would there be but little interchange between Foreign nations, but even districts of the same country would be almost isolated. Therefore, to promote the internal advancement of a society, in the arts and sciences generally, as well as to support an extended foreign commercial intercourse, capital must be drawn from the chests of those who do not care to employ it themselves, or taken out of the hands of others who cannot sufficiently use it. To effect this, considerable inducements must be held out to the owners of this money. Not only must they have a fair assurance of the return of the principal to them, but they must also be paid something over and above for the risk they may run, or the inconvenience suffered by the temporary parting with it, instead of employing it themselves. It is ridiculous to suppose that any disinterested motives would generally be sufficient to engage parties to run the hazard, or submit to the inconvenience. Trade and the advancement of society absolutely require that the hire of money, by paying a premium, should be allowed. Besides, where interest on loans would not be sanctioned, each individual must still continue to slave for daily support, or to be extreme verge of life, or gradually consume the capital he may have gathered; and the activity and energies of the rising population must be repressed by the want of means for their profitable employment.

But we now arrive at what should be the only disputed point at the present day,—the *vexata quæstio* of the subject,—viz.: would it be just or politic to affix a limit to the amount of the usury or premium to be taken for the loan of money? The answer is, I think, readily deducible from the above quotation from GROTIUS, "If, &c." Now, since the circumstances which must determine the hazard to be run, and the inconvenience to be felt, must be of a fluctuating nature, and, more or less, independent of, and unaffected by, legislative enactments, it seems impolitic to predicate at any particular period what will be the amount or value of such hazard or inconvenience at another and future era. A State, settling the limit, must, at one time, according to GROTIUS, be legalising the exaction of oppressive usury, by giving impunity to an amount of premium beyond the just bounds, as already stated; and at another, be repressing the commercial ardour and enterprise of a nation, by confining the premium on the loan of money to a rate at which few capitalists would be induced to submit to the extraordinary hazard and inconvenience attending the loan.

Government has itself given the most decided evidence of the impracticability of legislative enactments being effectual to regulate the value of money, in the evasive course it was obliged to pursue during the long continental war to raise money. When the premium on money in the mercantile world was 10 to 15 ⅌ cent., it certainly did not engage to give more than the legal interest; but it gave the £100 stock, on which 5 ⅌ cent. was to be paid, for what was then considered an equivalent, two-thirds only of the amount in money. And now, when the marketable value of money is low or than the legal rate, Government has compelled the fundholder to receive less than the interest contracted for, or else take back his principal. So much for the reading of the usury law by one branch of the Legislature itself. As regards the transactions of private individuals, when the premium on money is limited, neither the fair money dealer is benefited nor the borrower protected by the law. When the actual and marketable value of money exceeds the ideal and legal rate, conscientious persons who would not impugn, directly or indirectly, any positive law of the land, whether in their estimation a vile one or not, rather than lend their money at the prescribed rate, at a time when it does not bear a relative proportion to the hazard and inconvenience of the loan, would hoard it up, or else employ it in temporary speculations, and perhaps to their detriment, from the absence of business habits. Less scrupulous persons would therefore become the principal money dealers, and in addition to the marketable value of the money, would enforce a heavy premium for the additional risk they would have to run in acting in contravention of the law, besides in many cases mulcting the borrowers according to their respective necessities for borrowing. Thus, the usury laws rather encourage than restrain oppressive usury, and have a tendency to produce the injurious consequence of "bringing the treasure of the realm into a few hands."

Even those who contend that there may be sound reasons advanced for the establishment of some restrictions in the lending of money in the infancy of a State, where, from its being very limited in amount, and in few hands, a most oppressive use might be made of an unqualified power in regard to the premium, cannot well advocate the adoption of the same course in a country having an extensive foreign commerce, and a larger internal trade, where money, of necessity, must be comparatively abundant, and pretty generally distributed. Its marketable value, like other commodities, will always be regulated by the supply and demand, (and not by legislative provisions) and any borrower, in the absence of a usury law, may always obtain a sum at the current rate or value of money, adding thereto a fair premium, commensurate with the hazard to be run in the particular instance. Money has been introduced for the convenience of traffic, to avoid the primitive but clumsy mode of barter, and it has, therefore, in reality, no real or intrinsic value, but only an artificial or representative one, almost wholly uninfluenced by direct laws for its regulation in that particular, for its value can only be determined by a reference to the uses for which it was introduced.

The progressive extension of our trade, and the daily increasing facilities of obtaining money here, seem to render a usury law, if at any time necessary or expedient in a state, no longer so with us, and its total repeal would not only bring more money into an open market, but place the borrower and lender on more equal terms, and not drive the former to such ruinous shifts to obtain a loan, as to throw him completely into the power of a merciless and hole-and-corner money lender, who dare not transact his business on 'Change.

I trust, in the above general remarks, enough will be found to excite an interest in the subject, in the proper quarter, and lead to a repeal of a noxious statute. Let our Legislature then, have the credit of anticipating the Imperial Government in this enlightened step, for most assuredly the law will ere long be swept from the English Statute Book; and it has only been retained there by the predominancy of the landed interest, which, although glad to avail itself of loans at a low rate of interest, yet will not, in return, submit to pay a high premium when the market value of money is considerably enhanced by the great demand for it, and its probable employment in commerce or manufactures.

Oct. 6, 1835. CRIMSUS.

England.

THE SLAVE SHIP FORMIDABLE, NOW LYING IN LIVERPOOL HARBOUR.

A singular coincidence connected with the fate of this splendid vessel may, perhaps, be not unworthy of remark. She was fitted out in Havannah, at an expense of 60,000 dollars, and sailed from thence in company with a small schooner, called the Sontil, (which was to act in the capacity of tender to the Formidable) for the coast of Africa, and belonging also to the same proprietors. They arrived almost together in the same river, and after taking in their cargoes of slaves, the Sontil was despatched on her return, and was followed the next morning by the Formidable, both destined for the same port, Havannah, but both of which were actually captured within an hour of each other on the morning of the 17th December last; the Formidable, with 770 slaves on board, off the entrance of the Calabar river, by His Majesty's brigantine Buzzard, Lieutenant Milwood, commander, and her tender, with 307 slaves, by his Majesty's brig Pelorus, near Fernando Po.

The Formidable had been frequently boarded by the officers of one or two of our cruisers, whilst lying in the Calabar river, and the captain had expressed his determination not to yield to any other than the superior vessel on the station. This individual, who was an officer of considerable rank in the Spanish navy, did not live to put his threat into execution himself, for having been attacked with the fever of the country whilst lying in the river, he died before the Formidable sailed, the command of her devolving on the chief mate.

Owing, therefore, to this expression, and it being well known that she would prove a most valuable prize to the captors, she was most narrowly watched by those vessels stationed about that part of the Coast, and on the morning of the 17th she was seen standing off the Coast by the Buzzard, which vessel immediately made sail for her. It happened, however, most unfortunately for the Formidable, that she soon was the Buzzard also, and actually mistook her for her own tender, the Sontil, (the rig of the two vessels being nearly alike) and immediately stood towards her, but soon discovering the error they had committed, immediately altered her course, and stood off with all possible sail they could muster. It was, however, too late; for, when they were only five or six miles distant of each other, it fell quite calm, and the Buzzard, availing herself of the aid of her sweeps, soon came up with her, and, when within pistol shot, was saluted with the contents of one of the Formidable's stern-chasers right into the fore-top of the Buzzard. Thus matters commenced, and after one of the most gallant and spirited actions ever fought, and which has reflected the highest credit on the whole of the officers and crew of the Buzzard, she was boarded and taken possession of, and sent up for condemnation to Sierra Leone.

The captain, (late mate) although most desperately wounded in the engagement, eventually recovered, and left the Coast in a vessel destined for Havannah.

A curious exposure was made by the *Times* of Wednesday, arising from some unaccountable accident. Mr. Shiel, who had made a very excellent speech on the Orange question, in the House of Commons, undertook to supply the *Times* with a transcript, half of the speech was sent and received, but the other half never came to hand, and the *Times*, in publishing the unfinished oration, accounted for the deficiency by stating the cause. The *Times* in future will find the value of trusting to their own reporters, who may be more accurately able to give what has been said, in preference to what might have been said. We do not say it is the case with Mr. Shiel, but we have known many Members anxious to unsay what they have said, and equally anxious to be supposed to have said what they did not say.—*Bell's Life in London.*

STEAM CARRIAGES ON TURNPIKE ROADS.—Maudesley and Field's steam-carriage yesterday made her second run to Reading. It started from Hyde Park corner at half-past eight, agreeably to advertisement, and completed the journey in two hours, 58 minutes, 20 seconds; and returned in two hours, 46 minutes, and 50 seconds, *exclusive of stoppages*; travelling down at the average rate of 13¼ miles per hour, and up at the rate of 14¾ miles per hour. There was a slight delay in Brentford when returning, in consequence of the orb of the wheel of the attached omnibus having become heated, which was the only casualty. It is now proved that the former trip owed its success to no fortunate concurrence of circumstances, but was the result of scientific knowledge practically applied to useful purposes. The speed effected in this instance, with the first engine made by this eminent house, affords a reasonable assurance that at no very distant period they will produce carriages that shall fairly compete with those running on the railways. Society will no doubt derive many advantages from the accomplishment of this long desired object, and amongst the greatest will be, that expeditious travelling must no longer be paid for at the rate of £20,000 per mile for a railway, or by the sacrifice of so many noble horses as are at present prematurely destroyed by the fast coaches. There were several passengers, ladies and gentlemen, all delighted with their journey. They partook of an admirable breakfast at Mr. Cooper's, the Horse and Jockey Inn, at Reading, for which their trip gave them an excellent appetite; then spent some hours in examining the town, the valley of the Thames, and other beautiful views in the neighbourhood, and returned in high spirits. Indeed, to judge from appearances, all thought themselves sharers in the merit of the invention, and that their own credit was at stake in the event; so zealous were they and anxious about the issue of the enterprise.

LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY.—The works connected with this stupendous undertaking in the immediate neighbourhood of Birmingham, are proceeding with surprising quickness and regularity, and are daily becoming objects of increased interest to the inhabitants of this, the midland metropolis. The viaduct in Lawley-street is in a forward state; three arches have been turned, and the remaining are fast approaching completion. The immense excavation at Garrison hill is going on most satisfactorily, and attracts an immense number of visitors. The same may be said at Lee Hall hill, Yardley, which owing to its distance from town, is less seen by the Birmingham public. The seven miles contracted for by Mr. Thornton, viz. from a little beyond the Garrison Farm to Hampton-in-Arden, and every part of which is in active and forward progress, is, perhaps, of all others, the most interesting part of the line in this neighbourhood. The excavation at Lee Hall, and the embankment crossing the valley at Sheldon, with their numerous viaducts and bridges—all capacious and elegant structures—will shortly prove objects of wonder and admiration. Mr. Thornton has already completed about a mile and a half of the permanent railway; and we believe that an engine and carriage will be seen at work in the neighbourhood of Bickenhill in about a month from this time.—*Birmingham paper.*

Lieut. Colonel Sir James Douglas Hamilton Hay, Bart., acting paymaster of the 36th depot, has been dismissed the service for defrauding the officers, charging the mess fund with monies not expended, and tearing out a leaf of his ledger to prevent detection.

Scotland.

NEW ADMEASUREMENT OF HEAT.—We need not inform our Scottish readers that the fuel used in the country schools is turf, and that the mode in which fire assessment is levied is, that each scholar, whether male or female, bring their quota every morning, consisting, as the occasion may require, of one or two peats. Andrew Crossmyloof, Dominie of Dykehead, had got a thermometer for regulating the heat of the apartment he occupied "in teaching the young idea how to shoot:" it was not an elegant instrument by any means, it had been used by a neighbouring distillery; but served Andrew's purpose admirably, and Sir Humphry Davy himself could not have been more proud of his safety lamp than the pedagogue of Dykehead was of his thermometer. The neighbouring clergyman, who was a bit of a wag, paid a visit to the school, and noticing the instrument suspended in a conspicuous part of the room, asked Andrew how he regulated the heat of the apartment? "As the fire," said the monarch of the taws, "has been lately fed by a portion of fresh fuel, and the temperature of the room is at present just what I consider proper for the health of my pupils, your reverence will therefore exer ise a little of that patience which you recommended to others on the Sabbath; and I will show you the method we have of lowering the temperature." Andrew, at the mean time, went on squeezing out of Hilton Jock a portion of the shorter catechism, eyeing at intervals the column of mercury as it rose above the given point in the tube. "Now, John, resume your form; but before you sit down, I see the degree of heat indicated is above the healthy point, so substract from the number in the fire one peat."—*Glasgow Courier.*

RARE OCCURRENCE.—There was caught, the other day, in Mr. Young's fishing-nets, at Ardrossan, a fish known by the name of the Miller's Thumb. This fish was about three feet long, and on being cut up, in presence of many spectators on the shore, there were found in its stomach two fine salmon grilse, without a scratch on either of them, the one weighing eight and the other six pounds.—*Glasgow Courier.*

NEW GUN.—A gun upon an entirely new construction is about to be executed in Edinburgh. It is intended to be a double gun, or in fact two guns reversed and joined together at the breech, upon which the engine turns by a pivot, the whole to be mounted upon a four-wheeled carriage. It will thus admit of being fired during the time one end is loading, and being turned round, shots can in succession be poured upon an enemy.

Elizabeth M'Donald, a poor woman, residing in Glasgow, has completed her 109th year.

Ireland.

A new cavern has been discovered in that subterranean wonder, Kingston Cave, Mitchelstown, which in extent and magnificence far surpasses any hitherto explored, being an English mile in length, about three perches in breadth, and varying from thirty to forty feet in height. It is called the O'Callaghan Cave, the Hon. C. O'Callaghan, eldest son of Lord Lismore, being the first visitor who entered it.—*Irish paper.*

The convict hulk at Cove has for the last six weeks been internally boiling with the most wicked and malignant passions of its depraved inmates. It was found necessary to separate two classes of the convicts to prevent their murdering one another. It is but a fortnight since it became requisite to bring an officer and a whole company of soldiers to subdue and disarm the prisoners. These desperate wretches were armed with rude swords formed from the straightened, edged, and pointed iron hoops which they contrived to purloin. And what was the object? It may not be easy to say what further object might have occurred, in case of the success of the first campaign, but the primary intent appears to have been only slaughter between the Munster men and the Connaught men.—*Limerick Chronicle.*

MURDER.—We regret to learn that Mr. Mathew Hill, who was employed in collecting the rents of the estates of Massey Dawson, Esq., at the Glen of Agherlow, was inhumanly murdered about three o'clock, p. m., on Friday last, when superintending the cutting of the timber of an oak wood. Five armed men, it appears, perpetrated the horrid deed, by firing at him at the same time. He has left a large family to deplore his untimely fate.—*Tipperary Free Press.*

BARNUM ASSOCIATION.—We have an incident highly honourable to the Association, as well as to an illustrious poet, so long the boast of Ireland. When Thomas Moore's name, was mentioned as a candidate, the Provost, the President of the British Association, rose at once and proposed the poet without the usual formalities or fees. The nomination was seconded by 100 voices, and carried by acclamation.—*Dublin Post.*

A MOTHER BURYING HER INFANT ALIVE.—At the Kerry Assizes, Catherine Harrington was indicted for this horrid crime. She was executed on Monday.—*Belfast News.*

Commercial.

REMARKS ON THE MONTREAL MARKETS, FOR THREE DAYS PRECEDING

TUESDAY EVENING, *Oct.* 6, 1835.

ASHES.—There has been a progressive improvement in the price of both Pots and Pearls since our last report. Extensive transactions have taken place in Pots, at 33s. @ 33s. 6d., and it is probable that an advance upon the latter rate would have to be given to secure any quantity. This day, 33s. 3d. ⅌ cwt was paid for small bills. In Pearls, the business done has been trifling, owing to the very limited stock here; 39s. was paid yesterday, and the same price would have been readily given today.

FLOUR.—A good demand has been experienced for this article at our last quotations. On Saturday, about 1100 brls Canada Fine were placed at 27s. 6d. and 300 brls Fine Middlings, at 26s.—90 days. Since then the transactions have been limited, without any change in prices.

WHEAT.—In this market there has been no business done. A parcel of about 700 bushels new Upper Canada, has been housed by the consignees, their demand of 5s. 6d. ⅌ 60 lb, not having been complied with. The quality of this parcel is but middling, it not being free from sprouted and soft grains. For a lot of kiln dried Archangel, *ex Molson*, 4s. 3d. ⅌ minot has been offered and refused.

PROVISIONS.—There is no alteration in the prices of either Beef or Pork. The transactions have been limited to the wants of the retail dealers, with the exception of a lot of 90 brls Old Cargo Pork, sold at $11—4 months. The advance in Butter is maintained—9d. ⅌ lb has been realised for small parcels, and sales in quantity have been made at from 8d. @ 8½d. ⅌ lb.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.—We have no alteration to notice in prices, both Rum and Sugar having maintained the previous rates.

FISH AND FISH OILS.—The demand for Fish continues good. Mackerel, No. 3, is held at 18s. 6d. @ 18s. 9d, and Herrings, No. 1, at 21s. 6d. @ 22s. 6d. ⅌ brl. Pale Seal Oil has improved in price, and 2s. 3d. @ 2s. 6d. is asked for the best quality. Cod Oil goes off at our quotations.

TEA.—Of Free Trade Bohea, 117 chests have been bought at private sale, at 1s. 2d. ⅌ lb.

EXCHANGE.—There is no alteration in the rate on England.

REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK MARKETS FOR THREE DAYS PRECEDING

SATURDAY, *October* 3, 1835.

ASHES.—The quantity of Pots in market is quite small. There have been further sales at $5, and about 150 brls. at $5,05. Sales also of 300 @ 400 brls. Pearls at $7.

CLOVERSEED.—There has been some inquiry of late. 50 tierces and brls. fair, old, have been disposed of at 8 cents, and some Eastern at 9 cents.

COFFEE.—Since our last report the market has been very quiet. Further sales of Brazil to the extent of about 700 bags have been made at 11½ @ 12 cents; 100 bags St. Domingo, 11½; and by auction 80 bags St. Domingo, 10¾ @ 10⅞ cents, cash.

FISH.—Sales of Mackerel at $7.75 for No. 1; and $6.62½ for No. 2. Last sale of No. 1 pickled Salmon was at $16.50. There is considerable doing in Dry Cod Fish for the interior at prices within our range.

FLAXSEED.—There is very little doing as yet. The last sale within our knowledge was at $12, for rough.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—Subsequent to our last report, there were considerable sales of common brands of Western Canal Flour at $5,87½; but the market has again improved Sales of the same description were made at $5,94; and, yesterday, holders were firm in demanding $6; consequently we have our quotations as they were before. Troy was also sold at $5.87½, but is now held at $6; Ohio, via Erie Canal, held at $5.87½ @ $6. The stock of Southern is small, but the transactions are limited. Georgetown at $6,50 @ $6.62½; and Howard-street, $6,50 @ $6,75. Rye Flour and Corn Meal remain without change.

FRUIT.—There is now a good supply of Almonds in market, and sales are made within our range. 11 casks fair Smyrna Raisins sold by auction, 7 @ 7¼ cents; and 9 bales inferior Madeira Nuts, 3 @ 5½ cents.

FURS AND SKINS.—The American Fur company brought forward their first public sale for the season on the 1st inst. which was well attended, and every article on the catalogue sold. There were embraced in the sale 6466 Beaver Skins at $5,12½ @ $5,25 for Parchment; $5 @ $5,50 for Lake Superior; $4.87½ @ $5,07½ for Rocky Mountain; $4,37½ @ $4,55 for Otto, &c.; 740 Otter Skins at $6.50 for Lake Superior; and $6,12½ for Northern and Rockey Mountain; 304,000 Muskrat Skins; Detroit, 10½ @ 22½ cents; Northern, 16½ @ 19; Rocky Mountain 16½; and Western, 12½ @ 14½; 594 Minks 36 cents; 1118 Raccoon, 7 @ 20; 873 Bear, $1,50 @ $4,25 &c.; 1600 Buffalo Robes, $4,50 @ $6.—Terms, 4 @ 6 mos. There was another public sale yesterday of 4600 St. Peter's Muskrat, 14½ @ 16 cents; 2900 Russia Hare, 12½ @ 14½ cents, &c. 4 mos.

GRAIN.—A cargo of 2600 bushels good North Carolina Wheat has been sold at 130 cents. Sales of Rye at 87½ @ 90; Northern Corn, 100; a cargo of Maryland at 96 cents; Northern Oats, 56; last sale of North River Barley, 84 cents.

HIDES.—3000 Buenos Ayres have been sold since our last, but we have not learnt the terms. 2000 African were sold by auction, yesterday, at 11½ cents, merchantable; and 1000 Calcutta and Panta Cow, 75 @ 100 cents each, 6 mos.

NAVAL STORES.—Wilmington Turpentine has been sold at $4,25; and 700 barrels North County at $3,62½. In Tar we have no transactions to report.

PROVISIONS.—There have been some arrivals of new Beef, and sales of Troy inspection have been made at $9 for prime; and $12 for mess. Pork remains without alteration The stock very small.

RICE.—The sales of the week amount to about 400 barrels and tierces at 3½ @ 4½ cents ⅌ lb. The market continues very heavy.

TALLOW.—Sales of American rendered to the extent of 150 barrels have been made at 8¾ @ 9 cents; 8¾ being the last price, which is a decline of ¾ of a cent.

TOBACCO.—Sales of 100 bales St. Domingo at 16 cents; about 50 hhds. Virginia and Kentucky, 7½ @ 9½; and by auction, 113 hhds. Kentucky, not merchantable, 3½ @ 5½ cents, 3 and 4 mos.

EXCHANGE.—Bills on England have advanced ¼ ⅌ cent. Sales yesterday, at 9 @ 9¼ ⅌ cent premium.—*Commercial List.*

BALTIMORE MARKET, SEPT. 30.

FLOUR.—Howard-street, $6,35; City Mills, $6,35; Susquehanna, no arrivals.

GRAIN.—Wheat, best white, $1,33 @ $1,35; best red, $1,26 @ $1,28.

CORN.—White, 88 cents; Yellow, 90 cents; Rye 73 @ 75 do, and Oats 40 @ 42 do.

WILMINGTON MARKET, SEPT. 25.

NAVAL STORES.—Turpentine, $3,25; Tar, $1,58; Pitch, $1,75; Rosin, 99 @ 100; Spirits of Turpentine, 45 @ 47½; Varnish, 25.

GEORGETOWN (D. C.) MARKET, SEPT. 30.

FLOUR.—The sales since our last report have been at $6,15, $6,20 and $6,25, principally at $6,20. We therefore quote the highest price from teats at $6,15 @ $6,20; receipts lightand the demand good.

ALEXANDRIA MARKET, SEPT. 29.

GRAIN.—Flour, ⅌ brl $6,12½ @ $6,25; Wheat, ⅌ bushel $1,25 @ $1,30; Corn, 80 @ 90 cents; Rye, 75 do.

FREDERICKSBURG MARKET, SEPT. 29.

GRAIN.—Wheat, $1,25 @ $1,30; Flour, (Mountain,) $6,25 @ $6,37; (Lowland,) $5,85 @ $5,90; Corn, 60 cents.

TO A LADY'S PORTRAIT.

BY ROBERT HAMILTON.

Behold!
The limited features of my lady love—
How beautiful! how bright! The dark blue eyes
Shine like twin stars of sapphire, on the verge
Of a white cloud—the herald of Aurora:
Fit emblem of thy forehead. While the rose
Of virgin blood seems glowing in thy cheek
Almost to nature's starting. And the lips,
Like a cleft ruby, gemm'd with ocean pearl,
Seem breathing balm. The sighing, swelling breasts
Heave like the sea of love. Adown thy neck
The clustering tendrils of thy auburn hair
In wreathy dalliance revel—softly kissed,
In sportive rapture, by the wings of heav'n.

SONG.—"NIGHT HAS CHARMS FOR ME."

BY ROBERT HAMILTON.

Tell me not of morning breaking
From the chambers of the deep;
Or the world to beauty waking
From the arms of balmy sleep.
Give me midnight's gems of glory,
Glowing in a moonlight sea,
Gilding lake and mountain hoary—
Night, oh night, has charms for me!

As the tears from angels falling
Turn to diamonds in each flower—
And the beetle's horn is calling
Fairies, to the greenwood bower.
When the holy light is streaming,
And the leaf droops on the tree—
Then, when all the world is dreaming,
Night, oh night, has charms for me!

PIGAULT LE BRUN.

The best of French novelists is no more. The gay, the witty, the amiable Pigault le Brun has expired at the advanced age of 83. The author of the inimitable history of "Jerome;" "Monsieur Botte;" "Mon Oncle Thomas;" "The Barons de Felsheim;" "Nous les sommes tous;" and a score of other unrivalled novels, sleeps the last sleep.

Pigault le Brun was the French Fielding; he possessed the same honour, the same truth to nature, the same graphic powers of description, the same occasional coarseness, and a far greater richness of imagination. In his delineations of low life—for he rarely attempted to pourtray, except in ridiculing, the manners of the high classes—he stands unrivalled and alone. The rigid moralist may, perhaps, condemn many of his works, and prudery affect to blush at the homeliness of many of his expressions and characters; but take him for all in all, the good man's "failings leaned to virtue's side." His was the kindly satire and the laughing reproof, which are often found to be more effective in putting vice to shame, than the more elaborate and more bitter denunciations of nature's less philantrophic. In all the novels of Le Brun we neither find a complete hero nor a complete villain—nothing above or below the standard of humanity. He was an observer too exact and too patient ever to destroy the charm of his characters by departing in the least from the reality of nature. It is now sixty years since Pigault began to write. He was the best novelist of the day during the revolution, and in his own peculiar department the best after it. Unmindful of the warfare of politics and the dethronement of kings, he has pursued the even tenor of his way, scourging folly wherever it was to be found, and narrating in simple and unaffected language the loves, the sorrows, and the frailties of the poor. His Mademoiselle Javotte in the amusing "History of Jerome the Foundling," is, notwithstanding all her errors, a creature whom it is impossible not to love—as sweet a creation as ever was portrayed by the imagination of a poet. Corporal Brandt, in the "Barons de Felsheim" is in no wise inferior, and quite as good in his way as the inimitable Caleb Balderstoun of Sir Walter Scott. His characters start upon our remembrance by dozens, and so vively as almost to make us imagine that he had gleaned knowledge of them from the life, and not from the pages of fiction. Pigault le Brun has died full of honour, and his mantle has descended upon another apostle, worthy of so distinguished a predecessor. Paul de Kock is the writer who has cultivated with the greatest success, the style of Le Brun, and whose works in their vigor and freshness, repay us for the sickly and morbid sentimentality of the majority of cotemporary French novelists.

Miscellaneous.

STORY OF A CAT SUCKLING A MOUSE.—A cat belonging to Mr. Smith, the respectable bailiff and agent of the Earl of Lucan, at Laicham, is in the constant habit of taking her place before the parlour fire. She had been deprived of all her litter of kittens but one, and her milk incommoded her. I mention this, in order to account, in some degree, for the following circumstance. One evening, as the family were seated round the fire, they observed a mouse making its way from the cupboard, which was near the fire place, and lay itself down on the stomach of the cat, as a kitten would do when she is going to suck. Surprised at what they saw, and afraid of disturbing the mouse, which appeared to be full grown, they did not immediately ascertain whether it was in the act of sucking or not. After remaining with the cat a considerable length of time, it returned to the cupboard. These visits were repeated on several other occasions and were witnessed by many persons. The cat not only appeared to expect the mouse, but uttered the kind of greeting pur which the animal is so well known to make use of when she is visited by her kitten. The mouse had every appearance of being in the act of sucking the cat; but such was its vigilance that it retreated as soon as a hand was put out to take it up. When the cat, after being absent, returned to the room, her greeting call was made, and the mouse came to her. The attachment which existed between these two incongruous animals could not be mistaken, at it lasted some time. The fate of the mouse, like that of most pets, was a melancholy one. During the absence of its nurse, a strange cat entered the room. The poor mouse, mistaking her for its old friend and protectress, ran out to meet her, and was immediately seized and slain before it could be rescued from her clutches. The grief of the foster mother was extreme. On returning to the parlour she made her usual call, but no mouse came to meet her. She was restless and uneasy, went mewing about the house, and showed her distress in the most marked manner. What rendered the anecdote I have been relating the more extraordinary is the fact of the cat being an excellent mouser, and that, during the time she was showing so much fondness for the mouse, she was preying upon others with the utmost avidity.—*Jesse's Gleanings in Natural History.*

MUSCULAR POWER OF FISH.—Salmon and other fish possess great muscular power, as evinced by the extraordinary leaps they make out of the water. In Captain Owen's "narrative" we find the following passage: "The bonita has the power of throwing itself out of the water to an almost incredible distance, when in pursuit of its prey, the flying fish; and, the day previous to our arrival at Nozambique, one of these fish rose close under our bow, passed over the vessel's side, and struck with such force against the poop that, had any one received the blow, in all probability it would have been fatal. Stunned by the violence of the contact, it fell motionless at the helmsman's feet; but soon recovering, its struggles were so furious that it became necessary to inflict several blows with an axe before it could be approached with safety. The greatest elevation it attained above the surface of the water was 18 feet, and the length of the leap had no opposition occurred, would have exceeded 180 feet."

MALE AND FEMALE BIRTHS.—It appears, from a variety of tables, that the number of male births is relatively less predominant in cities than in agricultural districts, and less too, among illegitimate than legitimate children. A table, constructed by Mr. Babbage of observations made in France, Naples, Prussia, Westphalia, and Montpelier, gives a mean average of 105.75 boys to every 100 girls born in wedlock; while to the same number of female illegitimates, the males are but as 102.50 to 100. Of still-born children, the proportion of boys predominates over that of girls; and that of illegitimate over legitimate children. At Gottingen the still-born legitimates were three per cent. on the whole births; while that of the illegitimates extended to fifteen per cent. The probable causes of this disparity are the agitations of the mother's passions during pregnancy, the greater physical and social difficulties of her situation, the low rank in life in which this species of vice predominates, together with the greater probability of direct efforts to produce abortion. The fact is a striking illustration of the penal consequences with which nature itself has surrounded sexual impurity, and of the decided worldly advantage attendant on the observance of the moral law.

HUSBAND HUNTERS.—Few opinions can be more erroneous than those which prevail in Europe upon the subject of Indian marriages. According to the popular idea, a young lady, visiting the Honourable Company's territories, is destined to be sacrificed to some old dingy, rich, bilious nawaub, or, as he is styled on this side of the Atlantic, "nabob," a class of persons, unfortunately, exceedingly rare. Ancient subjects, devoted to the interests of the conclave in Leadenhall street, belonging to both services, are doubtless to be found in India, some dingy, and some bilious, but very few rich; and, generally speaking, these elderly gentlemen have either taken to themselves wives in their younger days, or have become such confirmed bachelors that neither flashing eyes, smiling lips, lilies, roses, dimples &c., comprehending the whole catalogue of female fascinations, can make the slightest impression upon their flinty hearts. Happy may the fair expectant account herself, who has the opportunity of choosing or refusing a *rara avis* of his nature,—some yellow civilian out of debt, or some battered brigadier, who saw service in the days of sacks and sieges, and who can wooing in the old-fashioned style, preceded by trains of servants bearing presents of shawls and diamonds! Such prizes are scarce. The damsel, educated in the fallacious hope of seeing a rich antiquated suitor at her feet, laden with "barbaric pearl and gold," soon discovers to her horror, that, if she should decide upon marrying at all, she will be absolutely compelled to make a love match, and select the husband of her choice out of the half dozen subalterns who may offer; fortunate may she esteem herself if there be one amongst them who can boast a staff appointment, the adjutancy or quarter-mastership of his corps. Formerly, when the importa tions of European females were much smaller than at present, men grew grey in the service before they had an opportunity of meeting with a wife; there, consequently, was a supply of rich old gentlemen ready at every station to lay their wealth at the feet of the new arrival; and, as we are told that "mammon wins its way where seraphs might despair," it may be supposed that younger and poorer suitors had no chance against these wealthy wooers. The golden age has completely passed away in India; the silver frutage of the rupee tree has been plucked, and love, poverty stricken, has nothing left to offer but his roses.—*Miss Robert's Sketches of Anglo Indian Society.*

HEAT.—For a long time, philosophers have supposed that meteoric iron is made hot while traversing the atmosphere. A curious experiment was resorted to by M. Biot, a foreigner, within a few months, which may possibly be of some service to those engaged in similar pursuits. A bar of iron, heated to whiteness, was held against a strong current of air from the blowing apparatus of a forge. Singular as it may seem, the bar, instead of cooling, burned very brilliantly, throwing off scintillations in every direction. The temperature rather increased than diminished. This experiment makes it very certain that a metallic mass, whirled through the upper regions of the air, would become extremely hot and eventually sparkle, as many meteors do just before they fall.—*Scientific Tracts.*

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES IN HIGH LIFE.—Lord Viscount Lowther to Miss Strachan. It is said that the Marquis of Hertford will give a portion of one hundred thousand pounds with the young lady. The Marquis of Doure will lead to the hymeneal altar in a few days the beautiful Miss Stuart, a daughter of Lord and Lady Stuart de Rothesy. Lord Gardner is about to be united to Miss Hughes, daughter of Lord Dinorben.

Sir William Gossett, the new Sergeant-at-Arms to the House of Commons, vice Henry Seymour, Esq., resigned, is Lieut.-Colonel in the corps of Royal Engineers, and his reported successor as Under Secretary to the Lord Lieut. of Ireland, Mr. Drummond, is a Lieut. in the same Regt. The reduced salary of the new Sergeant-at-Arms, £1,500, is exactly equal in amount to the emoluments of his Under-Secretaryship. Mr. Seymour continues to discharge the duties of Sergeant-at-Arms until the arrival of Sir William Gossett from Dublin Castle.

The late Sir Robert Peel raised a princely income from the invention or use of a machine in

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