the floor of an apartment as it does upon the floor of the "Grotto del Cane," and that no danger is to be apprehended in entering the apartment if a person stand upright; but this notion is seriously erroneous, as the chemist can prove. In fact, as carbonic acid is formed during the combustion of charcoal, it is materially lighter than air, because it is of an exceedingly high temperature, or, in other words, rarified by the heat; and, accordingly, says the "*London Builder*," it ascends in virtue of this thermal levity, and blends uniformly with the air of the apartment, while another curious action is simultaneously ensuing, viz.: the charcoal, in order to burn and to continue burning, must have oxygen—it takes from the air to form carbonic acid, but leaves the nitrogen, which is equally mephitical, so that, in the course of a very short time, if no egress be permitted for these substances so inimical to life, the entire volume of the air becomes thoroughly vitiated, and a person entering the apartment would be suffocated.

**GREAT SIZE AND LONGEVITY OF LOCUST TREES.**—The "*Vegetable Kingdom*" of Professor Lindley says: The locust trees of the West have been celebrated for their gigantic stature. Martins represents a scene in Brazil where some trees of this kind occurred, of such enormous dimensions, that 15 Indians with outstretched arms could only just embrace one of them. At the bottom they were 84 feet in circumference, and 60 feet where the boles became cylindrical—By counting the concentric rings of such parts as were accessible, he arrived at the conclusion that they were of the age of *Homer*, and 332 years old in the days of Pythagoras. One estimate reduced their antiquity to 2032, while another carried it up to 4104 years.

**TRUE COURTESY.**—"Manners," says the eloquent Edmund Burke, "are of more importance than laws. Upon them, in a great measure, the laws depend. The laws touch us here and there, now and then. Manners are what vex or soothe, corrupt or purify, exalt or debase, barbarise or refine, by a constant, steady, uniform, insensible operation, like that of the air we breathe in. They give their whole form and colour to our lives. According to their quality they aid morals, they supply them, or they totally destroy them."

**A NEW CHERRY.**—It is stated that a new cherry has recently been discovered at Metz, in France, excelling all others for size, beauty, and flavour. It is a Bigarreau, and an enormous bearer. A committee of the Auvergne Horticultural Society have examined the tree and its fruit. They found some of the cherries weighing ten grammes (six and a half penny weights) each; an average of eleven weighed one-fifth of a pound; an enormous weight compared to other cherries. The fruit is oval, skin fine vermilion, and carmine glossy flesh rose coloured, firm, though melting, very sweet, stone small. The tree is a vigorous grower, with giant foliage; leaves measuring seven inches long and four wide.

**MANCHESTER.**—The social condition of Manchester is peculiar. The town lies somewhat in circles—like the lines on the plan of a city. If a series of lines were described round the centre, at respective radii of one, two, and three miles, the innermost circle would include the mercantile section, and the principal shops; the second boundary would inclose the great factories, and the dwellings of the great mass of workers in them; the third would mark off the suburban residences of the manufacturing aristocracy. Unlike every other large city in England, Manchester has no West End: a fact which has a most important bearing upon the social condition and domestic character of its principal inhabitants. The reason of this singular anomaly—which is much more felt and regretted by the open air living continentalist than by ourselves—is, the smoke, which until very recently was poured in a poisonous state out of a thousand monster chimneys, renders the town itself very unhealthy as a constant habitation; and the rich have rushed onward in every direction in search of purer air, and spots where flowers might grow; hence the suburbs, which are all more or less picturesque, or beautiful, are covered with splendid villas and noble mansions surrounded with ample and cultivated gardens. The entrance into the town on every side is charming. The dwellings are most handsome and isolated, like the palatial residences of Rome under the late Cæsars; but this very fact prevents social intercourse amongst men so busy that they do not leave business till late in the evening. People live too far asunder to visit after the hours of rest; and hence each family is thrown back upon its own resources for enjoyment. Every domestic circle becomes a little world, complete within itself; having few, and requiring none, of those factitious sources of amusement which the metropolis so plentifully supplies. Fewer men keep houses, but more men keep homes, there, than in the average of places. This arrangement was the result of individuality before noticed as characteristic of the fine old race of Manchester merchants; and the result of it is, that the domestic virtues flourish, and home pleasures—music, reading, conversation—are in the ascendant; any frivolities, almost inseparable from wealth, are kept at a distance, and the hearth is really hallowed by the presence of those of whose being it is the true and natural focus.

**A FORMIDABLE IMPORTATION—NEW INSECTS.**—In many instances, says the *Cork Constitution*, the Indian corn which was heated or become injured, teems with swarms of little reptiles or insects of different varieties, some shaped like ants, others like diminutive beetles, which make their way into all the houses in the neighbourhood of corn stores, and have proved an excessive annoyance, from their numbers, as well as the venom with which they bite, and the mischief they inflict by eating plants and leaves in gardens.