

2. THE WIDOWS OF ENGLAND AND THE QUEEN.

It is stated that "the widows of England" intend to present to Her Majesty an address of affectionate condolence and sympathy, accompanied by a Bible.

3. A PEN AND INK PORTRAIT OF THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT.

"The prince had a noble presence. His carriage was erect; his figure betokened strength and activity; and his demeanour was dignified. He had a staid, earnest, thoughtful look when he was in a grave mood; but when he smiled (and this is what no portrait can tell of a man) his whole countenance was irradiated with pleasure; and there was a pleasant sound and a heartiness about his laugh which will not soon be forgotten by those who were wont to hear it. He was very handsome as a young man; but, as often happens with thoughtful men who go through a good deal, his face grew to be a finer face than the early portraits of him promised; and his countenance never assumed a nobler aspect, nor had more real beauty in it, than in the last year or two of his life. The character is written in the countenance, however difficult it may be to decipher; and in the Prince's face there were none of those fatal lines which indicate craft or insincerity, greed or sensuality; but all was clear, open, pure minded, and honest. Marks of thought, of care, of studiousness, were there; but they were accompanied by signs of a soul at peace with itself, and which was troubled chiefly by its love for others, and its solicitude for their welfare. Perhaps the thing of all others that struck an observer most when he came to see the Prince nearly, was the originality of his mind; and it was an originality divested of all eccentricity. He would insist on thinking his own thoughts upon every subject that came before him; and whether he arrived at the same results as other men or gainsaid them, his conclusions were always adopted upon labourious reasoning of his own. The next striking peculiarity about the Prince was his extreme quickness—intellectually speaking. He was one of those men who seem always to have all their powers of thought at hand, and all their knowledge readily producible. In serious conversation he was perhaps the first man of this day. He was a very sincere person in his way of talking, so that, when he spoke at all upon any subject, he never played with it; he never took one side of a question because the person he was conversing with had taken the other; yet, in fact, earnest discussion was one of his greatest enjoyments. He was very patient in bearing criticism and contradiction; and, indeed, rather liked to be opposed, so that from opposition he might elicit truth, which was always his first object. He delighted in wit and humour, and, in his narration of what was ludicrous, threw just so much of imitation into it as would enable you to bring the scene vividly before you, without at the same time making his imitation in the least degree ungraceful. There have been few men who have had a greater love of freedom, in its widest sense, than the Prince Consort. Indeed, in this respect, he was even more English than the English themselves. A strong characteristic of the Prince's mind was its sense of duty. He was sure to go rigidly through anything he had undertaken to do; and he was one of those few men into whose minds questions of self-interest never enter or are absolutely ignored, when the paramount obligation of duty is presented to them. If he had been a sovereign prince, and in a moment of peril had adopted a form of constitution which was opposed to his inclination on his judgment, he would still have abided by it strictly when quiet times came; and the change if change there was to be, must have come from the other parties to the contract, and not from him. He was too great a man to wish to rule, if the power was to be purchased by anything having the reality, or even the semblance of dishonour. It is not too much to say that, if he had been placed in the position of Washington, he could have played the part of Washington, taking what honour and power his fellow citizens were pleased to give him, and not asking or scheming for any more. *

* * There was one very rare quality to be noticed in the Prince—that he had the greatest delight in any body else saying a fine saying or doing a great deed. He would rejoice over it and talk about it, for days; and whether it was a thing nobly said or done by a little child or by a veteran statesman it gave him equal pleasure. He delighted in humanity, doing well on any occasion and in any manner. This is surely very uncommon. We meet with people who can say fine sayings, and even do noble actions, but who are not very fond of dwelling upon the great sayings or noble deeds of other persons. But, indeed, throughout his career, the Prince was one of those who threw his life into other people's lives, and lived in them. And never was there an instance of more unselfish and chivalrous devotion than that of his to his Consort Sovereign and to his adopted country. That her reign might be great and glorious; that his adopted country might excel in art, in science, in literature, and, what was dearer still to him, in social well-being, formed ever his chief hope and aim. And he would have been

contented to have been very obscure, if these high aims and objects could in the least degree have thereby been furthered and secured. * * * A biographer who has some very beautiful character to describe, and who knows the unwillingness that there is in the world to accept, without much qualification, great praise of any human being, will almost be glad to have any small defect to note in his hero. It gives some relief to the picture, and it adds verisimilitude. This defect (if so it can be called) in the Prince consisted in a certain appearance of shyness, which he never conquered. And in truth it may be questioned whether it is a thing that can be conquered, though large converse with the world may enable a man to conceal it. Much might be said to explain and justify this shyness in the Prince: but there it was, and no doubt it sometimes prevented high qualities from being at once observed and fully estimated. It was the shyness of a very delicate nature, that is not sure it will please, and is without the confidence and the vanity which often go to form characters that are outwardly more genial."—*Home Journal*.

VIII. Paper on the Magic Lantern.

THE MAGIC LANTERN, ITS USES & CONSTRUCTION.*

BY MR. S. P. MAY.

The Magic Lantern was constructed by Kircher in the 17th century, when it excited much astonishment and in some cases considerable alarm. From the following passage of Damascius, it appears that the ancients were acquainted with some optical arrangement very similar to the Magic Lantern. "In a manifestation, which ought not to be revealed there appeared on the wall of the Temple, a mass of Light, which at first seemed very remote, it transformed itself on coming nearer into a face, evidently divine and supernatural, of a severe aspect, but mixed with gentleness and extremely beautiful."

Although it was for a long time used as an amusing toy, and an old dictionary defines it as "a small optical instrument which shows by a gloomy light on a wall, monsters so hideous, that those who are ignorant of the secret, believe it to be performed by magic art." At present there is probably no philosophical instrument of so much educational importance to the teacher. By its aid the wonders of nature and art are depicted with the utmost truthfulness; the most beautiful and gorgeous scenes are presented to us in all their minuteness of detail. The Magic Lantern is a most valuable auxiliary to the lecturer in his popular illustrations of natural phenomena and science. He is enabled to exhibit pictures of the heavenly bodies, with their motions, as delineated in the systems of Thales, Pythagoras, Ptolemy, Copernicus, and others; portions of the earth, &c. If he is describing the animal kingdom—the Lion, with its majestic appearance; the Elephant, endowed with its instinct and sagacity, using its proboscis and gigantic tusks as implements of use or warfare; the Beaver, as an emblem of industry and per-

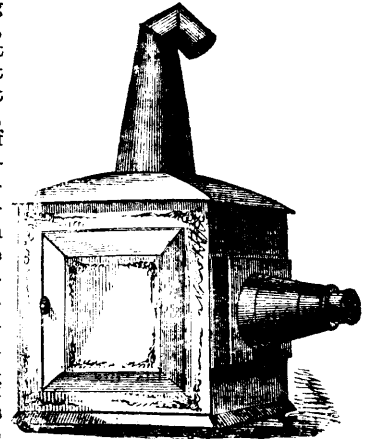


FIG. 1.—MAGIC LANTERN.



FIG. 2. SLIDER WITH VOLCANIC ERUPTION.

severance, building his winter-residence; or the noble companions of man, the Horse and Dog—all are vividly portrayed, and so naturally that we can fancy the animals before us.

If we apply it to delineate other objects, we can, in imagination, cross the Atlantic, and visit the Metropolis of the Empire. Here we would naturally go to see that noble building, St. Paul's Cathedral. Putting in a slide in our lantern, there we see it, and learn

* See p. 32, and also an article on the Lantern in the *Journal* for December, 1861.