

SELECTIONS.

POINTS OF HONOR.—Colonel Montgomery was shot in a duel about a dog; Captain Ramsay in one about a servant; Mr. Fetherstone in one about a recruit; Sterne's father in one about a goose; and another gentleman in one about "an acre of anchovies." One officer was challenged for merely asking his opponent to enjoy a second goblet, and another was compelled to fight about a pinch of snuff; General Barry was challenged by a Captain Smith, for declining a glass of wine with him at dinner in a steambot, although the General had pleaded as an excuse that wine invariably made his stomach sick at sea; and Lieutenant Crowther lost his life in a duel, because he was refused admittance to a club of pigeon-hunters.

TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND TEACHERS OF YOUTH.—If God should place in your hands a diamond, and tell you to inscribe on it a sentence which should be read at the last day, and shown there as an index of your thoughts and feelings, what caution would you exercise in the selection of that sentence! Now this is what God has done. He has placed before you immortal minds more imperishable than the diamond, on which you inscribe every day and hour by your instruction, your spirit and example, something which will remain to be exhibited for or against you at the judgment-day.—*Rev. Dr. Payson.*

THE PRESENT STATE OF PALESTINE.—Palestine is a country for which Providence has done everything—we should say, rather, the "Holy Land," that is, Palestine and Syria. We behold her now in the days of her desolation. She is groaning under the yoke of a hard master, and we can form no idea, by what we now see, of what she once was, and of what, we have the strongest assurance, she will again become. Unquestionably, she has no need of foreign aid, she possesses all the germs of greatness within herself, and requires only the genial influence of the Sun of Peace to resuscitate her; the once rich plains of Jordan will then look green again, the pastures of Mamre will team with lowing herds and bleating flocks, and the happy days of Abraham and Isaac will return to bless the industry of man. The shell which produced the Tyrian dye may still be found. Hermon and Taber are still moistened with the balmy dew of heaven; the plains of Esdraelon and the heights of Carmel are still bedecked with roses; at Sechem the swarthy Bedouin drinks of the same spring with Jacob, and his great progenitor Abraham, and feeds his flocks, like him, on the flowery banks of Jordan and Tiberias. Then, if we turn to the east and north, the Haouran and the Bekas are still rich in corn. The seven-eared wheat of Egypt, too, is sometimes seen. Lebanon is laden, as heretofore, with the luscious fruits and herbs, cedars and stately pines. Mount Cassius is clothed with lofty sycamores and oaks, and other forest trees, from the summit to the waters of the Mediterranean, which sparkle at its base. The finest silk is annually exported from Suedia, and the shelving shores of the Orontes produce gums, cotton, indigo; and sugar, oil, rice, and other grain; there is excellent pasturage for cattle, and the neighbouring districts abound in stone, coal, and iron—in fact, there are the same germs of prosperity and wealth now as at any former period. The climate is healthy, the diseases few, the seasons are well marked, and there are no fogs; the scenery is the finest that can be conceived; communication with Europe is easy, and the people are talented, hospitable, and brave, and for the most part well disposed; but the country is distracted by political and religious intrigues, which compromise the happiness of the rayahs, and curtail the resources of the Government.—*Dr. Yates's Lecture at the Syro-Egyptian Society of London.*

HORRORS OF WAR.—Hungry and cold, I crept to one corner of the fort to get in the sunshine, and at the same time to shelter myself from the bombs that were flying thick around me. I locked out, and some two or three hundred yards from the fort, I saw a Mexican female carrying water and food to the wounded men of both armies. I saw her lift the head of one poor fellow—give him water, and then take the handkerchief from her own head and bind up his wounds; attending one or two others in the same way, she went back for more food and water. As she was returning I heard the crack of one or two guns, and the poor good creature fell; after a few struggles all was still—she was dead. I turned my eyes to heaven and thought, "Oh God! and this is war!" I cannot believe but that the shot was an accidental one. The next day, passing into another fort, I passed her dead body. It was lying on its back, with the bread and broken gourd containing a few drops of water. We buried her amidst showers of grape and round shot, occasionally dodging a shell or twelve pounder, and expecting every moment to have another grave to dig for one of ourselves.—*Letter from Monterey.*

THE FREE BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES.—The committee have just issued a statement, which contains some most interesting details relative to the working of the Free Baths and Wash-House Establishment in Glass-house-yard, East Smithfield, near the London Dock-gate, since it was opened to the public. The establishment has now been open for twelve months, and the success attending the experiment has proved two important facts:—First, that the poor are anxious for cleanliness when the means are within their reach; and secondly, that the means may be rendered them at a very trifling expense. In the course of the year 27,622 bathers, 35,180 washers and dryers of clothes, and 4,512 ironers have made use of the premises. The working expenses have been under 1½d. a head, although soap had been allowed to each bather, and a portion of soap and suds to each

washer of the clothes. Quiet, orderly, and civil conduct has universally prevailed amongst those frequenting the establishment. Several of those applying to bathe and wash their clothes are so destitute that their entire clothing is that which they have on. Such applicants are provided with gowns whilst they wash, dry, and mend their scanty attire. The water has been supplied gratuitously by the East London Water Works Company. Upwards of 9,000 came a distance of from two to five miles, and above 1,300 bathed and washed who on the preceding night slept at places from five to twenty-five miles distant. From the financial statement it appears that the amount of subscriptions received was £648 3s. 6d., of which a balance of £38 4s. 9d. remains.

VITAL STATISTICS OF ENGLAND.—The population of England increases more rapidly than that of Scotland or Ireland; but, taking the three kingdoms together, the annual increase, deducting the loss by emigration, is 1.03 per cent. The population of the British Isles at this moment may therefore be estimated in round numbers, at 28,500,000. In January, 1852, it will be 30,000,000; and the period of doubling, corresponding to an annual increment of 1.03 per cent., being 68 years, it would amount to 60,000,000 in 1920. It is not probable, however, that the rate of increase will continue the same through so long a period. To us it appears by no means incredible that youths now at school may live to belong to a community embracing sixty millions of souls in the British Isles. The present population of France is 35,000,000. The rate of increase, according to Monsieur Mathieu, is only one 200th part per annum (rather less than one half of that which prevails here), and the period of doubling 130 years. If the scale of increase were to continue uniform in each country, the population of the British Isles would equal that of France about 40 years hence. The table of the Registrar-General states:—"About 291,000 people will be added to the population in the year from Midsummer 1845 to 1846. The statement, so often repeated, that the population of the United Kingdom increases at the rate of 1,000 a day, is an error which has arisen probably from using the annual rate of increase in England (1½ per cent.) instead of the lower rate of increase (1 per cent.) for the United Kingdom. At the present time it is probable that 800 persons are added to the population daily. The births exceed the deaths by about 1,057 daily, but emigration from the United Kingdom keeps down the increase."

A MISSIONARY AND ALCOHOL.—It is stated, on what is believed to be unquestionable authority, that the Montreal, which left this port last week for the Sandwich Islands, and which took out Mr. Levi Chamberlain, a missionary of the American Board, has also on board a cargo of gin and brandy to demoralize the people of those Islands—a people which have just emerged from the lowest grade of savagism, and have taken their place among the nations as a Christian republic. The government of the Islands have declared their unwillingness to have any intoxicating drinks sold there, and yet we have among us here in Boston—in this enlightened and professedly Christian city—a class of men who are so lost to all ideas of propriety, to all sense of moral obligation, to all regard for the amelioration of the semi-civilized state of the Sandwich Islands, that they can, for the mere love of gain, send out these large cargoes of intoxicating liquors to depress the rising civilization of the people, and to counteract the elevating moral influence of missionary exertions. For the honor of Boston, I would not record such a fact, were it not in the hope that the abominations of this traffic in alcohol would be more glaringly presented before the eyes of the public, and the lightning of popular indignation more quickly overwhelm the guilty and the hardened, who cannot be reached, and who will not be moved by any arguments addressed to their sense of propriety, or their moral sense.—*Boston Cor. of Evang.*

THE LARGEST CITY IN THE WORLD.—*Sou Tchou* is a large city in the interior of China, the largest silk market in that vast empire. To Europeans it has been unknown since 1718, when the Romish missionaries were driven out. The Paris correspondent of the National Intelligencer says, that M. Hedde, completely disguised as a Chinese trader, obtained ingress to *Sou Tchou*. M. Hedde says its population is five millions, and that within a radius of four leagues around, there is a population of ten millions. Peking has four millions. M. Hedde brought to Paris many samples of the domestic silks of China, of all colors and all prices. One of them, exceedingly fine, is called the Flower of the Gardens. It comes from the interior, and until now has not been seen in France.—*Observer.*

INCREASED CONSUMPTION OF MILK.—The farmers in Cheshire and Lancashire have nearly discontinued making cheese and butter, in consequence of the increased demand for milk, which is attributed to the increased consumption of rice, Indian meal, and oatmeal, owing to the scarcity of potatoes.—*Liverpool Times.*

THE CAMEL AND THE NEEDLE'S EYE.—Lord Nugent, in his recent publication, *Lands, Classical and Sacred*, has given an application of the words which at once proves the fitness of the expression for the subject our Saviour had in view. Lord Nugent describes himself as about to walk out of Hebron through the large gate, when his companions, seeing a train of camels approaching, desired him to go through "the eye of the needle," in other words, the small side gate. This his lordship conceives to be a common expression, and explanatory of our Saviour's words; for, he adds, the sumpter camel cannot pass through unless with great difficulty, and stripped of his load, his trappings, and his merchandise.