

## MISCELLANIES.

**FOLLY MORE EXPENSIVE THAN VIRTUE.**—"The duties paid on tobacco in Great Britain and Ireland for 1829, were stated to be *two millions eight hundred and fifty nine thousand pounds*. Add to this the cost of production, the expenses of freight, the profits of the manufacture, wholesale merchant, and retailer, and the whole will amount to an annual sum, which, in the course of fourscore years, would almost pay off the national debt. And all this is of course paid by the consumer. The proportion of duty for Scotland in 1829 was £273,000. Suppose £400,000 paid for the article by the consumers, which is probably too low a calculation, and that there are a thousand parishes being a few more than the actual number; this gives £400 as the average for each parish. Such is the annual sum paid for an article of luxury, the using of which arises from a mere idle habit, and which cannot be shewn to be beneficial in any shape whatever"—*Chamber's Edinburgh Journal*.

This sum expended on the gratification of a filthy and disgusting habit is perhaps greater than the whole amount that is expended—both from public and private benefactions—in promoting education and religion in a country distinguished for both. It sounds somewhat strange that Scotland should expend more annually on tobacco and snuff—than in maintaining her churches and schools! Could this sum, by an improvement in the practical wisdom and piety of the people, be set free from its present abominable misapplication, and be devoted to the support of those benevolent objects in which our parent church is engaged—parochial education, and church extension, and foreign missions would advance at a rate to which history furnishes no parallel. But judging from experience, we tremble lest the appetite which feeds on the noxious weed shall continue to triumph over those higher principles which should lead the christian to promote the intelligence and conversion of the world! "Oh—what a riddle of absurdity is man."—Ed. Ex.

**PUNISHMENT FOR DRUNKARDS.**—The extent to which the debasing sin of drunkenness has obtained in this city (Glasgow), especially for the last six months, has been a subject of serious reflection with our authorities, and with every well disposed citizen. It is absolutely shocking to witness the mass of people who are carried to the Police Office, in the last stage of intoxication, on a Saturday night, and during the Sunday morning and forenoon. Indeed, to such a disgraceful extent has it gone, that it has been seriously proposed by the visiting Commissioners of Police (the officers not being able to overtake the job), that a caravan, something like one of Wombwell's we suppose, should be got to scour the streets, and pop in, and carry to the office, all those who should be deemed properly qualified by the *Conducteur*. It must be confessed this would create a sensation at the Cross about 12 o'clock on a Saturday night. We think we hear the machine coming heavily along High-Street, drawn

by eight horses at least, and see the half-seas-over fellows scampering in all directions, and darting down closes like rabbits into their burrows. George Cruickshank could make a capital caricature of the thing, but we daresay that is all that could be made of it.—We beg, however, to suggest a revival of the good old system, which we advocated some years ago, and which was carried into operation with the most marked benefit to the morality of the city. Let the heads of all and sundry who are taken to the office drunk be shaved! Well do we remember the effects produced by this unique punishment; and how astonished were those who had been "dressed" the preceding night, when they appeared before the Magistrate in the morning. Their hand wandered over their smooth pates—in some instances they could not be convinced of their own identity—they imagined the bar officer had brought forward the wrong man; and upon the whole, so well did the system work, that it was a perfect rarity to see a shaved man brought back to the office a second time. Indeed, so alarmed did the habitual tipplers become from the new method, that one incorrigible of the squad always carried a wig in his pocket, in anticipation of finding himself *docked* some morning. Nothing but shaving can now effectually check the evil.—*Herald*.

**MORTALITY IN FRANCE.**—From 1827 to 1835 inclusive, it is estimated that 46,283 accidental deaths have occurred, 17,524 suicides, and 413 executions for capital offences. The yearly average number of suicides is shown to be 1947. In 1827 the number was 1542, and in 1835 it was 2235. In Paris alone, from 1831 to 1836, there were 1333 suicides, of which 849 were men, and 484 women; and the most usual means resorted to for self-destruction, it appears, has been suffocation by the vapour of charcoal, with both sexes; and the number of persons who thus deprived themselves of life in the period mentioned is 524. The deaths among the French galley-slaves during the 20 years from 1816 to 1837, amounted to 9320, of which 9157 were natural in the hospitals; and in that period only six suicides took place; 25 were put to death while in a state of revolt; 88 in pursuance of their sentence; 30 died suddenly in their apartments; 63 at work, and 2 were murdered. The number of deaths in proportion to the population, appears to vary extremely among them. The minimum was 24 in a thousand in 1816, 63 in a thousand in 1833, and 58 in a thousand in 1835. The proportion of deaths is much greater in the central prisons of France, varying, from 1827 to 1835, from 9 to 6 in a hundred. The greatest mortality appears to prevail at Rochefort, the average number of deaths being for some time 148 in a thousand. In 1835 the proportion had decreased to 74 in a thousand. Amongst the galley-slaves of L'Orient the number was only 32 in a thousand.

**THE RELIGIOUS NEWSPAPERS IN LONDON.**—The following statement, founded on the Stamp returns, shows that the *Watchman*, the Wesleyan Journal, in point of circulation, maintains its position at the head of the religious press of the metropolis:—

	No. of Stamps charged.	Average of each Publication.
<i>Watchman</i> , Weekly,	£2,000.....	3,153
<i>Christian Advocate</i> , do.	24,525.....	943
<i>Record</i> , Twice a-Week,	152,600.....	2,924
<i>Patriot</i> , Ditto,	124,500.....	2,394

Average excess of the *Watchman* over the *Record* (Church,) 219,—over the *Patriot* (Dissent, and Voluntary,) 759,—and over the *Christian Advocate* (do. do.) 2,210, each publication.