

THE EGYPTIAN INSPECTOR OF WEIGHTS.

A person who was appointed Mohh'tes'ib shortly after my visit to this country (Moos'tuf'a Ka'shif, a Koord) exercised his power in a most brutal manner, clipping men's ears (that is, cutting off the lobe or ear lap,) not only for the most trifling transgression, but often for no offence whatever. He once met an old man driving along several asses laden with water melons, and, pointing to one of the largest of these fruits, asked its price. The old man put his finger and thumb to his ear lap, and said, 'Cut it, sir.' He was asked again and again, and gave the same answer. The Mohh'tes'ib, angry, but unable to refrain from laughing, said, 'Fellow, are you mad or deaf?' 'No,' replied the old man, 'I am neither mad nor deaf; but I know that, if I were to say the price of the melon is ten fud'dahs, you would say 'Clip his ear;' and if I said five fud'dahs, or one fr'd'dah, you would say, 'Clip his ear:' therefore, clip at once, and let me pass on.' His humour saved him. Clipping ears was the usual punishment inflicted by this Mohh'tes'ib; but sometimes he tortured in a different manner. A butcher, who had sold some meat wanting two ounces of its due weight, he punished by cutting off two ounces of flesh from his back. A seller of koonah'feh (a kind of paste resembling vermicelli) having made his customers pay a trifle more than was just, he caused him to be stripped, and seated upon the round copper tray on which the koonah'feh was baked, and kept so till he was dreadfully burned. He generally punished dishonest butchers by putting a hook through their nose and hanging a piece of meat to it. Meeting one day a man carrying a large crate full of earthen water-bottles from Semennoo'd which he offered for sale as made at Ckin'e, he caused his attendants to break each bottle separately against the vender's head. Moostuf'a Ka'shif also exercised his tyranny in other cases than those which properly fell under his jurisdiction. He once took a fancy to send one of his horses to a bath, and desired the keeper of a bath in his neighbourhood to prepare for receiving it, and to wash it well, and make its coat very smooth. The bath-keeper, annoyed at so extraordinary a command, ventured to suggest that, as the pavements of the bath were of marble, the horse might slip and fall, and also that it might take cold on going out; and that it would, therefore, be better for him to convey to the stable the contents of the cistern of the bath in buckets, and there to perform the operation. Moos'tuf'a Ka'shif said, 'I see how it is; you do not like that my horse should go into your bath.' He desired some of his servants to throw him down, and beat him with staves until he should tell them to stop. They did so; and beat the poor man till he died.

A few years ago there used to be carried before the Mohh'tes'ib, when going his rounds to examine the weights and measures, &c., a pair of scales larger than that used at present. Its beam, it is said, was a hollow tube, containing some quicksilver; by means of which, the bearer, knowing those persons who had bribed his master, and those who had not, easily made either scale preponderate.—*Lane's Manners of the Egyptians.*

PICTURES, A JUSTIFIABLE LUXURY.—A man lays out a thousand, nay sometimes several thousand pounds, in purchasing a fine picture. This is thought by the vulgar a very fantastical folly and unaccountable waste of money. Why so? No one would give such a sum for a picture unless there were others ready to offer nearly the same sum, and who are likely to appreciate its value and envy him the distinction. It is then a sign of taste, a proof of wealth, to possess it; it is an ornament and a luxury. If the same person lays out the same sum of money in building or purchasing a fine house, or enriching it with costly furniture, no notice is taken. This is supposed to be perfectly natural and in order. Yet both are equally gratuitous pieces of extravagance, and the value of the objects is in either case equally ideal. It will be asked, 'but what is the use of the picture?' And pray what is the use of the fine house or costly furniture, unless to be looked at, to be admired, and to display the taste and magnificence of the owner? Are not pictures and statues as much furniture as gold plate or jasper tables; or does the circumstance of the former having a meaning in them and appealing to the imagination as well as to the senses, neutralize their virtue, and render it entirely chimerical and visionary? It is true every one must have a house of some kind, furnished somehow, and the superfluous so far grows imperceptibly out of the necessary. But a fine house, fine furniture, is necessary to no man, nor of more value than the plainest, except as a matter of taste, of fancy, of luxury, and ostentation.—*Hazlitt's Literary Remains.*

MERITS OF THE VIOLIN.—With the insinuation that peculiarly belongs to it, this instrument has shown itself capable of being 'all things to all men.' The most varied and opposite emotions lie within its reach. It can

'Awake the pert and nimble spirit of mirth,'

in the most plebeian jig, or summon feelings of the most refined tenderness, to do honour to an adagio from the mind and hand of a Sphor. It is at once the type of rustic gaiety

and the exponent of aristocratic taste. Peasants have delighted to grasp it in the rough embrace of their horny hands; and princes have gladly become the associates of an orchestra, to exhale in its speaking tones the music within their souls. Painters have made it figure with high credit on their canvass; and have even, as we see in Raphael and others before him, consigned to the hand of angels 'its form and pressure.'—*Dubourg on the Violin.*

POISONOUS FISHES.—Oysters have been known to produce various accidents; and, when they were of a green colour, it has been supposed that this peculiarity was also due to copper banks. This is an absurdity; the green tinge is as natural to some varieties as to the *esox belone*, whose bones are invariably of the same hue as verdigris. Muscles frequently occasion feverish symptoms attended with a red, and sometimes a copper-coloured efflorescence over the whole body. These accidents appear to arise from some peculiar circumstances. In Boulogne, I attended the family of Sir James Grant; when all the children who had eaten muscles were labouring under this affection, while not another instance of it was observed in the place. In the Bahama Islands, I witnessed a fatal case in a young girl who had eaten crabs; she was the only sufferer, although every individual in the family had shared the meal. The idea of the testaceous mollusca avoiding copper-bottomed vessels, while they are found in abundance on those that are not sheathed, is absurd; this circumstance can be easily explained by the greater facility these creatures find in adhering to wood. There is every reason to believe that the supposed poisonous oysters found adhering to the coppered bottom of a ship in the Virgin Isles, and the occasional accidents amongst the men that ate them, were only so in the observer's imagination, and that part of the ship's company were affected by some other causes. Another report, equally absurd, was that of the fish having gradually quit the Thames and Medway since coppering ships' bottoms has been introduced! The following may be considered the fish that should be avoided:

The Spanish mackerel,	<i>Scomber caeruleo-argenteus.</i>
The yellow-billed sprat,	<i>Clupea thrissa.</i>
The barracuta,	<i>Esox barracuta.</i>
Grey snapper,	<i>Coracinus fuscus.</i>
The porgie,	<i>Sparus chrysops.</i>
The king-fish,	<i>Scomber maximus.</i>
The hyne,	<i>Coracinus minor.</i>
Bottle-nosed cavallo,	<i>Scomber.</i>
Old wife,	<i>Balistes monoceros.</i>
Conger-eel,	<i>Muraena major.</i>
Sword-fish,	<i>Xiphias gladius.</i>
Smooth bottle-fish,	<i>Ostracion globellum.</i>
Rock-fish,	<i>Perca marina.</i>

I have known accidents arise from the use of the dolphin on the high seas; and, while I was in the West Indies, a melancholy instance of the kind occurred, when the captain, mate, and three seamen of a trading vessel died from the poison; a passenger, his wife, and a boy were the only survivors, and were fortunately picked up in the unmanageable vessel.—*Curiosities of Medical Experience by Dr. Millingen.*

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1837.

JULY PACKET.—Her Majesty's Packet Nightingale arrived here on Thursday morning, bringing London dates of the 6th of July. The news are not so important as was expected. The policy of the Queen's government will doubtless be materially effected by the ensuing general election—in the meantime, all parties are in the field, hoping to ensure a majority of members on their side. The following items of intelligence we have gathered from our file of London Newspapers—

GENEROSITY OF THE LATE KING.—The Windsor correspondent of the *Times* gives the following well-told version of a well-known instance of the late King's generosity:—It was my fortune many years ago to be present in the House of Lords during the time when the present intrepid Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench was, as Solicitor-General to Queen Caroline, making his speech in her defence. His late Majesty, then Duke of Clarence, was seated at the end of the gallery erected for the occasion on the right side of the throne in the House of Lords. Mr. Denman was summing up the charges which had been made against her Majesty, when he as well as many other persons below the bar heard the Duke of Clarence, who was conversing, I think, with Lord Falmouth, utter a charge against her Majesty far more atrocious than any on those on which the Bill of Pains and Penalties was justified. Mr. Denman suddenly stopped short, and then exalting his voice, and looking at the

place where his Royal Highness was seated, exclaimed—'If there be any worse charges than these, which are insinuated against her Majesty, let them be made in public, not whispered in private. If there be any man who now hears me, and makes such charges, to that man I say'—and his finger almost fell on the Duke of Clarence as he said it—'Come forth, thou slanderer.' The sensation created in the House of Lords by the last four words and by the pointed gesture which accompanied them, I shall never forget. I believe that there was a call of 'order;' but I am sure that no interruption was given to the orator. More then was cause of offence, grave and serious, personal as well as political. Did the Duke of Clarence, when raised to the throne, seek to revenge the insult, as he might deem it, which the intrepid advocate had cast on him in the necessary discharge of his duty? Quite the reverse. He told Sir T. Denman, shortly after his appointment to the office of Solicitor-General under Lord Grey's Administration, that he only honoured him the more for the resolution and courage with which he had performed his arduous duty. I had the satisfaction of hearing Sir T. Denman make a declaration to that effect in the House of Commons in a very brief but eloquent and touching speech. And an additional proof that his Majesty felt towards Lord Denman the sentiments of respect which he expressed, was subsequently given by his elevating him to the peerage after he had been raised to his present eminent judicial situation.

THE COURT.—The Queen did not quit Kensington on Wednesday. Her Majesty received the Sheriff of London, and appointed the 12th of July for the reception of the address. All the city parishes, most provincial towns, and nearly all the counties, have prepared addresses to her Majesty. The Duke of Edinburgh and General Baudrand, deputed by the King of the French to congratulate her Majesty on her accession to the throne, were introduced to the Queen, at Kensington, on Thursday, by Count Sebastiani. Dr. Stanley did homage for his see of Norwich. The Queen gave audience to Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell. The Duchess of Sutherland and Colonel Cavendish attended her Majesty. On Sunday, the chapel at Kensington Palace was crowded, but neither the Queen nor any member of the Royal Family was present, her Majesty having had service performed in her apartments by the Dean of Chester. The Queen took a drive as far as Finchley, on Sunday evening, between five and seven o'clock, and also on Monday and yesterday evenings, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent.

The Queen has signified her intention of taking up her residence in Buckingham Palace in about a fortnight. Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent will occupy apartments in that Palace at the same time with her Majesty.

ALTERATION IN THE ROYAL ARMS.—The Royal Arms of England will vary much from those worn by her Majesty's five predecessors. The Sovereign being a female, they will be borne on a lozenge instead of a shield, and the imperial crest of a lion surmounting the crown will be discontinued, as will also the escutcheon of Prentence bearing the arms of Hanover surmounted by the crown of that kingdom. The arms will in future consist of the four grand quarters only—namely, England in the first and fourth, and Scotland and Ireland in the second and third quarters.

During the recent proclamation of the Queen at St. James's Palace, Mr. O'Connell was in the front rank of spectators, and exerted his stentorian lungs, when her Majesty came to the Balcony, with such effect as to attract universal attention.

The accession of a very young female to the throne of this country is an event unprecedented in the history of the kingdom. Indeed, without regard to sex, the youthful Princess assumes the full regal power at an earlier age than any of her predecessors. The previous instances of young princes ascending to the exalted station of an English Monarch have been in the cases of minors, which have consequently required the interposition of regencies. Henry III., Richard II., Henry VI., Edward V., and Edward VI. were all minors, and a regency, that fruitful cause of intrigue and evil ambition, was required under each. All the other Sovereigns of England had, at least passed the ordinary nonage of 21 years before they wore the crown.

WESTMINSTER ELECTION.—In pursuance of a resolution passed by a numerous body of Westminster electors, a deputation, consisting of Joseph Brown, Esq. John Thurston, Esq., and the chairman, Gilbert Pouncey, Esq. waited on Lord John Russell on Friday morning to request his lordship to become a candidate for the representation of Westminster. The deputation was very cordially received; but we understand his lordship declined the honour, as two candidates in the Reform interest have announced themselves—namely, General Evans and Mr. Leader.—*Chronicle.*