

STRANDED.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Said one whose lips were touched with living fire,
'Which leads to fortune.' It is true, but then,
Each life has tide-marks whence the waves retire,
We take the waters as they rise, and float,
Hope for a guide, across a sunny sea;
Each dancing wave that rocks our little boat,
Brings nearer to the port where we could be.
Some gain the haven that their spirits crave,
The tide may ebb, but they abide secure;
While some are stranded by the highest wave,
On barren beach, with bleeding wounds past cure.
The tide ebbs out that bore them to their fate,
And leaves them wounded, lone, and desolate.

"I have been stranded thus; my boat set out,
Freighted with hope and love, to cross life's sea;
But waves have washed my precious cargo out,
And winds have shattered both my boat and me.
I had not skill enough to guide the boat,
I had not strength enough to use the oar;
So all my treasures on the water float,
And I am stranded on a barren shore.
I cannot lay the blame on wind or wave,
I might have journeyed safe with thought and care,
But I have lost the hope that made me brave,
Foregone the love grown holy as a prayer.
The tide ebbs out and leaves me to my fate,
Weary and wounded, lone and desolate."

FOR EVERYBODY.

Declined With Thanks.

The other day a pupil in one of the Dumfries seminaries was awarded a volume of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* for proficiency in writing. The teacher has had the volume thrown back on his hands with the note:—"I return the volume, as I consider it rather antiquated for a prize in this advanced age."

Irish Emigration.

The total number of emigrants from Ireland in the first six months of the present year was 45,781, of whom 25,164 were males, and 20,617 females. As compared with the corresponding period of 1873, there was a decrease of 14,359. Since the 1st May, 1851, the total emigration from Ireland has been 2,252,746.

A Discount On Divinity.

Serious complaints are made by the Church papers in Prussia of the decrease in the number of students of divinity at the German Universities. Should there not be an early increase there is reason to fear that in a few years hence half the Protestant livings in the country will be unprovided with incumbents.

A Substitute For The Telegraph.

These are fast times, and persons' wants are not met even by the electric telegraph, for advertisements are appearing in the English paper to the effect that carrier pigeons, flying a mile per minute, for conveying business and domestic messages home from any spot at a distance of one mile to 500 miles, or as a means of communication with cities, lighthouses, ship at sea, &c., may be had at 2s.6d. each, or 25s. per dozen.

Cane-Candles.

A new invention has appeared; cane swords first made their appearance during the reign of Napoleon I.; to-day pilgrims can be supplied with "cane candles;" on taking off the sheath of the cane, a wax taper appears, which can be raised or lowered, as may be required, and guaranteed to burn for the space of two hours—the period the wax lights in a religious procession are expected to last.

Bismarck And The Conjuror.

Prince Bismarck owes his life to a conjuror. The conjuror made the Prince a bow, the Prince returned it, and at that moment he was fired at, the raised arm saving him. The conjuror, who is famous for the trick of catching a bullet with his teeth, was naively asked by the Prince how it was he did not catch that bullet. His reply was, "Because your Excellency caught it." Good on the side of the conjuror.

The Origin Of Earrings.

According to the Mohammedans, Abraham began the practice of wearing earrings. In one of Sarah's jealous fits respecting Hagar, she declared that she would not rest until she had dipped her hands in Hagar's blood. In order to quiet Sarah, and enable her to redeem her promise without further upsetting her household, Abraham pierced Hagar's ears and drew rings through them. From that time earrings became the fashion.

Germans In Paris.

Residence in Paris is now perfectly unbearable for Germans. German who formerly lived in Paris find, on revisiting that city, that they are quite ignored by their former intimate French friends. "All social intercourse has been broken off by the French in a manner not to be misunderstood." One Frenchman was called on by a German, and he returned the visit by leaving at the house of the latter a card bearing the words, in writing, "*Au revoir à Berlin.*"

The Tables Turned.

A Parisian practical joker, with a bald head, recently entered a hair-dresser's shop, and requested the man to "curl him." The coiffeur hesitated a moment, then taking a splendid black wig from a block placed it on his customer's head, and proceeded vigorously to curl it. The operation over the would-be funny man asked how much was to be paid. "Ten sous for the curl and 5l. for the wig," was the reply. For once the joker found himself "caught," and taking the joke upon himself paid the money.

Mormon Casuistry.

A one-legged soldier, a Mormon, recently asked Brigham Young to supply, by a miracle, the missing limb; but the apostle, not to be caught, made this reply: "I can in an instant produce a new leg in place of the old one; but then, you see, if I do, it will cause great inconvenience to you in Heaven, for after your exaltation to glory, the original leg will come back to the spiritualized body, mine also being of divine origin becomes immortal, and, in this case observe how very awkward a three-legged angel from Utah would appear among the inhabitants of the eternal world!"

Something New For Printers.

A company has been formed in London for the purpose of doing newspaper and book composition, dispensing entirely with the process of distribution, thus saving an important item of expense. A patent type casting machine converts fused metal into perfect type in two minutes' time, when it is transferred to a composing machine and the matter set up, the entire operation requiring but two men. The *Printing Trade Journal* of London speaks confidently of the success of the system, and says it "indicates the dawn of a new era in daily newspaper printing, it being an ascertained fact that the manufacture of new type daily for the composer is attended with less cost than the distribution and re-setting into lines for the machine."

The Champion Sneezer.

Earl Russell, now in his eighty-second year, and as full of fight as ever, has a passion for a hat with a broad brim and a bandana that is red. Ten years ago it was esteemed a bit of good fortune to hear this remarkable man sneeze. He seemed to concentrate himself, as it were, for a gigantic effort, would be bent nearly double by the force of the explosion, and would then dive down into the flaming banner of red silk, from which after several minutes' obscuration, he emerged with a countenance as vivid as the back of a scalded lobster. The late Lord Clarendon is reported to have once said, "When Lord John takes snuff, the consequence 'brings down the house.'"

A Novel Application Of Photography.

A very interesting and instructive exhibition is now taking place in Paris, and attracts crowds. By means of a most artistic application of photo-sculpture, the spectacle of Pompeii as it was eighteen centuries ago, and is now, is splendidly represented; the comparison is really curious; to complete the idea an eruption of Mount Vesuvius is exhibited, full of reality. It must have cost much study and labour to thus materially construct, as it were, a city and its life lost so many ages ago. The Forum appears as it must have been; the street of the Tombs; the tragic theatre; the amphitheatre, the temples and baths, the villas and mansions of historical citizens, &c. In thus promenading among those imposing monuments, you with difficulty can believe in the illusion.

Novel Proposed Licences.

Dr. Sutherland, one of the enlightened town councillors of Edinburgh, has given the following notice of motion:—"Whereas drunkenness is productive of extraordinary personal and relative misery, crime, and pauperism and disease, and whereas it is being conceded by those in the spirit trade as well as maintained by those opposed to that trade, that drunkenness must be abolished; and whereas no scheme or measure has yet been devised which will seem efficiently and equitably to accomplish this object, the town council resolves to remit to the Lord Provost's committee to consider the wisdom and expediency of petitioning Her Majesty's Government to introduce for this purpose a general measure, founded upon the principle of licensing the consumers instead of or in addition to the vendors of intoxicating liquors."

A Theory Of Assassination.

A propos of the attempt to assassinate Prince Bismarck, a singular theory is advanced to the effect that excessive heat increases the homicidal tendency against which every man has sometimes to contend. In illustration of the theory, a patient professor of Breslau has brought together instances of some of the more celebrated cases of regicide to show that they have generally been made in the month of July. Thus on the 12th of July, 1581, William of Orange was assassinated by Balthasar Gerard; on the 12th of July, 1764, the same fate befell Prince Ivan VI., son of Anne of Russia; 27th July, 1835, Fieschi fired his infernal machine against Louis-Philippe; 18th July, 1844, Fritz Scherck, a burgomaster of Sorokov, fires two pistol-shots at the King of Prussia, but without touching him; on the 20th July, 1846, another attempt was made on the life of Louis-Philippe; on the 5th July, 1853, occurred Orsini's memorable attack on Napoleon III.; and on the 14th July, 1861, Oscar Becker fired at King William of Prussia.

Isabella's Would-be Assassin.

"Among the histories of unsuccessful attempts at political assassination," says the *Paris Journal*, "is one dating from the early part of the reign of Queen Isabella II. In those days lived at Madrid a man of family named Angel de la Vega, but as he was dying of hunger sullen anger filled his heart, and at last he fixed his hate on the Queen and resolved to kill her. One evening, as she was passing the Puerta del Sol, he fired at her and missed; he was immediately seized and taken to prison. When his trial commenced he disdained to defend himself, and was sentenced to death. The fatal day arrived, and he was about to be taken to the place of punishment when the Queen ordered him to be brought before her. 'Don Angel,' she said, 'I pardon you, but you must leave Spain at once and forever. My treasurer will furnish you with the means.' The man retired, filled with an emotion easy to comprehend, and, during ten years, nothing more was heard of him. At length the day of exile came for Queen Isabella, who took refuge in Paris. The first visit she received was from Don Angel, who, having become rich through speculations at the Paris Bourse, came to lay at the disposal of Her Majesty all he possessed. The Queen refused the offer of the old regicide, and the latter, deeply hurt, left for America, where he still resides."

The German Navy.

The *Borsen Zeitung* of Berlin says that one of the chief occupations of the German Admiralty just now is to improve the shipbuilding industry of the empire. This is to be done, not only by having a considerable number of ships of war built in private shipbuilding establishments, but also by applying almost exclusively to German manufacturers for the machinery and other articles required for naval purposes. It is hoped by this means in a few years to make the German navy quite independent of foreign countries, both as regards shipbuilding and its other requirements. The slight development which has taken place in the German shipbuilding industry during the last few years is regarded as a circumstance very prejudicial to the power of Germany at sea, and if the Government does not succeed in obtaining all it requires for the navy from private establishments, it will create factories of its own for that purpose. This will be especially necessary for iron plates and masts, which have hitherto invariably had to be procured from abroad. Last year Messrs. Krupp proposed to begin the construction of these articles on an extensive scale, but they seem now to have abandoned this project. As regards the construction of naval machinery, this is already being taken up by private establishments with very satisfactory results.

Army Suicides.

It appears that the returns of the mortality prevailing amongst the non-commissioned officers and men of the British army during the ten-year period, 1862-71, show 663 deaths by suicide, which gives a mean annual average ratio of 0.379 per 1,000 of the strength. As compared with the civil male population of England, at corresponding ages, this ratio of deaths from suicide is excessively high. As compared with foreign armies, the ratio in the British army is found to be slightly lower than that of the French and Belgian armies; considerably lower than in the Prussian; and less than one-half of the ratio of the Austro-Hungarian army. In the British army, suicide is most common in the cavalry of the Line, and least so in the Household Cavalry. It is more prevalent amongst the troops serving in India than in any other portion of the forces. A marked difference is observable betwixt the military and civil population in the modes of committing suicide. In the former more than one-half the suicides are the result of gunshot wounds. It is noticeable that in 1870 a decrease occurred in the proportion of suicides, which was very probably connected with the promulgation of the Horse Guards' order directing the service ammunition to be removed from the men's pouches and kept in regimental expense magazines.

Novel Music.

Samuel Woodworth Cozens, in "Three Years in Arizona and Mexico," speaks of the mission church of San Xavier del Bac and says: "In the evening I attended service, and was surprised and delighted by the music; it was novel and charming. When the priest reached a certain portion of the service the air seemed suddenly filled with the warbling of ten thousand birds, whose melodious notes rose and fell and swelled and lingered through the arched passages of the church; now dying away, as in the far distance, and again approaching near and nearer, until the very air seemed resonant with the notes of the sweetest feathered songsters. Again I heard it, but so exquisitely soft and low that its cadences more resembled the wailings of an Æolian harp than music created by human agency. Once more it swelled into grand and lofty strains of praise, until it seemed that such exquisite music must be created by a celestial choir. As soon as we could withdraw from the service we ascended the gallery of the church and here we found, lying flat on their faces upon the floor, a dozen or more youths, before each one of whom stood a small cup of water in which was inserted the end of split reeds of different sizes, the other end of the reed being held in their mouths, and blowing through it they produced the sweet sounds which so enchanted us. It seemed impossible that such delicious music could be produced by such simple instruments."

An Artfully Artless Dodge.

A "Smuggler" relates the following: "We shall be, my dear madam," said I to a fellow-passenger in the Dieppe boat, taking out my watch, but keeping my eyes steadily upon her, "we shall be in less than ten minutes at the custom-house." A spasm—a flicker from the guilt within—glanced from her countenance.

"You look very good-natured, sir," stammered she. I bowed, and looked considerably more so to invite her confidence.

"If I was to tell you a secret, which is too much for me to keep myself, oh! would you keep it inviolable?"

"I know it, my dear madam—I know it already," said I smilingly—"it is lace, is it not?"

She uttered a little shriek, and—yes, she had got it there among the crinoline. She thought it had been sticking out, you see, unknown to her.

"Oh, sir," cried she, "it is only £10 worth; please to forgive me, and I'll never do it again. As it is, I think I shall expire."

"My dear madam," replied I, sternly, but kindly, "here is the pier, and the officer has fixed his eye upon us. I must do my duty."

I rushed up the ladder like a lamp-lighter; I pointed out the woman to a legitimate authority; I accompanied her, upon her way, in custody to the searching-house. I did not see her searched, but I saw what was found upon her, and I saw her fined and dismissed with ignominy. Then, having generously given up my emoluments as informer to the subordinate officials, I hurried off in search of the betrayed woman to her hotel. I gave her lace twice the value of that she lost, paid her fine, and explained:

"You, madam, had £10 worth of smuggled goods about your person; I had nearly fifty times that amount. I turned informer, madam, let me convince you, for the sake of both of us. You have too expressive a countenance, believe me, and the officer would have found you out at all events, even as I did myself. Are you satisfied, my dear madam? If you feel aggrieved by me in any way, pray take more lace; here is lots of it."

When I finished my explanation the lady seemed perfectly satisfied with my little stroke of diplomacy, though she would have doubtless preferred a little less prominent part in it.