

THE LITERARY TRANSCRIPT.

was induced to be present. The widow was decked in the habiliments of sorrow appropriate to her bereaved state, with a countenance to correspond, and Jeremiah thought he had never before seen a woman of such a grave and comely aspect. Moreover, such a beautiful evening the widow happened to be afflicted with a severe twinge of the toothache, which imparted to her face a wo-begone expression that rendered it perfectly irresistible in the eyes of Mr. Nightshade, and in the course of the evening she sighed and groaned almost as much as he did himself.

That night Jeremiah went to bed very considerably in love. "Ah!" cried he, as he pulled on his nightcap, "if I had only such a being to partake my sorrows with me!"

Now, Mrs. Starling was one of those singular women that have no objection to a second husband; and being apprised by Mrs. Phillips of Jeremiah's five thousand pounds in the funds, and ten shares in the Centry Company, she consulted the state of her heart, and found she had no earthly objection whatever to becoming Mrs. Nightshade. Having made up her mind, she next set to work to study the peculiarities of her intended victim; and being a shrewd madam, she was not long in finding out his weak side. She saw that the slightest manifestation of cheerfulness disconcerted him amazingly; and that a smile made him shuffle on his seat, and that he was as much startled and alarmed at a laugh, as a shy, nervous horse at a vigorous performance on the bagpipes. Accordingly, in his company she was sorrowful exceedingly, and her remarks on matters in general (weather inclusive) were almost as dolorous as his own. Jeremiah felt that he had found a congenial spirit. "Ah!" said he to himself, "how happy the wretched unhappy we might be together!"

Things were not long in coming to a climax. One evening she succeeded in inviting him into a "toll-a-toe," the result of which was, that he groaned forth a declaration of his passion, and she sobbed and sighed an unreluctant consent.

They were married, and a change speedily ensued. The lady's gravity vanished into thin air, and language is inadequate to paint the grief, horror and amazement of the deceived Jeremiah, when he awoke, as from a deusive dream, and found himself irrevocably fastened to a decidedly cheerful woman! a brisk, bustling, vivacious little body, with an illimitable range of tongue! a woman that preferred Liston and the last new face to "Blair's Grave," and actually laughed until the tears ran down her cheeks at a Punch-and-Jack exhibition! A woman, too, fond of company, and blessed with an infinite quantity of relatives, many of them of a frivolous turn, and all of whom came to wash the new matrimonial couple dry, and crack the jokes round on such occasions. Nay, note that Mrs. Nightshade, though she had never met Miss Woolstoncraft, was a zealous advocate for "the rights of women"; that she had made up her mind to have her own way in all things, and accordingly insisted upon her husband doing just as she pleased, even to the extent of being gay, merry and sociable. She protested against being "moped up," and made Jeremiah go along with her to balls, play concerts, and other places of amusement; she kept up a running fire of parties, and had some of the women people of the neighbourhood sipping tea and chattering scandal with her five days out of the seven; nay, she actually, every spirit is exceedingly sorrowful for thee, Jeremiah!) instead of allowing him his morning stroll among the tombs took him a shopping; with her! This was too much; for all the importunities that grave, reserved man can be subjected to, that of going "shopping," (as they call it with a fastidious woman, as the most grievous and unbearable.

This unnatural state of things could not last long. It was not to be expected. Such a total change of system was sure to be highly prejudicial, and Mr. Nightshade's health visibly declined apace.

One day she took it into her head to give a party on an "uncommon genteel" scale. The company, however, was more numerous than select! and their mirth was that of hearty, hilarious character which, among certain people, generally accompanies good cheer and no reckoning. A fat cousin of hers, a droll fellow, who told marvellous stories and sang a good comick song, sat next the unfortunate Nightshade. He was one of those gentlemen that do not need any pressing to make themselves "quite at home," and at the end of every joke he kept slapping Jeremiah on the shoulder with the familiarity of an old ac-

quaintance, and inquiring "why the deuce he did not laugh?" Laugh! Jeremiah well knew the danger of such a course of conduct, but he was of a complying disposition, and he tried. The unnatural exertion, as might be supposed, have been conjectured, proved too much for him. A bloodvessel burst in the middle of the attempt, and he was immediately carried to bed; although he was thought (by those who did not care much about him) not to be much worse. In the morning, however, when Mrs. Nightshade desired him to get up to breakfast, she received no response, and, on examination, found that during the night his gentle spirit had evaporated, and that she was once more a desolate woman. Of course as might have been expected from a lady of her experience, she conducted herself in the most approved manner; that is, first called in the neighbours, and then went into hysterics, which did not, however, prove fatal.

Though the end of Mr. Nightshade was sudden, no inquest was held upon the body, it being the general opinion (whatever might be said about the blood-vessel) that he had made a very natural termination, having, like many a good fellow beside, "come by his death in consequence of matrimony."

MISCELLANEOUS.

FROM LATE ENGLISH PAPERS.

THE COLONATOR.—We understand that the emigration of Queen Victoria, which is expected to take place in the month of June next, is to be solemnised with surprising magnificence. It is reported that there is to be a revival or modification of various old decorations and privileges which for some reigns have fallen into disuse.

We have just been informed that The highly gifted Richard Stiel has been appointed Secretary to the India Board. We believe the salary is about £2,500 per annum.

The *Doughda Journal* states that a rumour is in circulation to the effect that Morgan O'Connell, Esq. M. P. for Meath, will accept the Chiltern Hundreds immediately after the meeting of parliament, the hon. gentleman having been appointed to a high situation under her Majesty's government.

William Rathbone, Esq. of the Society of Friends, has been elected Mayor of Liverpool. We understand that Robert Holland, Esq. M. P., has purchased of the representatives of the late unfortunate Mr. Cocking the interesting collection illustrative of the science of aræology made by that gentleman. The collection consists of drawings, models, prints, and a very extensive apparatus.

Mr. Dobbs, for many years one of the most popular comedians on the British stage, has put a period to his existence by hanging himself to the rail of his bed. Verdict of the coroner's jury, "Temporary Insanity."

An experiment is in course of trial at Greenwich, with every probability of success, to rear fish in fresh or rather slightly brackish water. They are gradually accustomed to the change; and mullet, turbot, plaice, and saucis, have thriven in the new blood.

Mr. J. O. Robinson, the publisher, and well known to literature and the fine arts as the partner of Mr. Hunt, and intimately connected with the Edinburgh house of Constable and Co., died on the 5th inst, adding one more to the list of mortality in this class for 1837.

The celebrated robber, Cardenas, who was executed at Madrid on the 6th ult., for stealing various articles from Maria Christina's *Marchande des Modes*, proceeded to the place of execution decked with diamonds, which he presented to the executioner and his man.

Gambling houses will cease to be licensed by the French Government on the 31st inst. by which the revenue will lose upwards of 6,600,000fr. per annum.

An inquest was held at Doncaster last week on the body of John Willoughby, who died after taking a quantity of Morrison's pills. After the jury had investigated the matter for two days, they returned a verdict—"That the deceased took a large and immoderate quantity of Morrison's pills, as a cure for the rheumatism, which produced inflammation of the bowels, of which he died."

We have had personal experience of the great advantages afforded by the railway, having travelled upwards of 600 miles upon the Grand Junction, Liverpool, and Manchester Railways, in about 20 hours!

The first stone of the City of London Literary and Scientific institution was laid last

week. The new building will cost about £4000. The members comprise between eight and nine hundred persons, a gratifying fact for those who wish to view the importance of the diffusion of useful knowledge among the people.

PEDESTRIANISM.—The match of Townsend to walk sixty miles per day for ten successive days, was lost. He had only twenty miles left to perform at half-past eleven on the last day, but was in so weak a state as to be unable to proceed. He attributed his loss to the weather.

Cottareval, of Milan, has invented a new wind instrument. It is called Glycipharon, and is in the form of the Bassoon, and its tones are said to bear a close resemblance to those of the human voice.

Mr. Patrick, the great sporting printer, died at Liverpool on Monday last, having cut his throat on the previous Tuesday. He was much respected.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, the other day, Mr. Laing, the Bow-street magistrate, consented to a verdict against himself for £50, damages and costs, for striking a gentleman named Paine, who ran against him accidentally, at a corner of a street, and giving him in charge to a policeman.

LITERATURE.—The turmoil of politics keeps publications very backward. Bulwer's new romance "Leolin, or the Siege of Granada," illustrated like the *Pilgrims of the Rhine*, and *Merritt's Pirate* is formally announced as kept back, until after Christmas, on account of the dullness of the times. Lady Blessington's Confession of an Elderly Lady, is postponed from the same cause.

Lockhart's sixth volume of the *Life of Scott* has been postponed until January. It will probably complete a work which, whether from its materials or the ability with which they are worked up, has scarcely any in the language to surpass it.

The name of the new work by "Boz" has not transpired. It may be as popular as the *Pictures Papers*, but if so, the man's mind must be like a gold mine—full of precious ore.—There have been 30,000 copies of *Pickwick* sold in England.

MARRYAT'S NOVELS.—These most entertaining novels are about to be published in a small shape to Scott's and Edgeworth's works of fiction. This announcement will be generally acceptable.

DISCOVERY OF THE SOURCE OF ST. WINIFRED'S WELL.—A most singular discovery was made in Blaenys-Nant Lead-mines, near Mold, county of Flintshire, a few days ago. The workmen at the end of one of the levels were surprised, and obliged to run for their lives, in consequence of an immense rush of water suddenly bursting upon them. After three days the water totally disappeared; and, on cautiously proceeding to the place, they found an opening through which the water had issued, of about four inches diameter. Hearing a sound as of a heavy run of water inside, they enlarged the aperture so as to admit of their passing through, and found that it was the bed of a subterraneous river, which in all probability affords the principal supply to the far-famed St. Winifred's Well at Holywell, from which it is distant about two-fve miles. The stream being then shallow, they explored it about sixty yards down, and were astonished to find several large caverns to the right and left, from the roofs and sides of which were suspended numerous and beautiful specimens of white spar or stalactites. The company are in high spirits, these appearances being considered favourable for a large amount of ore.

UNITED STATES.

New-York, January 30th.—A fire broke out between 11 and 12 o'clock, noon, on the west side of Avenue D, in the rear, between Fifth and Sixth streets. The flames soon communicated to the front buildings on the Avenue, and also to the adjacent ones on Fifth street. The appearance of the fire at this time was truly alarming; but by the spirited exertions of the firemen it was subdued, after destroying SIXTEEN BUILDINGS, all of them two-story brick dwellings, and all except one, owned by J. G. Coster. Twelve of them were on Avenue D (including all on both sides between Fifth and Sixth streets), and four on Fifth street. It must be remembered that there are many vacant lots in that vicinity. The value of Mr. Coster's fire-damaged buildings was about \$35,000; insured. The other was owned and occupied by Wm. Smith, whose loss is estimated at about \$5,500; insured \$2,500.

In the Senate on the 29th Mr. Howard from the Committee on foreign affairs gave notice that at the first opportunity he should move to take up the Bill for the preservation of neutrality on the frontiers.

The driver of the United States mail was murdered on the night of the 19th inst., near Stockton, Alabama, and the mail was robbed. A reward of \$600 has been offered by the postmaster for the apprehension of the murderers.

UPPER CANADA.

Toronto, January 31.—The prisoners taken on board the American private schooner, which was lately captured by the gallant militia near Amherstburgh—General Theobald, &c. &c.—were brought to this city yesterday afternoon under a guard of militia, and safely lodged in jail to await their trial. Colonel Dodge, who was severely wounded in the head in the affair, was not sufficiently recovered to be removed with the others.

YORK ELECTIONS.—The election for the first Riding of York commenced on Monday the 29th ult. The candidates were Mr. George Duggan, Jr., Attorney of Toronto, Mr. Gamble, of Mimico, Mr. Lawrence, of Yonge-stre., and Mr. W. Ketchum, of Toronto. The last put forth his pretensions to the suffrages of the Electors, as being a reformer, but did not make his appearance at the Hustings.

At the close of the Poll last night, the votes stood thus—Mr. Gamble, 226; Mr. Duggan, 198—Majority in favor of Mr. Gamble, 28. Mr. Lawrence having but 40 votes, withdrew from the contest at three o'clock—Scotts-man, Feb. 1.

There are still two elections to take place—the one in room of Dr. Charles Duncombe, of Oxford, and the other in room of Dr. John Rolph, of Norfolk.

LOWER CANADA.

Montreal, (Wednesday,) 7th February.

About six o'clock on Sunday evening last, three arrived in town about three hundred "Highland heroes" from Glengarry. They were under the command of Major Macdonald, and were escorted by the Montreal Cavalry, the Queen's Dragoons, the Rifles, the Royal Irish, and the Royal City. These detachments are, we understand, to be followed by two others, of respectively three and four hundred each. The whole to be stationed on the frontier to give "a free and equal" hand-dish across the line, if necessary, a warm and truly highland reception.

About four o'clock yesterday afternoon, five hundred more of these gallant and hardy sons of Scotia "wha winna turn back," arrived in town under the command of Colonel Fraser. They were also suitably escorted by a military brigade, and preceded by the fine band of the 83rd Regiment, playing, in the most efficient manner, appropriate Scottish airs. The officers and men of both divisions presented the finest possible and decidedly the most martial appearance, and were hailed on their respective arrivals, with the utmost satisfaction and the most enthusiastic and prolonged cheers, from the assembled thousands who eagerly crowded to witness their entrance into and march through the city. These detachments are, we understand, to be followed by two others, of respectively three and four hundred each. The whole to be stationed on the frontier to give "a free and equal" hand-dish across the line, if necessary, a warm and truly highland reception.

A detachment of the Royal Montreal Cavalry left this on Saturday last, under the command of Seret Spiers, escorting arms and ammunition to St. Johns, L. C., and returned this afternoon, bringing with them one prisoner, Mr. Louis Papineau. Shortly afterwards a detachment of the St. John's Loyal Volunteers, under the command of Lieutenant Lett, arrived at the new gaul with three prisoners, charged with seditious practices. Capt. Patrick Murray, Michael Dwyer, and Peter O'Callaghan. These men were arrested last Friday inst., by a detachment of the latter corps under the command of Lieut. Macdonald, near the south-west river, 12 miles from St. Johns. Captain Lay and a large detachment of the same corps left St. Johns for Henryville at ten o'clock yesterday morning, with the arms and ammunition brought out by the Royal Montreal Cavalry.

On Sunday evening last, Messrs. Hebert and Prox, M. P. P., were brought to town by Comeau, the baillif. They are charged with high treason.

On Saturday last, the 3d of February, as Mr. MOSES KNAPP was on his return from Montreal to his residence at Cote St. Louis,