

MISCELLANEOUS.

AFRICA. The Sierra Leone Gazette gives us some additional reasons to believe that the Niger empties into the Atlantic ocean in the Bight of Benue. The truth of it, however, will probably be ascertained before many months, by some of the parties now proceeding into the interior. If the fact is as suggested, it is supposed that the very heart of Africa may be penetrated by steam boat navigation. It is believed that many very populous and highly polished nations reside on the banks of this river—who have much trade and commerce with one another, cultivating their lands in a very neat and handsome manner, and who have large quantities of gold. Major Long and Captain Clapperton, by different routes, expected to meet somewhere on the Niger—probably at the city of Timbuctoo. The first proceeds across the country from Tripoli—the last from Bight of Benue.

DREADFUL MURDER AND EXECUTION.

Extract of a Letter from Brussels.—I gave you an account, in January last, of a dreadful murder perpetrated in the neighbourhood of Vilvorde. A young man, named Jean Baptiste Michel, accompanied by a female with whom he cohabited, were proceeding from Brussels to Vilvorde; they overtook, in the Allievette, a servant girl, who had been sent by her master to pay a sum of money to a person who resided near the prison at Vilvorde. The unsuspecting female continued her journey with the two strangers, and was imprudent enough to mention that she was entrusted with a bag containing gold and silver. When they reached the bridge near Trois Fontaines, Michael and his paramour desired the young girl to proceed, and they would shortly overtake her. Here they formed the plan of robbery and murder. When they joined their victim they demanded her money, and snatched a reticule, in which it was contained, from her hands. The poor girl resisted their attacks with all her strength, but was soon overpowered and thrown upon the ground. Michel struck her with a thick stick several times; and the blows were inflicted with such ferocious violence that the skull was fractured in five or six places, and, when the wretched girl was discovered, the spot where she lay was covered with brains and gore. It is said, from marks that were observed on the body, that the companion of Michael had trodden upon the prostrate victim, and wounded her neck and bosom with the thick heels of her shoes. These wretches were shortly afterwards arrested, and, being put on their trial, were sentenced to death. They solicited the King's mercy, and his Majesty was pleased to commute the punishment of death passed on the female to hard labour for life, and to be branded J. B. Michel was ordered for execution yesterday. Previously to his being taken from prison, and whilst the executioner's assistant was cutting off his hair close to his neck (an office which is always performed on the morning the culprit is led to the scaffold, in order that the fatal knife may meet with no impediment) he requested the Rev. B. Lanvers to grant him a last interview with his companion in guilt. Michel had already been informed that she was not to suffer with him. When the unhappy woman made her appearance, he fell upon her neck, and weeping most bitterly, exhorted her in the strongest language to a sincere repentance, of her crimes. Pointing to the hair that was on the floor of the cell, he begged her to preserve it for his sake, and whenever she looked upon it to remember him in her prayers. The scene was heart-rendering and awful. His hands were tied behind his back; his coat and waistcoat taken off, and his shirt pulled over his shoulders below his breast. These preparations for death being completed in the presence of his miserable companion, he said, in a low voice, that he was ready, and looking at her with the deepest despair, he exclaimed, "Farewell, dear Mary, for ever!" She fell upon the ground and fainted.—He ascended the cart which was to convey him to the Grande place. The guillotine was erected opposite the principal entrance of the Town-house, and can easily be seen at some distance from the market place. When the scaffold, which is painted of a blood colour, caught his eyes, he suddenly turned aside his face, as if unable to behold the dreadful spectacle. He mounted the steps of the guillotine with haste, his body was strapped to the board, and the executioner pushing him forward his bare neck was placed under the ponderous axe. By some neglect of the executioner's assistant, the knife which falls and separates the head, the very instant the culprit is in the above situation, did not descend—the screw or pulley did not act. The wretched man remained two minutes looking into the red coloured bag into which the head was about to fall, his eyes fixed, the colour of blood, as if ready to start from their sockets.—He uttered not a word, yet he must have suffered the most inexpressible pangs which the human frame is capable of enduring. The rope was at length adjusted, the knife fell, and the culprit's head, passing through the bag, bounded on the sandy ground beneath.

The following story is told in a late English publication entitled "Naval Sketches."

A noble officer, who had rendered himself, by his perish and oppressive spirit, deservedly unpopular in the navy, experienced, upon one occasion, the mortification of receiving from his Lieutenant a refusal to be present at the usual routine-dinner given to officers by their noble captain.

His lordship being highly incensed, called upon the lieutenant for an explanation of an answer to the steward's invitation; who as is usual, had presented the Captain's compliments, stating his lordship would be glad of his company to dinner; to which the lieutenant had replied—"My compliments to the captain, I shall be glad of so such thing."

To a personal intimation from his lordship, that he should consider it a contempt, the lieutenant bluntly replied,—"Does your lordship intend to make it a point of service?"—"I do, Sir."—"Well then, before I comply I must have a written order."—"That you shall, sir!" said his lordship; and descending into his cabin, and send-

ing for his clerk, the order, after mature deliberation as to its official form and tenor, was at length concocted by their joint labours.

The Lieutenant, of course, appeared in his place at dinner time; and contrary to the expectation of all, not only concealed his mortification, but assumed a more than ordinary proportion of complaisance and cordiality to his inferiors! studiously avoiding, as far as in him lay, all greeting or communication with his commander, who now began to experience the pains of the fœdus in Eden, in witnessing a scene of hilarity, which was not only unwonted at his table, but from which it was obvious, he was intended to be excluded.—The evening however, stole apace; the customary point had been swallowed, despite of the captain's dissatisfaction, who, notwithstanding the decanters were empty, gave no intimation to the attendant to replenish them. This never-failing signal for parting company (though perfectly understood) was not repeated, as was expected, by the lieutenant; who, according to custom, should have intimated it was time to retire. A short interval sufficed with this spirited officer to form his determination. He rose—rang the bell—the steward appeared, and looked to the captain for his commands; the lieutenant interposed, reiterating, "More wine! more wine!" Such an assumption of authority in his or a cabin was not to be borne. The indignant captain rose to put an end to this state anarchy, and unequivocally signified it was his will and pleasure to be alone. The lieutenant, without rising from his seat, addressed him with a perfect sang froid—"My lord, I am here on this service in consequence of a written order, and am resolved (though I came here against the grain) not to leave it without another. This request was also accorded to: but will any one imagine the invitation was ever again repeated?"

Parricide and Murder.—A shoemaker, named Champion, residing in the commune of Onnaing, and arrondissement of Valenciennes, was tried on the 24th January, before the Court of Assize of Douai, for the murder of his father and sister.—The following are the facts of this horrible case:—The father of the prisoner had sometimes maltreated him, because he refused to break off his connexion with a girl by whom he had a child. His sister, it appears, encouraged her father in his harsh treatment of her brother, and the latter conceived the diabolical project of murdering them both. On the 3d of last November, Champion supped with his father and sister. Immediately after the meal the two latter retired to bed, leaving Champion at work. About eleven o'clock, Champion took a heavy hammer and a small anvil, and after putting out the light, went to his sister's room, stole softly to the bedside, ascertained by passing his hand lightly over the pillow where her head lay, and then struck two such violent blows with the hammer on the skull, that the brains were scattered about the room, and the unfortunate girl expired without a sigh. The murderer then went to the room where his father slept, and struck at his head with the hammer; the blow took effect upon the underjaw, which it broke. The old man threw himself from the bed, and seized his son by the collar, at the same time crying out, "Miserable man, what have you done?" At the voice of his father the wretch hesitated for a moment, but soon recovering his ferocity, exclaimed, "I have gone too far to return, I must finish." A struggle then took place between the parricide and his victim, which ended by Champion getting his father under him, when he got his knees upon his chest, and continued striking him on the head till every sign of life had disappeared. He then took from his father's pocket the key of a cupboard, in which was a bag containing 1,000 frs. This sum he took with him into a barn, where he slept, and concealed it, together with his blood-stained clothes, under some bundles of hay.—He then went to bed, and slept soundly until the morning. On getting up he went to one of the neighbours, and told him that his father and sister had been robbed and murdered during the night. The commissary of police was sent for, and to him he very calmly related the same story. Some scratches being perceived upon his hands, the commissary ordered him to be stripped and examined; but no trace of blood was found upon his body, only a few stains of blood upon one of his fingers; for this he accounted by saying that he had bled at the nose the evening before. He was then taken into the room where the bodies of his victims lay. The commissary felt his pulse at the time that he had ordered the face of the father to be turned up. The parricide fixed his eyes steadfastly upon the fractured skull, broken jaw and ribs of his ill-fated father, without showing the slightest symptoms of emotion, either by change of countenance or irregularity of pulse. In the mean time, the bag of money and the blood-stained clothes were found in the barn, and Champion was in consequence sent off to the prison of Valenciennes. On the way he acknowledged being the murderer. On his trial he repeated the same avowal with the most imperturbable sang froid, and heard his sentence without the slightest apparent dismay. He merely expressed a desire to be allowed to live for some time longer than the usual period allowed to murderers, for the purpose of repenting.

He was condemned to be led bare-footed, and his face covered with a black veil, to the public place of Valenciennes, and to have there his right hand and head cut off.

VOLCANO IN OWHTHEE.

Mr. William Ellis, a Missionary, in his narrative of a tour through the island so well known as the place where Captain Cook was murdered, gives the description of a volcano of a singular kind, of which we shall select for our readers some of the most striking particulars. Mr. Ellis passed over a large tract of volcanic country with burning chasms and hills, which had the appearance of having been craters. The plain over which their way lay was a vast waste of ancient lava, which he thus described:—"This track of lava resembled, in appearance,

an inland sea, bounded by distant mountains.—Once it had certainly been in a fluid state, but appeared as if it had become suddenly petrified, or turned into a glassy stone, while its agitated billows were rolling to and fro. Not only were the large swells and hollows distinctly marked but in many places, the surface of these billows was covered by a smaller ripple, likethat observed on the surface of the sea at the first springing up of a breeze, or the passing currents of air which produce what the sailors call a cat's-paw.

About two p. m. the crater of Kiranea suddenly burst upon our view. We expected to have seen a mountain with a broad base and rough indented sides, composed of loose slags or hardened streams of lava, and whose summit would have presented a rugged wall of scoria, forming the rim of a mighty caldron. But instead of this, we found ourselves on the edge of a steep precipice, with a vast plain before us, fifteen or sixteen miles in circumference, and sunk from two hundred to four hundred feet below its original level. The surface of this plain was uneven, and strewed over with huge stones, and volcanic rock and in the centre of it was the great crater, at the distance of a mile and a half from the place where we were standing.

We walked on to the north end of the ridge, where the precipice being less steep, a descent to the plain below seemed practicable. With all our care we did not reach the bottom without several falls and slight bruises.

After walking some distance over the sunken plain, which in several places sounded hollow under our feet, we at length came to the edge of the great crater, where a spectacle sublime, and even appalling, presented itself before us. Immediately before us yawned an immense gulf, in the form of a crescent, about two miles in length, from N. E. to S. W. nearly a mile in width, and apparently eight hundred feet deep. The bottom of it was covered with lava, and the S. W. and northern parts of it were one vast flood of burning matter, in a state of terrific ebullition, rolling to and fro its fiery surge and flaming billows. Fifty-one conical islands of varied form and size, containing so many craters, rose either round the edge, or from the surface of the burning lake; twenty-two constantly emitted columns of grey smoke, or pyramids of brilliant flame; and several of these at the same time vomited from their ignited mouths streams of lava which rolled in blazing torrents down their black indented sides, into the boiling mass below. The existence of these conical craters led us to conclude that the boiling caldron of lava before us did not form the focus of the volcano; that this mass of melted lava was comparatively shallow; and that the basin in which it was contained, was separated by a stratum of solid matter from the great volcanic abyss, which constantly poured out its melted contents through these numerous craterlets into the upper reservoir.

The sides of the gulf before us, although composed of different strata of ancient lava, were perpendicular for about 400 feet, and rose from a wide horizontal ledge of solid black lava of irregular breadth, but extending completely round; beneath this ledge, the sides sloped gradually towards the burning lake, which was, as nearly as we could judge, three hundred or four hundred feet lower. It was evident that the large crater had been recently filled with liquid lava up to this black ledge, and had, by some subterraneous canal emptied itself into the sea or under the low land on the shore. The gray, and in some places apparently calcined sides of the great crater before us; the fissures which interested the surface of the plain on which we were standing; the long banks of sulphur on the opposite side of the abyss; the vigorous action of the numerous small craters on its borders; the dense columns of vapour and smoke that rose at the north and south end of the plain; together with the ridge of steep rocks by which it was surrounded, rising probably in some places three hundred or four hundred feet in perpendicular height,—presented an immense volcanic panorama, the effect of which was greatly augmented by the constant roaring of the vast furnaces below."

Printer's Comforts.—The conduct of some men toward their printers, is (as the National Intelligencer once said) "truly infamous." From all parts of the state we poor wights, are repeatedly commended to "send the paper," with many promises of "sending the advance" as soon as received &c.—after which if the bill is ever collected at the expense of half its amount, we are compelled to think ourselves well used. It is really surprising to see how difficult it is for some men to "reconcile it to their conscience" as Doctor Clay says, to pay the labourer at the Dioc's tail for work which costs greater exertions of mind and body, than with him who saws your wood.

Thus we have all of us frequent epistles of the following tenor:—"Your paper is a very valuable paper, and I am sure you will do any thing more generous" to John Doe, Esq. and the bill shall be paid." "Sir, I am desired by the Hon. Richard Roe to order your excellent paper forwarded to this office for him, one quarter on trial; he is a gentleman who will pay punctually." "Sir, Having seen much of your entertaining paper, please commence sending it to me, one quarter—Your's,—Peter Smirk."—"Mr. Printer, your most obedient pauper having maid sum nois in this willige mi nabor Mr. Simon Stripe, Esquire wants me to order it from you one quarter—would send the munny but got nothing only jacob barker's red bills—I will see you pade." Now and then indeed, like Angela's visits, few and far, between comes something in manner and form as thus:—"Sir, It gives me great pleasure to say that highly approving the sentiments and general matter of your paper, I will become a subscriber; please direct punctually to—post office—and credit me to begin with \$4 as enclosed." &c. &c.

Of the lame duck phraseology however and this is for the most numerous crowd of visitors at all printers's Saturday night levees, an elegant specimen will be seen in the following which we took from the post office the other day.

March 21, 1826.

Sir,—Your papers directed to

have not been taken out of the office by him since the commencement of this quarter. I do not know whether he is absent or declines taking them, as he has said nothing to me on the subject, neither have I seen him since he last took out the papers that were in the office; at all events I consider him a poor subscriber, and should think it of no consequence to continue his name longer on your list. I have been waiting to see him, that I might know the reason why he did not take them, or I should have written you sooner.

Respectfully yours, &c.  
Of a similar character, are such as the following, which we venture to say, are to be found daily on every editorial desk in the country:—"Sir, Your paper directed to Solomon Slop has not been taken out of this office for the last three months.

Reason—Slop has absconded!"  
"Sir,—I have received for collection your bill against Nicholas Nincum for your paper last seven years. Nincum swears he will only pay you for the first quarter of that time; and even that, he affirms is not on his own account, as he ordered the paper for an old maid sister-in-law, of his second wife's stepmother's aunt by marriage.

Your's to serve, &c.  
In this manner is the most laborious and vexatious occupation in modern times, compensated: if we except the Tread Mill. But then say some it is so honourable in itself!—"Honor indeed!" saith Falstaff—"Him that died last Wednesday." And we say let him have it,—we will not dig into his grave to share it. If the labourer be worthy of his hire—give it him.

If there is any man to be found, anxious to do his own duties honestly and honourably in the community, who will not admit such scurvy rascals should be "lashed naked through the world" we can only wish him such adverse fortune, as the occupation of an Editor and Printer.—Albany Patriot.

The Scientific Career.—A Jerusalemite went once on particular business, to a certain place in the country, where he was suddenly taken ill. Seeing himself on the point of death, he called the master of the house, begged him to take care of his property, until the arrival of his son; and, for fear of imposition, not to deliver it to him, unless he first performed three clever things as a proof of his wisdom. After the lapse of a considerable time, the son arrived at the place; knowing the name of the person with whom his father usually resided, but ignorant of the particular street in which he lived, he in vain endeavoured to find it out, as the people refused to give him the desired information. Whilst thus embarrassed and perplexed how to proceed, he espied a person with a heavy load of wood on his shoulders. "How much for the wood?" asked the stranger. The man mentioned a certain sum. "Thou shalt have it," said the Hebrew: "go and carry it to that man's house (mentioning the name of the person of whom he was in quest,) I will follow thee." The man did as he was desired. Arriving at the house, the carrier put down his load. "What is all this?" said the master of the house, "I have not ordered any wood." "True," said the carrier; but the person behind me has."

In the mean time the stranger arrived, informed the master who he was, adding, as no one would acquaint him with the place of his abode, he contrived this stratagem in order to discover it. "Thou art a clever fellow, indeed," said the host; bade him enter, and insisted on his staying with him till the next day.—The offer was thankfully accepted. Dinner was prepared; the cloth laid. The company, consisting of the master, his wife, two daughters, two sons, and the stranger, were seated; and the servant brought a dish containing five chickens, which was placed upon the table. "Now," said the host to the visitor, "be so kind and carve." The latter begged at first to be excused, but at last complied, and executed the office in the following manner.—One of the chickens he divided between the two daughters; the third between the two sons, and the remaining two he took for his own share.—"A very strange way of carving this! My visitor must needs be a great glutton," thought the master within himself, but said nothing. The afternoon and evening passed away in various amusements, and when supper time arrived, a very fine capon was placed upon the table. "Thou hast performed the honours of the table so well this day," said the kind host to his visitor, "that I must request thee to carve again." Our visitor took the capon before him, cut off its head, and placed it before the master; the inward part he gave to the mistress of the house; to the two daughters he gave each a wing, to the two sons a leg each; and kept the whole remainder to himself. "Upon my word," said the master, "this is too bad; I thought thy manner of carving at dinner very strange, but this is still more extraordinary. Pray is this the way they carve at Jerusalem?" Have patience, until I explain myself, and my conduct may perhaps not appear quite so strange," replied the visitor; "at dinner, five chickens were placed before me; these were to be divided amongst seven persons. As I could not perform the operation with mathematical exactness, I thought it best to do it arithmetically. Now then, thy wife, and one chicken, made up the number three; thy two daughters and a chicken made another three; thy two sons and a chicken made again three; To make up the last number I was compelled to take the remaining chickens to myself; for two chickens and thy humble servant, made again three. Thus have I solved this problem." "Thou art an excellent arithmetician, but a bad carver," said the master; "but proceed." The stranger continued, "in my carving in the evening, I proceeded according to the nature of things. The head being the principal part of the body, I therefore gave it thee, since thou art the head of the family. To thy wife I gave the inward part as a sign of her fruitfulness. Thy two sons are the two pillars of the house; the legs, which are the support of the animal, were therefore their proper portion.—Thy daughters are marriageable, and I know thou wishest to see them well settled; I therefore gave them wings, that they may the sooner fly abroad. As for myself I came in a boat, and intend to return in a boat; I therefore took that part which

most resembles it." "Very good," said the kind host; "I am satisfied thou art a good man; my departed friend; here is thy gold and prosper."

The enraged Friar.—Camden tells us a story of a Friar, who, country, espied a poor wife who sat in the same pew, at which being enraged, called out "Peace! mind thee!—thou wife in the pew! what art thou doing there? out till the church rung again—show his heart that babbles—whispered my neighbour for a man—has been babbling here a good

THE ST. JOHN, TUESDAY.

Bank of New Brunswick. DIRECTOR for the Week. DISCOUNT DAY. Usual Hours of Business, from 10 o'clock on Wednesdays, from 11 to 12 on Thursdays, and from 11 to 12 on Fridays. Bills or Notes for Discount, with the Cashier on Tuesday.

The following Resolution of Directors is published for the information of the public:—RESOLVED, That the No. 1 shall be considered as of the value of five Dollars, and the No. 2 as of the value of five Dollars, and the No. 3 as of the value of five Dollars. By order of the President, H. H. CA.

Savings' Bank. MANAGERS FOR THE YEAR. John R. Partelow, Thomas Barlow. Bank Hours.—Every Monday, from 10 to 12 o'clock. Amount deposited Yesterday, \$100,000.

MARINE INSURANCE. Committee of Directors for the Year. David Hatfield, Thomas Barlow, James Kirk. Office Hours, from 10 to 12 o'clock.

We are greatly at a loss to do so. We have received no English papers since our arrival from Europe, and do not furnish any thing of an

CRUELTY. A Truckman in this City, by Henderson, was observed yesterday driving his Horse in a most brutal manner. He first beat the poor animal with a hammer, and then with one of his hands, and when he had done this he drove him to the most insistent and cruel manner. Is there no law within the City of Fredericton? We would recommend hereafter employ such a wretch

Information has been received from Nova Scotia, that it is the intention of the Government to visit this end of this month. His Lordship Halifax on the 1st in the Governor's carriage, and after touching at the 26th or 29th inst. His Lordship to Fredericton, where a party will be held to receive him. afterwards direct his course to this Province, all of which in time past, been much in want of a visit. His Lordship will be present at Fredericton, and it is presumed persons as may be desirous of the places he may visit, propose to accompany him.—Ibid.

The woods in the vicinity of Fredericton, for several days previous, when they assumed an alarming appearance, were entertained for the benefit of those places where On Wednesday evening rain, desired, in a great measure, to allay the fire on this head. We have damage sustained except that since that there has been seen, although the winds have high.—Recorder.

QUEBEC, N. B. We are happy in having state, that authority has been for carrying on the Works during the ensuing summer, of money has been appropriated. This is the more pleasing, because attention which has taken place in the affairs of the Mother Colony, in common with Possessions alone, but all Colony participates, would the great distress amongst the la

BOSTON, MASS. STEAM BOAT.—We mention the arrival of the steam boat purchased in New York by the City of Boston, and which is to be exchanged at intermediate periods to be as safe as she is her accommodations for passengers, and measures 115 by