

some of earthenware some of finer clay, and some of metallic character. All the preliminaries being arranged, the boots and shoes arranged themselves on each side of the table. A pair of eminent boots occupied the chair, while two distinguished gutta percha officiated as croupiers.

Thus far we have been guided by our own reporter, who was not present, but who procured the preceding information before leaving. We now resort to the newspapers for an accurate account of the rise and progress of the dinner, simply premising that the soup and roast-beef disappeared in the usual manner. From the papers we collect the following alarming particulars:—

"The cloth having been withdrawn."

This during robbery in open gas light is said to have been committed by certain well-known persons whose names have not been ascertained. If the police, however, should succeed in recovering the cloth, there will be no difficulty in re-covering the table.

"The usual loyal and national toasts."

What is meant by the loyal and national toasts it is difficult to understand. The "usual toast," of course, is a slice of loaf made crusty by fire. Perhaps the "loyal toast" is that portion of the usual toast which finds its way to the royal table; and perhaps the "national toast" is what parliament allows the British lion to his tea; but this is merely a surmise of our own.

" * * * Prince Albert was drunk."

This, if true, is really alarming!

"The royal family was drunk."

This is worse and worse; but alas! when the father of a family goes wrong, what can be expected of the children?

"Her Majesty's Minister's were drunk."

Most extraordinary announcement! Perhaps the recent war-cry originated in a ministerial *bouse*. A tipsy government, like a tipsy man, is apt to be quarrelsome.

"The Houses of Parliament were drunk."

Here there must be a mistake. A man may be drunk, but to accuse either a house or an ass of being drunk is to propagate a foul calumny. Perhaps, however, the expression is merely a brief method of informing the country that the members of both houses were in the predicament affirmed. The British people drink fifty millions' worth of intoxicating liquors during a year; perhaps their legislators get drunk in order to maintain their position as the faithful representatives of the nation.

"The Educational Institute of Scotland was drunk."

In Scotland intemperance is said to begin even in infancy. The 'Institute' is quite a child, being scarcely three years of age. Alas, alas!

"The Glasgow branch was drunk."

This is not surprising. It is a physiological fact that the sap of the parent stem circulates through the branches. Hence the melancholy condition of the Glasgow Branch.

"The College of Preceptors was drunk."

Poor Burns says—

"Lee's me on drink,
It g'ies me mair
Than either school or college."

The English Preceptors appear to have taken the hint.

"The Edinburgh Branch was drunk."

Of course.

"The Universities of Scotland were drunk."

Can this be the reason why they are called the *seats* of learning—the places where learning sits still? But for the tipping habits of the Universities, perhaps the dead languages might have been still living.

"Popular Education in its extended sense was drunk."

This, we suppose, is a genteel mode of saying that "popular education" had fallen down and was sprawling on the ground, drunk "in its extended sense." We do not wonder at this: the art of drinking is by far the most popular branch of education in Scotland.

"The clergy of Scotland of all denominations were drunk with all the honours."

The "drinking denomination" has adherents amongst all sects.

"The burgh Schools were drunk."

The fruits of national education "in its extended sense."

"The Parish Schoolmasters were drunk."

Many of the poor fellows are ruined, and a greater number are dead in consequence.

"Other parties not named were drunk."

They must be sorry about not being named.

"The Chairman's health was drunk,"

and

"The Croupier's health was drunk."

Query. When a man's health is drunk, can the man be said to be healthy in an extended sense?

"The Fine Arts were drunk."

Especially Bacchus.

"The Press was drunk."

If this is the case, the fourth estate will soon go where many other estates have gone.

"The Strangers were drunk."

After which, we are informed that the wines were of excellent quality, and, of course, also drunk. But the strangest announcement is the last, namely, that

"The whole . . . was creditable."!!!

For our part, we can scarcely credit it, and find it impossible to discover any merit in the matter.

Since writing the above, and during our absence from the editorial table, the great "*We*" who fills the chair and wields the rod of office, has written these words in his usual dictatorial style, along the margin of our manuscript:—"You mistake, in the most egregious manner, the meaning of the genuine English phrase, 'Prince Albert was drunk.' The last word of the sentence has nothing whatever to do with his Royal Highness. Nor has it anything to do with the other parties whom your obtuseness would place in an equally awkward predicament. All the drinking was pedagogical, subjectively viewed; and symbolical, viewed objectively." Thank you most learned Editor, for your very lucid explanation. There are some phenomena, however, connected with this educational dinner, which even you will scarcely be able satisfactorily to explain. You reject our theory of "the Ministry," "the Army," "the Navy," and "the