

postor, and only wants the money to spend at the public-house; therefore I give myself the benefit of the doubt, and keep the money in my pocket; and I comfort myself with the pleasing reflection, that I have not in any way contributed to contribute hypocrisy, or to promote intemperance; and, as nothing more is to be said, I am a man amiable than the possession of a good conscience, I am quite pleased with myself for not having been instrumental in assisting an evil-disposed person with the means of vice. If I receive two invitations to dinner—for such things will sometimes happen—and if one of the invitations should be accepted on the score of duty, while the other has claim upon the inclination, I weigh with great diligence the arguments on both sides, and as with all my skill I find it impossible to put far better beyond a doubt, I give myself the benefit of the doubt, and accept the invitation which best suits my inclination. If, after I fancy that I have taken quite enough of wine; yet, if I feel disposed to take another glass or two, and I am not quite certain that it will be too much for me, forthwith I give myself the benefit of the doubt, and drink.

In this practice of giving myself the benefit of the doubt, I believe that I am not altogether singular; I have occasionally observed this self-same moral amiable in others. When a client comes to a lawyer with a bad cause in his hand, and a bouncing fee in his fist, the lawyer sees the hopelessness or wickedness of the case; but as it is just possible that there may be a chance of success, the lawyer pockets the fee, giving himself the benefit of the doubt, and goes to work for his client as craftily or honestly as may be. When a gentleman has been dining at a public dinner, and goes to look for his hat amidst a host of others, and doubts which is his own, he gives himself the benefit of the doubt, and takes the best that he can find. When a physician has attended a patient some weeks, and there seems to be no farther occasion for his attendance and services, and, no need of any more things; yet, as it is possible, notwithstanding all favourable appearances, that there may be a relapse, he gives himself the benefit of the doubt, visits the patient once more, and administers another dose.

When a voter at an election can get a fee from one candidate, and not from the other, from thence is some doubt in his mind as to which is the best man to vote for;—as it is a difficult matter for common minds to determine on state affairs,—he is forthwith gives himself the benefit of the doubt, and votes for the candidate who pays best. Then what a blessed thing is doubt, since so many benefits result from it! Life would be a very dull concern if we had no doubts; for then we should have no opportunity for the exercise of our judgments, and we should have no use for that beautiful and graceful quality called discretion.

Sir Roger de Coverley was very right, when he said, "There is a great deal to be said on both sides. Does not every body see, that if there were nothing to be said one side, there could be nothing said on the other? And if there were nothing to be said on either side—there would be nothing said at all; and perhaps very little done. It is impossible to imagine anything so stupid as an unanimous world, or so dull as a life without a doubt. They, therefore, are guilty of much cant, and of great display,—I may say, an unnecessary display of stupidity, who express a wish to have everything brought to a certainty; they would have a completely drab world;—there would be neither hue, nor colour, nor complexion about it. We should all trove on in the monotonous stupidity of hackney-coach horses with blinkers on their eyes,—they have no benefit to doubt by; for when they feel the whip, they know they must move if they can; and when they feel the tug of the bit, they know they must stand still. They have no doubts—their orbit is not eccentric—they indulge in no extravagances. Truly, there is a great benefit in doubting; and had it not been for the benefit of the doubt, you gentle reader, would not have had the pleasure of reading this paper. No doubt no more that doubt is good.

PHOSPHORIC LIGHT EMITTED BY FLOWERS.—In the garden of the Duke of Buckingham, at Stowe, on the evening of Friday, September 4th, 1835, during a storm of thunder and light, accompanied by heavy rain, the leaves of the flower called *Oenothera macrocarpa*, a bed of which is in the garden, immediately opposite the windows of the manuscript library at Stowe, were observed to be brilliantly

illuminated by phosphoric light. During the intervals of the flashes of lightning the night was exceedingly dark, and a thug else could be distinguished in the gloom except the bright light upon the leaves of these flowers. The luminous appearance continued uninterrupted by for a considerable length of time; it did not appear to resemble any electric effect; and the opinion which seemed most probable was, that the plan, like many known instances, has a power of absorbing light, and giving it out under peculiar circumstances.—*Magazine of Popular Science.*

THE WAVES.—*Waves of the Ocean.*—The largest waves proceed at the rate of from thirty to forty miles an hour; yet it is a vulgar belief that the water itself advances with the speed of the wave. The form of the wave only advances, while the substance, except a little spray above, remains rising and falling in the same place.

INSANITY.—M. Brie de Boismont makes the following estimate in his Essay on the Effect of Civilization with reference to Insanity?—In every 230 persons; in Paris, 1 in 222 in St. Petersburg, 1 in 343; in Naples, 1 in 729; in Rome, 1 in 418; in Milan, 1 in 242; in Turin, 1 in Florence, 1 in 338; in Madrid, 1 in 345; in Dresden, 1 in 466; and Cairo, 1 in 3074.

THE HUMAN RACE.—The whole human race, if collected together in one spot, would not occupy a space equal to that in which our metropolis stands. For suppose the population of the globe to be equal to 1,000,000,000 souls, and the average space occupied by each individual to be one square foot, the whole of the human family collected together in one column would cover a square of 31,620 feet, or of about six miles. They would all easily be contained within the circumference of London.

UNITED STATES.

The affair of the schooner *Lone* on the coast of Mexico promises to be a serious one. The particulars are briefly these: this schooner, apprised of the blockade, sailed for a Mexican port from one of our cities. The Captain succeeded in passing the blockading squadron. He sold his cargo at an immense profit. On trying to come out he was intercepted by the French brig of war *L. Laurier* and captured. An officer and eight men were put on board, and she was ordered to *Sacrifices*. Captain Clark and two men were allowed to remain on board at his own request. The balance of the crew and passengers were transferred to the United States man-of-war *Vandalia*, then in sight. On the 4th of July, when about thirty miles from Vera Cruz, Captain Clark and two men rose upon the French and succeeded in making them all prisoners. He bore away for New Orleans. On nearing the Mississippi, he fell in with a British man of war, who spoke him. The Commander applauded Captain Clark for his brave act. The vessel arrived at New Orleans. The chagrin of the Frenchmen may be imagined; of course the French people of New Orleans took sides with their consul, who claimed the vessel and cargo as French property by right of capture. The American collector would not give it up, but placed the specie, \$30,000, in Bank, and sent an account of the whole affair to Washington. Now the question of releasing this vessel may get us into a quarrel with Monsieur Crapeau. I hear that she will not be given up on the ground, that this whole blockade is in violation of the laws of nations. The French Consul at New Orleans will be referred to our laws, and if he can get the vessel by an appeal to them, well and good;—if not, the Government will not interfere.—*Correspondence of the Montreal Herald.*

HONOR SATISFIED.—We learn that a duel took place yesterday, July 20, between Capt. Clark of the schr. *Lone*, and M. Lecoeur, the vigilant and indomitable prize master, put on board the *Lone* when she was captured by the French ship *Laurier*. The challenge was drawn from the gallant Frenchman who felt his honor highly offended at a reply on the part of Capt. Clarke, of an article of his published in the *Courier* a few days since. The weapons were pistols; after the second ineffectual shot, the friends of Monsieur stepped forward and announced that the honor of their friend was perfectly satisfied. The blunt Capt. Clarke, thinking there must be some mistake, requested his seconds to load again. "I'll give it to him the next time, for I'm improving." But his friends informed him that he must bring them to answer a call, he had nothing to say.

Now we ask Capt. Clarke's pardon, but he acted very foolish to fight his quondam prize master; for in retaking his vessel he did his duty; and in the newspaper discussion commenced by Monsieur Lecoeur, he had all the advantage. He should not have fought.—*New Orleans American.*

NEW-YORK July 30th. THE MURDER IN BROADWAY.—The colored man who cut the throat of a mulatto woman in Broadway, Saturday morning at 10 o'clock, to the honor of the persons who were passing at the time on the pavement, is named Edward Coleman. The woman, who was his wife and who had been a short time separated from him owing to some dispute, died almost immediately, the head being nearly severed from the body. The parties were both young—about 25 years of age. The man is in prison.

The U. S. Schooner *Active* was sold Saturday for \$1500—she originally cost the Government \$8,900. The amount expended on her, in repairs and alterations, was \$9,000. Total cost \$17,900.

The most marvellous tale now in circulation is that given at Lowell, Mass., on the authority of the Rev. Lemuel Postor, who states that the daughter of Mr. Levi Atwood of that city, supposed to be in a consumption, vomited on July 14, three or four hundred small worms resembling maggots, and which, being preserved, hatched in a few days into as many of the common house fly!

Thos. Kinney, an Irishman, was committed to jail in Monmouth co. N. J. Monday, charged with the murder of his own brother.

Mr. Van Rensselaer of Canton, Ohio, a wealthy citizen has been committed to jail on the charge of having forged a check of \$7000 on the Bank of Massillon in that state.

An Arch Duke of Austria is coming out to visit the United States in a frigate from Trieste.

GOLD.—The total value of gold taken from all the mines in the United States for the last ten years, is said to be thirty millions of dollars.

In Philadelphia the dog killers employed by the Corporation killed ninety-eight dogs in two days. A citizen who struck one of these officers while in the discharge of his duty, was fined \$100.

The Cherokee lands in North Carolina are to be sold on the 1st Monday in September next, at Franklin, Macon county, N. C. by order of the State Legislature. The lands are now vacant,—the Cherokees having been all removed.

ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND INDIAN VICTIMS TO SMALL POX!—The small pox epidemic, introduced among the Mandans, &c., on the Missouri and its tributaries, by miscreants called sturion or rum-sellers, has caused within the last year one hundred thousand deaths, who have been thus immolated to white cupidity and the blessing of civilization. The St. Louis Commercial Bulletin of the 17th says, that it had received information from the Indian country, stating that the ravage of the small pox among the Indians had nearly ceased.

The New York papers give a long list of extracts from Journals in all parts of the States, on the promising condition of the crops. In some parts, it is said, "the ear is literally burdened with heavy crops, and the farmers are improving every hour to secure what is already ready for harvesting."

THE TRANSCRIPT.

QUEBEC, SATURDAY, 4th AUGUST, 1838.

LATEST DATES. London, - - July 5. New-York, - - July 28. Liverpool, - - July 4. Halifax, - - July 18. Havre, - - - July 2. Toronto, - - - July 19.

New York papers to the evening of Monday last, have been received. They contain nothing of interest. The packet ship *Roscoe*, 25th June, from Liverpool, has arrived.

FROM THE MONTREAL COURIER of yesterday we learn that Parker and three other prisoners who effected their escape from the Kingston jail, have been re-captured. A Corporal of the 71st, with two men, were proceeding alongside the river, in search of a deserter, when they discovered a man evidently endeavoring to conceal himself.—Supposing him to be the deserter, they hastened up to him, and to their no small astonishment, found him to be the prisoner Parker, whose face was fa-

miliar to the soldiers, they having lately been on guard at the Fort. He was secured and taken back to Kingston and safely lodged in the Fort, under heavy irons; the three other prisoners have since been arrested. A private letter received in town, states that Parker after being captured, offered the corporal \$300 to suffer him to escape.

The Montreal Correspondent of the Quebec Gazette gives the following account of the escape of two prisoners from the Kingston jail:—"There was not a doubt in the minds of those acquainted with the mode of escape, but that the plan was preconcerted between the prisoners and their friends, who must have been not only in attendance with boats, but assisted the prisoners in getting over the walls.

The fifteen was escaped, occupied a room in the fort, directly over an intended for a kitchen. They cut a hole through the floor, got into the kitchen, where they had little difficulty in making the opening from the side, large enough to admit them into the sewer, through which they passed till they reached the outer wall, which they scaled by ropes made out of their bed clothes. It was a dreadful night of rain, thunder and lightning, which must have been very much in their favour. Parker and Montgomery were of the number. A guard of the 71st regiment was on duty at the time. The remanuer of the prisoners, about fifteen in number, were confined in another part of the fort."

The rebel Morreau was executed at Niagara on Monday last. Waite and Chandler, who were also sentenced to be hung, have been relieved, and will probably be transported.

The brigade of Guards stationed in Quebec were reviewed by Major General Macdonell on the Plains of Abraham, yesterday morning,—in the presence of His Excellency the Governor General, Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Paget, and General Patterson, of the United States Army, were also present; and all expressed the highest satisfaction at the procession with which this fine body of men set through their various evolutions.

We understand that H. M. S. *Cornwallis* will sail this evening or early to-morrow, and that the Admiral's flag will be hoisted on board the *Insouciant*.

The Court of Inquiry held on board H. M. S. *Insouciant* on the subject of the collision between the *Pearl* and the barge *Hesone* resulted in exonerating from all blame the crew of the *Pearl*.

We understand that, in compliance with a suggestion emanating from the Quebec Exchange, the Deputy Postmaster-General has determined on regularly forwarding a letter bag to New York in time for the steam-ship leaving for Europe.

We are glad to learn that it is intended to get up a Regatta, on a scale far surpassing any hitherto witnessed in this port. A meeting of gentlemen favorable to the proposition, is, we understand, to be held at the Exchange Reading-Room on Monday next, at one o'clock, P. M.

A servant of an officer of the Coldstream Guards deserted yesterday, taking with him his master's horse, a brace of pistols, and some plate. He was seen to cross the river, and is supposed to have taken his way towards the lines: pursuit has been made after him, and there is little doubt that he will be taken.

H. M. S. *Madagascar*, and steam ship *Medea* sailed on Thursday evening, the former for Bermuda; and the latter, with the detachment of the 93rd Highlanders which arrived by the *Madagascar*, for Halifax. *Medea*, with Her Excellency Sir Colin Campbell, Lieut. Governor of Nova Scotia, on a visit to Lord Durham.—*Gazette.*

MONTREAL GRAND JURY.—We observe on a presentation of the *Grand Jury* of Montreal, five marks 1 to names. Surely, such ignorance will no longer be allowed to men claiming such situations.—*Brighton Gaz. June 14.*

The Earl of Durham has, since his tour to the Falls, been so convinced of the importance of the Welland Ship Canal, which connects the Lakes Ontario and Erie, that he has recommended the British government to loan £250,000 to the Company.—*New York Star.*

Prison Do. Do. Debtor Of the The Miss I High C This Kimpiton, by charges brought Sergeant posed, which I cauprit. I consider perimitted content: that he gentlemen gross of was led He ha become t formant of crown ingsly; it in the h huge list of with a fir of ill dressed u up house, place of b most voc flags with ing motto " Why " What from a Stick " " Nym an fishing an " " The ou entering th Useful an enier havin to keep silv the incessa Alderman I toney " P tion might " Mr. Pub have absolt within the Aye? I ask you editor of the to, in the two months A.—One Q.—Who A.—Yes, Q.—Hav late? A.—I do Q.—You A.—No, Q.—Don't all that you A.—Perh Q.—Don't sonable, as t icles, that t A.—Perh f'en you n edity towards Q.—Don't g'witude, fo long series of A.—Edon Q.—Who, A.—The J Q.—Who, A.—Carey Q.—Do th wite for the A.—I do n they do.