

### Selections.

**HEROISM OF BRITISH BOATMEN.**—British boatmen have been long renowned for their daring, devotion, and skill. Many instances of the exhibition of the noble qualities of the British boatmen are on record; but seldom, if ever, have they shone so conspicuously as they did the other day in the rescue of the crew of the Northern Belle, off Kinggate, near Broadstairs. Our readers know how, on Monday, the American ship Northern Belle anchored off Kinggate in heavy weather; how the life-boat Mary White was dragged by the Broadstairs boatmen to Kinggate beach; how, while crowds were looking on, a Margate lugger, the Victory, anxious to help the crew, went down with all hands on board; and how Tuesday's dawn disclosed the Northern Belle lying on the rocks, with twenty three helpless men lashed to the rigging of the only mast left standing. At this sight the Broadstairs boatmen deliberately but promptly launched the Mary White into the raging sea, gained the helpless ship, and brought back seven of the crew. Then another life-boat, the Culmer White, "wheeled from Broadstairs, to be ready, in the event of the first life-boat being lost,"—what heroic forethought,—went also on the errand of mercy and brought back fourteen men. On the wrecked ship there were now but two,—her captain and her pilot. The captain had declared that he would rather die than abandon his ship, the pilot determined to stand by this brave old man. But they were not permitted to commit what would really have been self destruction. The Culmer White was again manned and launched; once more it drove over the tempestuous sea; and it returned with the freight for which eleven brave men had ventured their lives—the pilot and the captain. And as a permanent trophy of this noble strife, the Mary White brought off the American ensign of the Northern Belle, and when all was over carried it back flying at her bows to Broadstairs. The names of the saviours of the shipwrecked men have been made conspicuously public, and few have deserved that honour more. There is no *Gazette* for unofficial heroes, except the press; and, alas! but little or no reward for saving life, though there may be much for saving property. Among those names we mark that of one man who pulled an oar in each trip, and thus passed from the beach to the ship and back three times. That man is George Emptage—all honor to his steadfast heart and enduring sinews. We find the names of four men who made the trip twice—they are John Cowell, William Wales, Jethrow Miller, and Robert Parker—honour also to them. But hardly less to those who risked their lives once, for their once may stand for as much heroism, comparatively, as that of the twice and thrice of their comrades. We are glad to see that the public heart has been moved by this tale of the sea; and that not Englishmen only, but our American kinsfolk now in the mother country, have come forward to testify their admiration and gratitude, not merely in word, but by raising a fund for the Broadstairs men. Mr. Croskey, the United States Consul at Southampton, for instance, has forwarded £20 for distribution among them; and considerable sums have passed to Broadstairs through the office of the *Times*.—*Globe*.

An extraordinary investigation has just closed at Chelsea, in which a little girl named Maria Bailey is stated to have been starved to death at a boarding-school, kept by a Mrs. Meeres. Mrs. Hannah Bailey, the mother of the poor child, whose father is a general merchant in Crutchedfriars, told the story to the coroner:—

Her husband became a bankrupt, and the child was placed under the care of Mrs. Meeres in August last at Walbam-green. She made an arrangement with Mrs. Meeres to take the deceased to maintain and educate her. She was to give her eighteen guineas per year; and with the extra for washing, music, &c., it would amount to twenty-five guineas per annum. The deceased, when she went to Walbam-green, was perfectly healthy, and had proper change of clothing. From the time she went, witness did not see her till Wednesday last. The day preceding she received a message that her child was dying, and, in consequence of the information she received, she proceeded to 26 Farborough-terrace, Battersea, when she found the child lying on an old sofa, speechless, dressed in an old dirty nightgown, and a red curtain only over her. The poor child was conscious and knew witness. Mrs. Meeres, her two daughters, and two grown-up sons, were in the room at the time. Witness took the child out of bed, and found her very thin. She received a

letter on the previous Monday stating that the quar-ter was up, and asking for the schooling. It was also stated in the letter that the child was suffering from an intermittent fever, but that no danger was apprehended. Witness called in Mr. Richardson, a surgeon, who saw her, and he said that he had seen her two days before. She hired a nurse to sit up with her for the night. She sent several nightgowns to the house, but when she asked for a clean one to put on her child, and examined her clothes, she could find none. The beds were all in a filthy state, and so was the deceased, and her head was covered with vermin. There were other children there, all very dirty, and one seemed to be dying. There was a full grown girl there, also very dirty, and she begged her to protect her. The deceased was in such an attenuated condition that she believed she had been kept without sufficient food.

A police constable who had been called in by Mrs. Bailey confirmed this description, and added that Mrs. Meeres' sons and daughters were all well fed, though very dirty; the other children half starved. One of the children, a little girl of thirteen, was called before the coroner, and gave strongly confirmatory evidence. The keeper of the coffee house, in a room above which the school was held, said—

The children were miserably clad and wretched. They appeared hungry, and she (witness), gave them food when she could afford it. She begged and prayed of the children's friends to take them away, when they came to inquire after them. She saw bread, rice and potatoes only brought into the house. She had seen the children huddled together, and ravenously eating potatoes with the peel on. The children were kept unwashed and uncombed. When they went out they wore each other's clothes.

The following is the circular by which parents were lured to send their children to this den:—

"Mrs. Meeres receives twelve young ladies to be educated with her own daughters: it is her anxious care that these tender plants intrusted to her care may be early led (by the grace of God) to feel the deep importance of vital religion, and that the course of instruction pursued may tend to strengthen the mind, and to form the character and manners of the future elegant and accomplished gentlewoman. Mrs. Meeres has been partly educated on the Continent. French is constantly spoken by her young friends, and Professors attend to give instruction in the Latin, Greek, French, German, and Italian languages. The harp, pianoforte, singing, drawing, and flower painting, are cultivated as delightful sources of pleasure and amusement, and the hours of recreation are varied by many little and instructive pursuits. Reference to parents of pupils, and many Christian friends. Mrs. M. begs to refer to the letter from the Dowager Lady Waterpark, of Doveridge Hall, Derbyshire."

On the case being resumed last week, a boy named George Tindall, who had been in the school, said the children principally slept in a cupboard while they were at Chelsea:—

They had rice and treacle for dinner, sometimes bread and treacle for breakfast and tea, and at other times only dry bread. The living at Battersea was worse than ever, and they had not half enough to eat. He had only dry bread for breakfast, and water to drink. There was a piece of meat about the size of a cup put into a saucepan for the food of all the children's dinners. They had meat only twice whilst at Battersea. He slept in his clothes because it was so cold. He had a clean shirt sometimes once a fortnight. He had heard deceased complain of the food she had given her for dinner, and when she did so dry bread was given instead. The deceased was beaten the day after she was taken ill, because she complained. The rooms were not washed or kept clean, and they were not allowed to go out. Mrs. Meeres did not allow them salt, pepper, or knives or forks to eat with. He had seen vermin and filth on the floor. There were six or seven dogs and three cats kept in the room. The potatoes were boiled in their skins, and also in their dirt, and after they were cooked the liquor was given to the children, and they were told it was broth. (Sensation.) It was served up in plates. There were but three plates, and when three scholars had taken the food given them, three others would be served. They had no lights or firing. Mrs. Meeres would not allow him to write home to his friends. He had, however, written the following in pencil, which was found in the witness's pocket:—

"My dear Papa—I hope you are quite well, but I am very sorry that you forgot about me on my birthday, and I hope you will remember it another. I write these lines to tell you how I am treated. I am

treated very badly. We only have rice, half raw, and three potatoes, but no meat, for dinner; an for tea and breakfast only bread and treacle—sometimes only dry bread. We are all starved, and if you do not come and fetch me on Christmas I shall be crying all the time. Remember me on Christmas. Excuse me in writing in pencil. I am your affectionate son,

G. F. TINDALL.

The surgeon who had attended the child having stated that he had not the least hesitation in saying that the deceased's death had been caused from insufficient and improper food, and want of cleanliness, and the coroner having directed the jury that Mrs. Meeres, by taking charge of the deceased at so much per year, had assumed the responsibilities of a parent, a verdict of "Manslaughter" was returned against Mrs. Meeres.

The Bishop of Melbourne, in a reply to the address from the laity of Belfast (Victoria Colony), says—"It is my wish to establish the parochial system as at home and to place the clergy on the footing of incumbents there—not liable to be removed, except upon sufficient cause, alleged and proved before a competent tribunal. I wish to establish the archidiaconal system, by which the diocese is broken up into districts, each of which is placed under the supervision of one of the local clergy. The office of an Archdeacon is constantly to overlook his district—advise, encourage, and, if occasion arise, admonish the clergy—suggest and promote plans for building churches and supplying ministers. It remains to speak of the maintenance of the clergy. It is not desirable that they should be rich, but independent of anxiety and free from care. This is only to be accomplished by a distinct recognition of the Scriptural doctrine that 'they who preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel,' and 'let him that is taught communicate unto him that teacheth, in all good things.' I am thankful there is a strong feeling on the part of the laity that the clergy should be adequately supplied; and I trust this will continue, so that they may never sink into the condition of that class in America; and this is more particularly needful in the prospect of continual diminution, if not actual cessation, of help from the colonial treasury."

The *Prince of Wales Insurance Company* having filed a bill in the Rolls Court, for the purpose of being relieved from a policy for £13,000 on the life of Walter Palmer, brother of William Palmer, the Rugby poisoner, application was made to the Court last week, to appoint a person to represent the estate of Walter Palmer, deceased. Mr. George Palmer, a brother, who is a solicitor, had, it was stated, been applied to, but declined to have anything to do with it. The widow of Walter Palmer was suggested, and the Court appointed her, on condition that she should be guaranteed against the consequences of an act which she repudiates. Payment of the policy will be resisted on the ground of fraud.

A NEWSPAPER.—It was Bishop Horne's own opinion that there was no better moralist than the newspaper. He says:—"The follies, vices, and consequent miseries of multitudes, displayed in a newspaper are so many beacons continually urging to turn others from the rock on which they have been shipwrecked. What more powerful dissuasive from suspicion, jealousy and anger, than the story of one friend murdered by another in a duel? What caution more likely to be effective against gambling and profligacy, than the mournful relation of an execution, or the fate of a despairing suicide? What finer lecture on the necessity of economy than the auction of estates, houses and furniture? Only take a newspaper, and consider it well, pay for it, and it will instruct thee."

ANGLO-AFRICAN PATOIS, OR THE NEGRO ENGLISH OF WESTERN AFRICA.—In the "Leisure Hour" there are some notices on this subject, of which we select a few. Anything thick is denominated "fat"; thus they say "a fat tree," or "the branch is fat;" a strong wind is "a wind too much saucy." If a man resides anywhere, it is expressed by "sits down." Our word "is," they translate by "lives." They would say, "Massa sit down here Brooklyn, him lib at New York, back come evening." "Do duck lib in de pot, him boil." "Kader lib in de churchyard, him lib under ground." "Past dat one," means more than that one. "Him ole past me." "Dis horse handsome past mark." "You eye catch 'em," expresses you see them. "I dono do 'em," I have finished them. "Massa send you plenty good how do's"—brings your friend's compliments to you. Such expressions exemplify a fact well worthy of attention in studying modifications of