

## MISCELLANEA.

**INTREPID CONDUCT OF A FEMALE.**—At the Wandsworth Petty Sessions on Tuesday, John Wood, who described himself as a plumber and glazier, and who appeared in a very wretched state, was placed at the bar, charged with a highway robbery upon the person of Mrs. Chevalier, the wife of a respectable tradesman, living in Yardley-street, Wilmington-square, Clerkenwell. It appeared from the evidence of the prosecutrix that on Monday last she left home by a stage-coach, on a visit to an intimate friend in the neighbourhood of Wimbledon. On her return, being too late for the coach, she was compelled to proceed on foot to Fulham, across the common, and it was then about six o'clock. After she had proceeded a short distance, the prisoner sprang upon her and demanded her money; at the same moment he presented a pistol to her head, and threatened that he would at once blow her brains out if she did not deliver up to him what money she had about her; adding, that he was reduced to the last extremity, that he had a wife and family at home in a starving state, and that he did not care what became of him. She then, under the fear of his threat, gave him what money she had, which amounted to about £3, and consisted of nine half-crowns, a half-sovereign, and the remainder in silver and copper. After the prisoner had robbed her he put the pistol in his pocket. She then remarked to him that as she had to go London, and as he had taken from her all the money she had, perhaps he would let her have 2s. to pay for the omnibus to London, and a halfpenny to go over the bridge. He gave her what she required. She then remarked to him that she would be obliged to him if he would accompany her to within a short distance of Fulham, to protect her, as, being alone, she might be again stopped, and, if she was stopped, the person would not believe but that she had money about her. The prisoner agreed, and they walked together some distance. They passed two or three men, who were walking singly. The prosecutrix, however, did not think it prudent to alarm them; but, on coming up to a policeman, she instantly acquainted him, and at the same time seized the prisoner, who, having used great exertions, extricated himself from her grasp, and ran away. He was pursued by the policeman, who speedily apprehended him. Policeman Rice, V. 90, stated that on the evening in question he was on duty on Wimbledon-common. Upon the prosecutrix stating to him that she had been robbed, he was about to lay hold of the prisoner, when he made off. Witness speedily overtook him. Upon apprehending him he was about to take the pistol out of his pocket. He was instantly conveyed to the station-house at Wandsworth, where he was searched, when the property stolen from the prosecutrix was found. The pistol was loaded nearly to the muzzle. The prisoner did not deny the charge, but stated that he had a wife and five children at home, who were in a state of the most deplorable destitution. He was fully committed for trial. The Bench highly praised the conduct of the prosecutrix, who had displayed such coolness and intrepidity upon the trying occasion in which she was placed.—*Late English Paper.*

**COMPARISON OF SPEED.**—A French scientific journal states that the ordinary rate is per second:—Of a man walking, 4 feet. Of a good horse in harness, 12. Of a rein-deer in a sledge, on the ice, 26. Of an English race-horse, 43. Of a hare, 88. Of a good sailing-ship, 19. Of the wind, 82. Of sound, 1,038. Of a twenty-four pounder cannon-ball, 1,300. Of the air, which, so divided, returns into space, 1,300.

**MATRIMONIAL PROMOTION.**—A marriage has taken place at Barrow, Leicestershire, which has afforded considerable amusement to the inhabitants of that county. An only daughter of the late deceased clergyman in that neighbourhood, possessed of 700l. or 800l. a year, has married her late father's (and until now her own) footman. It is remarkable that the present clergyman of Barrow had himself but a few days before married a poor girl of the same village.

**ENGRAVING.**—A new mode of engraving has just been discovered by a gentleman named Woone, which bids fair wholly to supersede the art of engraving on wood. The following is the mode in which the new operation is performed: prepared plaster of Paris, laid on the smooth surface of metal, is the material on which the artist etches the subject he proposes to have engraved, with a steel point as it were—and this drawing or etching is at once cast in metal. It must be obvious that the time occupied for producing a design by this method, hardly exceeds that required by the artist to sketch with his pencil on the block of wood previous to its being put into the hands of the engraver, so that the whole expense of engraving the design on the block is saved.

**NATURE'S CHORISTERS.**—A Dunkirk journal asserts that a cloth-merchant, of Abbeville, has taught a drake to sing several airs; and, encouraged by success, is now proceeding to teach a turkey to take part in a duet with a quack musician!

**TWENTY MINUTES.**—"When I was about leaving Liverpool for America," said Mathews, to a professional friend, "I asked the Yankee Captain, as we were lying in the stream, what detained us, that we were not off? He answered 'The mail, Sir.'

I inquired when it was expected? 'In about twenty minutes,' was the reply. In an hour or two the mail came on board; and when we had moved but a little distance, then there was another stop. 'What is this for?' said I. 'We are waiting for a pilot,' quoth the master. 'How long before he will be on board?' was my next question. 'In about twenty minutes,' was the answer again; and so it was all the way over. If there was a gale, it never was calculated to last more than twenty minutes, that space of time was likewise the estimated duration of a calm; and one poor fellow, blue and white with active sea sickness, was told to keep good heart, for it might not last more than twenty minutes! When I arrived at New York, after numerous provoking delays, and had become fairly established at my lodgings, there comes up a waiter, in hot haste, with 'Mr. Mathews! Mr. Mathews; you can't stay here no longer, sa!' 'What is the matter?—the reason?—why can't I?' 'Cause, sa, the Sheriff has issued his *shash a-rarrar*, and the red flag is out o' the winder, and they're gwyin' to sell out, sir!' 'Well, when must I go?' 'Why, sa, I s'pect you'd better be gettin' away in about twenty minutes!' And thus," continued Mathews in his fretful, querulous manner, "was it, from the moment I set my foot in America. You'd hardly believe it, yet I had just returned from calling to see an old friend, who was very kind to me on my former visit. 'Where is Mr. B.?' said I, to the servant. 'He is dead, Sir!' 'Dead! dead! How long since did his decease?' 'I should think about twenty minutes, Sir!' was the answer. In short," concluded the inimitable mimic, "there is nothing that cannot be, and is not done, in the United States, in twenty minutes!"

**THE POETICAL YOUNG GENTLEMAN.**—The favourite attitude of the poetical young gentleman is lounging on a sofa with his eyes fixed upon the ceiling, or sitting bolt upright in a high-backed chair, staring with very round eyes at the opposite wall. When he is in one of these positions, his mother, who is a worthy affectionate old soul, will give you a nudge to bespeak your attention without disturbing the abstracted one, and whisper with the shake of the head, that John's imagination is at some extraordinary work or other, you may take her word for it. Hereupon John looks more fiercely intent upon vacancy than before, and suddenly snatching a pencil from his pocket, puts down three words, and the cross on the back of a card, sighs deeply, paces once or twice across the room, inflicts a most unmerciful slap on his head, and walks moodily up to his dormitory.

**A BARREN CIRCUIT.**—A jocular sergeant, who went a barren round, when asked if he expected much business on the circuit, replied off hand, "Very little as far as I recollect. We read of three or four murders in the calendar; but I understand the parties have met and have made it up; they are all compromised."—*Law Magazine for February.*

**FLOWERS.**—We have seen an estimate of the profusion of flowers which decorated the rooms in the Hotel de Ville, at the fete given there in honour of the marriage of the Duke d'Orleans. 11,793 plants, in pots, boxes, and vases, besides 2,500 nosegays presented to ladies, were furnished by one individual, and that individual a female, Madame Augustine Copin, who is at the head of an establishment on the boulevard St. Jacques, where her gardens are situated.

**A VALIANT HUSBAND.**—An unfortunate married man was very ill-used by his Kantippe; he was even treated with an occasional thrashing. His friends rallied him upon this, and at last spurred him on to declare that he would make an effort to be master. One day, not long after, his better half was so furious that he found himself compelled to seek shelter under the table. Just at this moment the voices of his friends were heard in the passage. "Come out, come out," cried the wife, fearful of an exposure. "No, no," cried the husband in triumph; "come out, indeed, not I, I'll show for once that I am master!"

**FORCE OF AFFECTION.**—While the convicts were proceeding a few days ago from Clonmel to the depot in Cove, they had to pass through the village of Clogheen, where one of them had formerly resided. His family gathered round the car to bid him farewell. He grasped his little son in his arms, and it required actual violence to separate them. When the child was taken from him, he called out to young Mr. Vowel, who had the convicts in his charge, "Oh, Mr. Harry, my heart is broken!" Then fell back on the car and expired before the party had reached the next town.—*Irish paper.*

**FEMALE INFANTICIDE IN CHINA.**—A man came for medicine to-day, with whom I conversed a while privately. I asked him how long he had left China, and whether he ever thought upon his family there? He said he frequently thought on them, and intended next year to return and visit them, for he had three sons and one daughter, who was married. "I had another daughter," he added, "but I did not bring her up." "Not bring her up?" said I; "what did you then do with her?" "I smothered her," said he: "this year also I heard by letter that another daughter was born; I sent word to have that smothered also; but the mother has preserved it alive." I was shocked at this speech, and still more at the horrid indifference with which

he uttered it. "What!" said I, "murder your own children? Do you not shudder at such an act?" "Oh, no," said he, "it is a very common thing in China; we put the female children out of the way to save the trouble of bringing them up; some people have smothered five or six daughters." My horror was increased by his continued indifference, and the lightness with which such crimes are perpetrated in China with impunity, which must be the case when they are related without fear of detection as the common occurrences of life. I felt I had a murderer by my side, who must, without repentance, inevitably perish. I told him plainly, that he had committed a most dreadful sin, and that he was in danger of eternal wrath. Though I said this with the greatest seriousness and earnestness, at first he only laughed, and it was some time before he would acknowledge that he had done wrong; however, afterwards he seemed to feel a little concerned, and, I hope, affected. What an awful view does this present of the "celestial empire," loaded with crime, deluged with blood, and ripe for destruction!—*Medhurst's Journal.*

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