

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE CATASTROPHE AT SANTIAGO.—We give below the comments of the British Conservative press upon the burning of the Church at Santiago, on the 8th of December last.

We will remember how in 'Bleak House' Mr. Chadband undertook to 'improve the subject'—the subject in question being the moral, social, and educational deficiencies of the poor boy Joe. We know too, how very little the process did towards supplying these deficiencies, whatever sustenance it may have afforded to that self-righteousness and self complacency of Mr. Chadband and his auditory. There are plenty of Chadbands among us, and the first idea—and very often the last too—which they connect with the misfortunes of their neighbours is that of 'improving the occasion' to their own glorification, or the indulgence of their envy, hatred and uncharitableness, as the opportunity may seem most favorable. One could hardly have imagined that this weakness of poor human nature should not have found an exception for itself in the presence of that appalling horror which has made Santiago a city of such sorrow as history hardly records. The story of two thousand women and girls gathered together for the purpose of worshipping God, and suddenly exposed to a rain of fire from the roof of the church—rushing in their terror and agony towards the doors, and there falling over each other in a screaming, struggling pile of humanity, trampled and choked and burned to death, and dragged from that confused mass of human ruin, blackened and disfigured corpses—all this brings before us a picture of horrors which might have been thought capable of causing us, for one moment at least, to sink our religious animosities in one common grief and sympathy. Yet no sooner were the details of the fearful disaster made known than most of the organs of public opinion in this Protestant country eagerly jumped at the opportunity of 'improving the occasion' for an anti-Popish demonstration, and made it their special business to connect the accident as much as possible with the rites and usages of the Church of Rome. Misfortunes of the same kind have been a certain tower in Siloam fell there were people who sought to 'improve the occasion' in the sense of a moral Phariseism, and we know how they were rebuked. We wish that the rebuke might have some influence on those who are so pertinacious in improving the Santiago disaster under the prompting of religious Phariseism. This is the more to be desired because such an outbreak of heartless bigotry is calculated to draw away attention from the real lessons taught by the accident, and from the care which ought to be taken to provide against similar occurrences. We are not indeed likely to have a holocaust of church-goers in this country in consequence of that over-dressed religion which finds acceptance in Chili. But we have our crowded gatherings here too, and a fire, or the alarm of one might at any time cause a fearful destruction of human life at one of our theatres or other similar assemblies. We do not make sufficient arrangements for the sudden exit of a multitude, and we have not equalled the attention given to the matter in other countries—possibly from the high price paid for space in London as compared with the continental cities. We recollect the frightful peril incurred by a large crowd when Covent Garden Theatre was burned down; we have heard too of an alarm at Mr. Spurgeon's Tabernacle. We can quite imagine that if either of these accidents had come near its results to the horrible sacrifice at Santiago, there would not have been wanting people to improve the 'occasion' after the same fashion.—*John Bull.*

We shall not attempt to rival the melodramatic scenic picturequeness with which our contemporaries, metropolitan and provincial, have described the appalling loss of life in the city of Santiago, the capital of the Republic of Chili, occasioned by the burning of the great Church of the Jesuits, while some three thousand worshippers were prayerfully engaged in celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. When great masses of people are overtaken by appalling and destructive calamities, whether by the burning and wrecking of ships at sea, the explosions and floodings in mines, frightful accidents on railroads or the numerous other casualties with which in England we are so familiar, there is nothing that appears to us so utterly heartless as the fierce indignation with which persons are assailed who are often themselves among the greatest sufferers from such dread occurrences, and so ignorantly absurd as the fury with which systems are condemned to which such dangers are merely, and often very remotely, incidental. We are well aware that no words could describe the real horror of the dreadful scene in Santiago presented by the burning of a church containing when the fire broke out three thousand persons, of whom two thousand, for the most part women, lost their lives. But no falsehood could be invented more atrociously malicious in itself, and in its purport, than to represent the Clergy of the church of La Campana as more intent upon preserving the Ecclesiastical furniture and decorations of the church than the lives of the people. All who know anything of what Robert Southey, in his History of Brazil, has written of the frightful, self-denying sufferings of these most earnest and devoted servants of the Most High, in civilising, and in preserving the old Indian races, so contrary to what took place in the New England States—will certainly not require to be assured that of the thousands who escaped from the burning church the majority owed their lives to the intrepid energy of the Clergy so maligned in the columns of the English newspapers. 'These Missionaries,' says Southey, 'were every way qualified for their office. They were zealous for the salvation of souls; they had disengaged themselves from all the ties that attach us to life, and were therefore not merely fearless of martyrdom, but ambitious of it.' The Honorable F. Walpole, in his 'Four Years in the Pacific,' records that 'all South America was explored under the direction of the Jesuits. Overcoming every difficulty, surmounting toils, braving unknown and unknown dangers, smiling at and glorifying in wounds, hardships, death itself, these zealous men spoke of Jesus and his love and mercy in the remotest nook of this vast continent.' Sir Woodbine Parish, describing the Jesuit Missions in Paraguay, also says:—'If we look at the good which they did, rather than for the evil which they did not, we shall find that in the course of about a century and a-half upwards of a million of Indians were converted by them to Christianity, and were taught to be happy and contented under the mild and peaceful rule of their paternal Pastors—a blessed lot when contrasted with the savage condition of the unchristianized tribes around them.' Now, in Santiago—where the Hon. Mr. Walpole tells us the Jesuits have excellent schools, in which the children of the poor are educated free of expense, and where the 'Priests, mostly taken from the higher classes, are educated at the University, and are a well-informed order of men'—we may be very sure that such indifference to the lives of thousands of perishing fellow-creatures, as our contemporaries impute to the Clergy, had just as little real existence as that the writers were eye-witnesses of the horrors described by them. The humiliating consideration, however, is that they wrote with the certainty that, by heaping abuse upon the Priesthood, and by ridiculing the circumstance of upwards of two thousand women being found in a church, instead of at some monster concert in some such Temple of Fashion as our own Crystal Palace, they would gratify the taste and conciliate the prejudices of the great majority of their readers. They did not venture to say a word about the evidence supplied by such an attendance at a religious service in a parish church of the prevalence of devotional habits in a city whose population does not exceed two hundred thousand souls! A contemporary, in the true spirit of an old Pagan, compares the dying in the church with the slaughtered in sundry

beleaguered cities, and accords the palm of preference to such as had the satisfaction of dying 'fighting for their lives.' Surely to such writers the death on the Cross by one who had only to ask to obtain the aid of 'twelve legions of angels,' can present little that is sublimely heroic! If the temporal life of a Christian be of less importance than the frame of mind in which he exchanges it for a life eternal, the suffocated inmates of the burning church died with a cry of mercy upon their lips, and with neither hatred nor malice, in their hearts. Their death was very terrible, very appalling; but tens of thousands have died in North America within the last three years with infinitely less appearance of dying in peace with their Creator and in charity with their fellow-creatures. If the fact be disputed, we have proofs at hand which we shall willingly submit to our Christian readers, and accept their decision as decisive upon the subject.—*Hull Advertiser.*

The Chilean catastrophe and the destruction of bullet-girls' lives by fire have induced the Lord Chamberlain to call a meeting of theatrical managers to consider the question—Whether better modes of ingress to theatres could not be provided, and whether bullet-girls' dresses could not be rendered incombustible. On the first point there was a general agreement that all possible provisions for the public safety should be made; but with reference to theatrical dresses it was explained that if the proposed injunction were enforced the girls would not get engagements, for chemical preparations could not be applied without injury to vestments of gold, silver, satin, or spangles. Eventually it was proposed that notices enjoining caution should be posted up in all theatres. There are about 3,000 or 4,000 bullet-girls in London, and it is very melancholy to reflect that they are all, night after night, exposed to the chance of death from footlights, ground-lights, or some similar cause.

There are all kinds of strange rumors respecting the Queen's speech as delivered at the opening of Parliament. One report is that Earl Russell drew up a draft which was afterwards, revised by the Cabinet, which struck out every salient clause without being able to agree upon any substitute. Another rumor mentions that her Majesty herself was the cause of the alterations which were made in the original speech. To this Mr. Pope Hennessey openly alluded, and declared it was notorious to the whole country that it was the Queen who insisted upon peace. The Earl of Derby also referred to the revision of the speech, and said that the mover of the address seemed to have got hold of the original draft, instead of the document which was read by the royal commissioners, since he spoke on several matters that were not mentioned in the latter. Another rumor was also alluded to—that of differences in the Cabinet upon the Danco-German question. These differences Mr. Gladstone emphatically denied. He declared that both himself and Mr. Milner Gibson, whose name had been mentioned, heartily approved of Lord Palmerston's policy. Judging by the two speeches delivered by the Premier and the Foreign Minister, there appears likewise to be no difference between the leaders of the cabinet.

THE MASSIVE STEAM RAMS.—The correspondence relative to these vessels has been published in the American papers, and the following extracts are especially interesting. It will be observed that the remarkable inconsistency which has characterized all Lord Russell's diplomatic efforts has received further illustration in this correspondence. On the 13th of September Lord Russell writes to Mr. Adams politely refusing the detention of the rams, in the absence of specific evidence against the builders. No further evidence is forwarded by the American Minister, but a threatening letter is written, and on the 8th of September, within a week, the Foreign Secretary under the influence of Mr. Adams's strong language, announces the detention of the rams.—*Standard.*

ENGLISH TROOPS FOR GERMANY.—The *United Service Gazette* says:—"We have been informed on good authority that the Secretary of State for War, on Monday afternoon, received instructions from the Privy Council to take a supplementary war credit of about two millions to meet expenses in case of hostilities between this country and Germany. The following corps have received orders to prepare to embark for Copenhagen—viz., the 11th Hussars, at Richmond Barracks, Dublin; the 15th Hussars, at Newbridge; the 1st battalion 10th Regiment, at Kilkenny; the 1st battalion 11th Regiment, and the 2nd battalion 12th Regiment at Dublin."

LONDON CRIME.—It is asserted, on good authority, that there are in the metropolis, 16,000 children trained to crime, 15,000 men living by low gambling, 50,000 by constant thieving, 5,000 receivers of stolen goods, and 150,000 men and women subsisting by other disgraceful means. There are no fewer than 25,000 beggars. So that there are more than 250,000 persons in the London district of all ages and sexes, who prey upon the honest and industrious part of the community.—*Mr. Gaskell's "Another Blow for Life."*

INFANTICIDE IN ENGLAND.—On Saturday afternoon Mr. Waltham, deputy coroner held three inquests upon the bodies of children that had been evidently left exposed in Stoke-Newington and Homerton by cheap undertakers. The first inquest was held at the Red Lion Tavern, Church-street, Stoke-Newington, upon the body of a male child. A little boy named Samuel Shadbolt found the deceased in a parcel lying on some bricks in a field at Taylor's-nalley, Newington, on Saturday morning. The child was wrapped in brown paper; but what was quite unusual, it was very expensively dressed in grave-clothes, which was trimmed with lace. It was removed to the Church-street police-station, where the clothes are now kept for the purpose of identification. Doctor Barnes said deceased's head had marks of severe pressure, but he believed they had been inflicted after death. The child appeared to be still-born. Some of the jurors said that the practice of throwing children about public places was fearfully on the increase in that neighborhood. It was well known that it was done to save the burial fees, by cheap undertakers. The parties who did so were pretty well known, and the only question was how to get evidence. The authorities ought to advertise for the parents of still-born children to come forward and see if the deceased child could be identified, and then a prosecution might be instituted. A verdict of 'Stillborn' was returned. The next inquest was held at the Spread Eagle Inn, Homerton, on the body of a female child found nailed up in a coffin, in the Emley-road, Victoria Park. Dr. Wright said that the deceased was a healthy child and had lived at least two hours. He could not account for the death as there was no mark of violence. If prussic acid had been administered it would not have left any trace. Verdict, 'Found dead in a coffin on the high road, but how the death was caused there was no evidence to show.' The third case was that of a female child found by some boys in Hackney churchyard. It was wrapped up in a portion of a gentleman's dressing-gown. Dr. Wright could not say whether the child was still-born. It was supposed to have been thrown in the churchyard to save the burial fees. Verdict, 'Found dead.'—*Star.*

There are eighty thousand millions of tons of coal in the British Islands—enough to supply the present rate of consumption for a thousand years.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.—The annual return of the gross public income and expenditure of the United Kingdom, in the year ending the 31st of December last, was published yesterday. The total revenues was £70,433,620 5s 9d. The total ordinary expenditure was £68,910,387 1s 10d, which would show an excess of income to the amount of £1,523,233 13s 11d; but £900,000 is to be deducted from this for expenses of fortifications, so that the available surplus amounts to £623,233 13s 11d.—The balances in the Exchequer on the 31st December last amounted to £7,491,819 3s 9d.

AN UNLUCKY SHIP.—In the early part of last year the ship *Uak* was brought back by her captain to Cardiff, the port from which she had sailed, after a 6 months' voyage, without having reached her destination. She was in good seaworthy condition, and the captain told the owners that the reason he had returned was that when he had got as far as Cape Horn he saw a vision on the ocean, which warned him not to proceed any further on the voyage, and that in the event of his persisting both he and the ship would be sent to perdition. A Board of Trade inquiry was instituted into the captain's conduct. The crew were examined, and they spoke of him as a very careful and sober master, although somewhat eccentric in his manner; and when they found that he had put the ship back without any reason for so doing, the chief mate remonstrated with him, and endeavored to take charge, which the captain resisted by placing him in irons. The captain was examined, and he solemnly declared that, after what had appeared to him, he could not go on. It was the vision of the Lord, and he was not to go on. The result of the inquiry was that his certificate was cancelled. A new master was appointed to the ship, and she sailed a second time on the voyage. On Saturday a despatch was received from the British Consul at Quimbo by the Secretary of the Board of Trade, announcing the destruction of the *Uak* by fire, while on a voyage from Swansea for Harco. The ship arrived in lat. 20 S., long. 74 W., on the 15th of November, on the morning of which day smoke was observed issuing from the hatches. Four tons of blasting powder were speedily removed from the hold and thrown overboard, but at 5 p.m. an explosion took place when the boats were got out and means taken for leaving her. By 7 o'clock she was full of smoke fore and aft, and her head was turned towards the mainland, the vessel being got under easy sail. The crew then left her, and on the following morning they saw flames issuing from the after hatchway; and, there being no hope of saving her, the seamen pulled towards the land. The mate, six of the crew, and a passenger, arrived at Quimbo on the 21st of November, having been picked up by a schooner; and the master and remainder of the crew reached Caldera on the 24th of the same month. The fire is supposed to have been caused by spontaneous combustion.

The correspondence presented to Parliament this week, respecting the Alabama and Florida, shows that a large proportion of Irishmen are fighting in the army of the Confederate States. In affidavit of Henry George Wagner, enclosed by Mr. Adams to Lord Russell, as forming with similar documents the grounds of a claim for compensation by the North American Government upon the British Government the following statement is made:—

"The Florida carried two large pivot guns, one forward, and one aft, and she had three large guns on each side. The crew was a mixed one, most of them being Irishmen. They numbered, I should think, about 130."

In a list of the officers and crew of the Alabama furnished by Mr. Adams to Lord Russell, on the 10th of January, 1864, we find such names as Messrs. O'Brien, Thomas Murphy, Thomas Welch, John Duggan, John O'Neil, Joseph Connor, David Roach, Michael Kinsella, Olan Duff, and many others, evidently belonging to Ireland.—*Tablet.*

The Great Eastern was knocked down at auction, to the newly formed Great Eastern Steamship Company, for only twenty-five thousand pounds sterling. The Company had however previously purchased bonds of the Old Company, to extent seventy thousand pounds, which must be added to the above purchase money. Another person claims to have bid £25,000 at auction, and demanded the ship.

ANCIENT BRITISH PEARLS.—The pearls of Britain were celebrated in the days of old. History has preserved the tradition that it was this source of wealth that tempted the Romans to our shores, and more than one ancient writer refers to the child, studded with British pearls, which Caesar suspended as an offering in the temple of Venus at Rome. Tacitus mentions pearls among the products of our island, but adds that they were generally of a dusky, livid hue. This, he suggests, was owing to the carelessness and inexperience of the persons who collected them, who did not pick the shellfish alive from the rocks, but were content to gather what the waves cast on the beach. Play and others also describe them as inferior on account of their dullness and cloudiness to the jewels of the East. Coming down to times less remote, we find Hector Boece in the 16th century expatiating upon the pearls of Caletonia with much enthusiasm. They were, he says, very valuable, 'bright, light, and round, and sometimes of the quantity of the nail of one's little finger.'—*Once a Week.*

THE ENGLISH ROYAL FAMILY AND THE DANISH QUESTION.—A story is whispered about here touching the object of Lord Derby's recent visit to the Queen, which you may accept for what it is worth, remembering that it is not inconsistent with known facts. It is said that dissatisfaction with the policy of the government in relation to the Danish difficulty was expressed to Lord Palmerston in very plain terms, in the highest quarter; that the sympathies of the late Prince Consort were referred to as being known to be strongly in favour of the German view of the quarrel, which is ardently espoused by his brother, the reigning Duke of Saxo-Gotha; and that, consequently, it would be agreeable to the Court that the Prussian rather than the Danish family alliance should be held to. The prevalence of a different feeling in the nation at large was mentioned as an obstacle in the way of carrying out the posthumous policy of the Prince Consort, and rumors tell that the discussion ended unpleasantly.—Under these circumstances, the aid of Lord Derby is supposed to have been invoked as a pacificator and witness to the actual state of public feeling being, as Lord Palmerston had represented it, in opposition to the Court view. I believe I may say it is quite certain that the sentiments of the late Prince Consort were decidedly Prussian in so far as the Danish affair is concerned, and to that extent, at least, the rumor is not unfounded.—*Correspondent of London Times.*

EXTRAORDINARY STATEMENT.—It was currently reported on 'Change in Liverpool on Wednesday afternoon that in a few days one of the fastest screw steamers afloat would leave a British port on a cruise after the Alabama. This new steamer has been purchased, and is being fitted out at the sole expense of two first-class English houses—one in London and the other in this town,—both of whom have suffered heavily in consequence of the depredations of the famous Confederate cruiser. The new vessel, it is expected, will steam three or four knots faster than the Alabama ever could do, besides being much stronger, and when armed carrying guns of much calibre and construction that the chance of being able to cope with her will be hopeless. She will be commanded by a man who has already gained much notoriety in connection with ocean navigation, and in whom Captain Semmes will find a foe 'worthy of his steel.' The mission of this new steamer, while it will be chiefly to hunt and catch the Alabama, will also be directed against the other Confederate cruisers—Georgia, Florida, Rappahannock (should the latter get to sea), and Tuscaloosa. Already two barkers have left England with coals for the new steamer, which will be discharged at one or two ports which this vessel will make her rendezvous. This steamer, of course, will act in conjunction with the Federal cruisers now on the look out for the Alabama. We may here repeat that this action on the part of British merchants is prompted by heavy combined and personal losses in the destruction of neutral goods in American bottoms, and also from the fact that hitherto all the efforts of the Federal navy to capture the Alabama have been fruitless. The *Manchester Examiner* asks, 'Can this be another Confederate dodge?'

It appears that the insolent dispatch of the Federal Government which they have laid before Congress was never communicated to the English Government. The American Minister, Mr. Adams, thought proper to withhold it in London. But the American Minister in Washington thought proper to communicate it to Congress. Thus, in London, the Federals get the advantage of their prudence, and in Washington they make capital of their audacity.—*Tablet.*

THE IRON CLAD NAVY.—The number of British iron-clad frigates afloat is 10. Three are launched and fitted, six nearly ready for launching, and five in various stages of building—a total in all of 24 English iron frigates against only 16 belonging to France.

OFFENCES AGAINST LIFE AND PROPERTY IN ENGLAND.—The English lower class, chiefly, we believe, from wonderful dullness of their lives—a dullness which in many other people would breed insurrection—take the most curious interest in all the details of crime. There is not a sentence passed which is not studied by thousands whose estimate of the comparative wickedness of offences will be directly based upon the judge's decision. More especially will this be the case with regard to crimes of violence, which, in their heinousness, and the brutality natural to a people still left uneducated and uncivilized, they regard as crimes redeemed by pluck and physical prowess. Their teaching in the First Middlesex Court is that embezzlement is a grave offence, that a theft of house linen is heinous, that theft from children is twice as bad as burglary, but that a stab or two to a passerby is only a trifling breach for the law, chiefly punished because its perpetrator ought to have used some weapon other than a knife. Had Watts felled his man with a hedge-stake, or crushed his eyes with a pewter-pot, or kicked him into a cripple for life, the judge would have given him a month, and we presume, a few words of cordial approval for his resort to 'English' weapons. And then we complain of the brutality still visible in the 'roughs,' and wonder that laboring men should beat their wives nearly to death, and should consider the 'straps' a proper correction to be applied to grown-up girls. The very judges train them to the belief that property is more sacred than life, and we are surprised that they believe the expositors of the law know right from wrong.—*London Spectator.*

UNITED STATES.

A correspondence has taken place between the Federal General Peck and the Confederate General Pickett, commanding in North Carolina, relative to the reported execution by the latter of a Federal soldier for killing a Confederate officer. General Peck, assuming the report to be true, threatened to hang a Confederate soldier in retaliation. General Pickett denied the statement, but affirmed that he would execute every negro caught after killing any Confederate officer, soldier, or citizen, and for every Confederate prisoner hung, in retaliation, he would hang ten of the Federal prisoners in his hands.

I will venture, therefore, in conclusion, to assure Lord Russell that the gigantic task which President Lincoln has taken in hand is not hitherto half way towards its accomplishment; that before its completion rivers of blood will flow where rivulets have flowed before; that, if necessary, where one slave is found fighting for Mrs. Stowe and Mr. Sumner, ten slaves will be found fighting for their masters and for slavery; that the fourth year of the war finds the two sections under circumstances of far greater equality as regards men and material of war than its predecessors; that the North is, perhaps unconsciously, bolstering up its faith and stiffening its backbone by a diet of ingenious mendacity; and that if ever it should succeed in driving its enemy from the field, it will find itself face to face with a problem the difficulties of which it has not begun to gauge, but which are such as have baffled solution by any other nation since the creation of man, and which will bludge and exhaust even the irrepressible Yankee.—*Times Cor.*

THE AGE OF SHODDY.—All our theatres are open and they are all crowded nightly. The kind of entertainment given seems to be of little account.—Provided the prices are high and the place fashionable nothing more is required. All the hotels are as crowded as the theatres; and it is noticeable that the most costly accommodations, in both hotels and theatres, are the first and most eagerly taken. Our merchants report the same phenomenon in their stores; the richest silks, laces and jewellery are soonest sold. Not to keep a carriage, not to wear diamonds, not to be attired in a robe that costs a small fortune, is now equivalent to being a nobody. This war has entirely changed the American character. The lavish profusion in which the old Southern aristocracy used to indulge is completely eclipsed by the dush, parade and magnificence of the Northern aristocracy of this period. Ideas of cheapness and economy are thrown to the winds. The individual who makes the most money—no matter how—and spends the most money—no matter what—is considered the greatest man. To be extravagant is to be fashionable. These facts sufficiently account for the immense and brilliant audiences at the opera and theatres; and until the final crash comes such audiences will undoubtedly continue.—The world has seen its iron age, its silver age, its golden age, and its brazen age. This is the age of shoddy. The new brown stone palaces on Fifth Avenue, the new equipages at the Park, the new silks which rustle over loudly, as if to demand attention, the new people who live in the palaces, and ride in the carriages, and wear the diamonds and silk—all are shoddy. From devil's dust they spring and unto devil's dust they return. They live in shoddy houses. They ride in shoddy carriages, drawn by shoddy horses, and driven by shoddy coachmen, who wear shoddy liveries. They lie upon shoddy beds, which have just come from the upholsterer's hand and still smell of shoddy varnish.—They wear shoddy clothes purchased of shoddy merchants, who have erected mammoth stores, which appear to be marble, but are really shoddy. They set off follow the shoddy fashions, and imagine themselves a la mode de Paris, when they are only a la mode de shoddy. Their professions and occupation are pure shoddy. They are shoddy brokers on Wall street, or shoddy contractors for shoddy articles for a shoddy government. Six days in the week they are shoddy business men. On the seventh they are shoddy Christians. Nor are their politics less shoddy than their religion. They belong to the shoddy party, which is always loyal to shoddy, and they vote the shoddy ticket, and support the shoddy speculators which are conducting this shoddy war, not for the obsolete Meas of the restoration of the Union, but for the profit and perpetuation of a shoddy dynasty. Oh, for some shoddy Junius, with a pen as keen as shoddy steel, and words that burn like shoddy 'Greek fire,' to write the history of this shoddy age, and prophesy the downfall of shoddy which is to come. Already shrewd Daniels scent a storm in the Babylonish air; but still the days are golden, and King Shoddy marches on triumphantly. Let us then, enjoy the present, the Park, the theatres, and the opera, and leave the future to take care of itself. That is the sum of shoddy wisdom, and we shall not question such high authority.—*New York paper.*

A SUNDAY CASE.—A shocking case has recently received ventilation through the courts of Kanawha county, W. Va. A Presbyterian clergyman named Teophilus Packard, whose wife adopted some religious doctrines at variance with his views, commenced a series of gross persecutions, taking her to an insane hospital and retaining her there for three years, refusing her prayers for a jury trial, afterwards locked her up at home with the intention of taking her to some other place of confinement at the east, when the neighbors interfered, a trial was had, and the jury declared her to be entirely sane without leaving their seats. One of the Rev. bigot's witnesses testified

that he regarded it as a strong evidence of insanity that a person should offer to leave the Presbyterian Church and join the Methodist. Another cited as evidence of the woman's insanity, 'her aversion to the doctrine of the total depravity of man'—a doctrine one would suppose she must have learned in suffering. The seventh reason given by one of the Doctors for putting her in an insane asylum was as follows: 'Her viewing the subject of religion from the esoteric standpoint of exegetical analysis, and agglutinating the polysynthetic ecstasies of homogenous asceticism.' After the result of the trial, the intolerant knave encumbered his property with trappings, robbed his wife of her furniture and clothes, and fled from the wrath to come.

AMERICAN HOSPITALITY.—We take the following from Sala's last letter in the *Daily Telegraph*:—The Americans, I cannot repeat too frequently, are an eminently hospitable and generous people. A stinging American is a monster. You hear of no gripe-fists, no pinched cheeks. They make their money quickly, and they spend it quickly. They have no time to be miserly, for a short life and a merry one is at least the New York motto. When a broker finds Wall street flown upon him, or a merchant in on the eve of bankruptcy, he proceeds to Dolomieu's and has a capital dinner, with plenty of Claret champagne. In prosperity he might condescend to Mumm, or dry Verney; but when his estate promises to pay something under five cents in the dollar, nothing less than the Veuve Clotquot's best brand will suit him. He not only dances over a volcano—he liquors up while he is in it. A smart American will 'do' you; but you are welcome to any amount of terrapin soup and canvas-back duck at his expense. Captain Kyd, the brewer, will scuttle your ship, and strip you as bare as a robin; but he will treat you to a roaring supper at Taylor's before he forces you to walk the plank. In their pleasures the American people are, I think, the most dismal people upon earth. In their business transactions they are the most jovial. They propound conundrums in their counting houses; they light big cigars over their ledgers, and afterwards posing-up with snips of Bourbon whiskey.

Something new has turned up in the wonderful Spiritualist world. It is called Psychometry, and means a certain power possessed by people called Psychometers, which enables them when any piece of matter is placed in contact with them, to see all that has ever happened to that piece of matter. For instance, a Psychometer gets hold of a piece of bone and sees the animal to which it belonged, and the way in which the animal used to behave, and the scenery by which it was surrounded. Or the Psychometer handles a piece of stone, and then sees the place from which it was taken, and the general process of geological formation to which the stone owes its origin or position; or else he sees something later in the history of the stone, and that of the person who found it. Apparently the psychometer need not see the pieces of matter submitted to examination; but it must, he or she must touch it, and the general mode of touching it seems to be to press it on the forehead without looking at it. But the contact may be of the slightest kind, for it was found that a very leading and practical psychometer saw the inside of the moon by simply sitting so that the lunar beams played on her forehead. So far as is yet known, almost all psychometers are American ladies. The greatest are Mrs. Denton, wife of Mr. Denton, a lecturer on geology at Boston, U.S.; Mrs. Grudge of Pennsylvania; and Mrs. Lucille Du Viel of Louisville, Wayne County, New York—a lady who on examining a specimen psychometrically, not only goes to the spot from which the specimen was obtained, but has the sensation of travelling while doing so, and who possibly may have had this gift allotted to her by the kindness of nature as some compensation for her extraordinary name. Mr. Denton says:—'I am strongly inclined to believe that if we detach a rock from its parent bed, wherever it may be carried there is a line of connection extending from that rock to the bed from which it was derived, and that along that line something—call it soul, spirit or mind—passes from the psychometer to the place.' Perhaps this line of connexion may not always be straight, and thus the person travelling psychometrically along it may see objects slightly different from what would be seen by ordinary travellers going from the starting to the finishing point. Mrs. Du Viel, for example, had a piece of chamois horn given her from Switzerland, and when she felt the horn, she started to go psychometrically from New York to Switzerland. Her account of this journey is as follows:—'I am travelling so backwards now, I think. I see many soldiers and cannon, but I go over them. Now I am on the coast, and here are all kinds of shells. I go further back into the wilderness. I see prairies and dark colored hills. I go further back to the mountain land. There are large mountains. I see one higher than any I ever saw before. I see a splendid city a little way off. It is curious that a lady, by merely touching a piece of chamois horn, should have seen all this; but it would have been more impressive if the route described had been a little more like the ordinary passage over the Atlantic, and the journey through France to Switzerland. So again, when a black pearl from the Gulf of California was submitted to Mrs. Du Viel, she gave a very satisfactory and accurate account of pearl-fishing, although she herself said that she fancied the thing given her, which she did not see, was a bean. But in describing her journey from California to New York, stated that she was going south-east, which would carry her geographically in so different a direction from California that we are confirmed in thinking that, when the something—call it soul, spirit, or mind—passes from the psychometer along the line of connection, it turns round some very odd corners. It is interesting to learn from the book that 'the early inhabitants of England were scarcely human, incapable of standing upright, though formed as to sit comfortably, very hairy, with a good deal of fun and frolic, and with a crescent-shaped mouth.' It would, we suppose, spoil psychometry to criticize. Is it not enough that Mrs. Denton has been tormented by a volcano, and wetted and rapped against the ground, and crystallized in an iceberg like a fly in amber, all because she touched a chip of a boulder? Is it not enough that she has looked up at the moon during an eclipse, and been absolutely terrified at seeing it so close over her head, that its great volcano, full of boiling lava, seemed to be turned upside down over her head, threatening to scald her with its whole cauldron of broth? Is it not enough that this much suffering lady, by touching a whalebone cane, has had her mouth stretched till it was like a whale's, and, as she said at the time, 'My jaws are large enough to take down a house at a gulp,' that we should add to these experiences the flabbergasting of criticism? A lady who has felt as if she could swallow a house at a gulp is the right leader for the credulous, and may look with just contempt at the limited digestion of the critic who finds her book, though but a moderate octavo, more than he can swallow. Her husband thus tells us how like she once was to a whale:—

Mrs. Denton's insight into a Walking-Cane. 'Whilebone walking-cane. Mrs. Denton knew it was a walking cane, but, having no opportunity of examining it, supposed very naturally that it was wood. "I feel as if I were a monster. There is nothing of a tree about it, and it is useless for me to go any further." (With great difficulty she was induced to continue the experiment.) "I feel like vomiting. Now I want to plunge into the water. (Convulsive shuddering.) I believe I am going into a fit. My jaws are large enough to take down a mouse at a gulp. I know now what this is; it is a whalebone. I see the inside of the whale's mouth. It has no teeth; it has a slimy look; but I only can get a glimpse of it. Now I see the whole animal. What an awful-looking creature! This identification of the Psychometer with the animal psychometrist is at times so complete as to compel the suspension of the experiment, the influence produced sometimes affecting the person for hours."