

Not a single fabric of any kind is there to be found erect. Fragments of walls and foundations of masonry mark the site of the domestic habitations, and the granite columns and the fragments of marble alone point out the situation of a temple or a theatre.

Upon this forlorn spot, where once was congregated a large population, and where once stood the proudest of the five satrapies of the lords of the Philistines, there is now not a single inhabitant. There is not a dwelling near the spot, and the surrounding country is deserted and uncultivated.

Ashkelon was once the most commercial city of the Philistines, and the most strongly fortified of all the towns of the Philistine coast. About five hundred years ago, when Ashkelon and the neighbouring city of Gaza were in their most powerful and flourishing state, both equally prosperous, thus said the prophet Zachariah, "The king shall perish from Gaza, and Ashkelon shall not be inhabited!"

From Peninsula Wars.

FIELD OF WATERLOO AT NOON ON THE DAY AFTER THE BATTLE.

On a surface of two square miles, it was ascertained that fifty thousand men and horses were lying! The luxurious crop of ripe grain which had covered the field of battle, was reduced to a fitter, and beaten into the earth— and the surface, trodden down by the cavalry, and furrowed deeply by the cannon wheels, strewn with many a relic of the fight. Helmets and cuirasses, shattered firearms and broken swords; all the variety of military ornaments; lancer caps and Highland bonnets, uniforms of every color, plume and pennon; musical instruments, the apparatus of artillery, drums, fifes, bugles; but, good heaven! why dwell on the harrowing picture of a foughten field! Each and every ruinous display bore mute testimony to the misery of such a battle.

Could the melancholy appearance of this scene of death be lightened; it would be by witnessing the rescuing of the living, amidst its desolation, for the objects of their love. Mothers, wives and children, for days were occupied in that mournful duty; and the confusion of the corpses, friend and foe intermingled as they were, often rendered the attempt of recognizing individuals difficult, and in some cases impossible.

In many places the dead lay four deep upon each other, marking the spot some British square had occupied, when exposed for hours to the murderous fire of a French battery. Outside, lancer and cuirassier were scattered thickly on the earth. Madly attempting to force the serried bayonets of the British, they had fallen, in the bootless essay, by the musketry of the inner files. Farther on, you traced the spot where the cavalry of France and England had encountered. Chasseur and hussar were intermingled; and the heavy Norman horse of the Imperial Guard were interspersed with the gray charges which had carried Albyn's chivalry. Here the Highlander and tirailleur lay side by side together, and heavy dragoon, with green Erin's badge upon his helmet, grappling in death with the Polish lancer.

On the summit of the ridge, where the ground was cumbered with, and trodden fetlock deep in mud and gore, by the frequent rush of rival cavalry, the thick strewn corpses of the Imperial Guard pointed out the spot where Napoleon had been defeated. Here, in columns, that favored corps, on whom his last chance rested, had been annihilated, and the advance and repulse of the Guard was traceable by a mass of fallen Frenchmen. In the hollow below, the last struggle of France had been vainly made; for there the Old Guard, when the middle battalions had been forced back, attempted to meet the British, and gain time for their disorganized companies to rally. Here the British left, which had converged upon the French centre, had come up; and here the bayonet closed the contest.

ODESSA.

BY A LADY OF NEW YORK.

We were at a magnificent Court dinner, and a day or two after attended a splendid ball at the palace of Count Woronzoff, the Governor General of New Russia.

The Count commanded the Russian army of occupation at Paris after the overthrow of Napoleon. He resides in almost regal splendor, and is, next to the Emperor, the first man in the Empire. A singular anecdote was related to me the other day, which sets forth in bold relief the high toned sense of honor of the Count, while it exposes the lurking Tartar principle in the Czar Alexander.

When the Allied Armies were about leaving Paris, the Russian officers were deeply in debt to the Parisian tradesmen, and were about returning home with their debts unpaid. Their creditors made a respectful remonstrance to Count Woronzoff, who, calling the gentlemen to account, they justified their conduct by pleading empty purses.

The Count, feeling that the honor of his country was at stake, immediately gave each of the officers an order on the military chest for the amount of his debts. On the return of the army to St. Petersburg, Alexander was informed of the matter, and took the Count severely to task for his officiousness in draining the Imperial chest of so large an amount.

The Count was shortly after placed in honorable banishment, by being invested with the government of all the Southern Provinces

of the Empire, at that time of much less importance than at present. The events of late years have given to this station an importance next to that of Emperor; and the Count at present maintains a fearful pre-eminence over every individual in the Empire, beneath the Czar. Although Nicholas appears to be on the most amicable footing with his illustrious Viceroy, by taking up his abode with him in the palace when here; dining at his table, and manifesting the most unbounded confidence in him, yet I doubt if he does not incline to the belief that the Count may have imbibed too much liberalism at the Court of St. James, where his father was so long Minister.

Little more than thirty years since, the site of this city was a small portion of the open steppe, in the midst of which it now stands, like an oasis in the desert. It is the only city I have seen in the Empire built of stone. It is very regularly laid out, and has many fine houses. It stands on a high bluff, with a delightful promenade on the precipice, at one end of which is the palace of the Governor General, and at the other a noble pile of public buildings. It has two commodious artificial harbours, full of vessels of all nations. It is a free port, and its inhabitants are principally from Western Europe. The embouchure of the great rivers, falling into the Black Sea, being very unhealthy, and unsuitable in all respects for the location of sea ports, this inconvenient site was chosen from necessity. The streets of this city are all unpaved, but its thriving commerce will soon supply it with the means of obtaining all the comforts and elegancies requisite for a great capital.

DECAYED GENTRY.—It happened in the reign of King James, when Henry, earl of Huntingdon, was lieutenant of Leicestershire, that a labourer's son in that county was pressed into the wars, as I take it, to go over with Count Mansfield. The old man at Leicestershire requested that his son might be discharged, as being the only staff of his age, who by his industry maintained him and his mother. The earl demanded his name, which the man, for a long time, was loath to tell, (as suspecting it a fault for so poor a man to confess the truth;) at last he told his name was Hastings. "Cousin Hastings," said the earl, "we cannot all be top branches of the tree, though we all spring from the same root; your son, my kinsman, shall not be pressed." So good was the meeting of modesty in a poor, with courtesy in an honourable person, and gentry, I believe in both. And I have reason to believe, that some who justly own the surnames and blood of Bohuns, Mortimers, and Plantagenets, (though ignorant of their own extractions) are hid in the heap of common people, where they find that, under a thatched cottage, which some of their ancestors could not enjoy in a thatched castle, --- contentment, with quiet and security.

GOOD EFFECTS OF A PREDILECTION FOR SOME CELEBRATED AUTHOR.—A predilection for some great author, among the vast number which must transiently occupy our attention, seems to be the happiest preservative for our taste. Accustomed to that excellent author whom we have chosen for our favourite, we may possibly resemble him in this intimacy. It is to be feared, that if we do not form such a permanent attachment, we may be acquiring knowledge, while our enervated taste becomes less and less lively. Taste embalms the knowledge, which otherwise cannot preserve itself. He who has long been intimate with one great author, will always be found to be a formidable antagonist; he has shaped his faculties insensibly to himself by his model! The old Latin proverb reminds us of this fact.—*Cave ab homine unius libri*: be cautious of the man of one book.

RELIGIOUS BELIEF.—Sir Humphrey Davy said— I envy no quality of the mind or intellect in others; be it genius, power, wit, or fancy: but if I could choose what would be most delightful, and I believe most useful to me, I should prefer a firm religious belief to any other blessing: for it makes life a discipline of goodness; creates new hopes, when all earthly hopes vanish; and throws over the decay, the destruction of existence, the most gorgeous of all lights; awakens life even in death, and from destruction and decay calls up beauty and divinity; makes an instrument of torture and shame the ladder of ascent to paradise; and, far above all combinations of earthly hopes, calls up the most delightful visions of palms and amaranths, the gardens of the blest, the security of everlasting joys, where the sensualist and the skeptic view only gloom, decay, annihilation and despair.

AFFECTING INCIDENT.—When Dr. Hutton was Bishop of Durham, as he was travelling over Cam, betwixt Wensleydale and Incedon, a friend who was with him was surprised to see him suddenly dismount, and having delivered his horse to a servant, walked to a particular place at some distance from the highway, where he knelt down, and remained some time in prayer. On his return his friend took the liberty of asking "his motive for so singular an act?" The bishop, in answer, informed him, that when he was a boy, without shoes or stockings, travelling this cold bleak mountain on a frosty day, he remembered that he had disturbed a red cow, then lying on that identical place, in order to warm his feet and legs on the spot.

A person not very intimate with Santeuil, called him plain Santeuil: "Surely, sir," said the poet, "by you I ought to be called Monsieur Santeuil." "Why, pray," replied the familiar gentleman, "do you ever hear of Monsieur Horace, or Monsieur Pin-dar?" "Oh, your most obedient, sir!" exclaimed Santeuil.

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 8, 1840.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.—Dates from Liverpool, England, are brought to Dec. 17th by an arrival at New York. Little new appears. The price of Timber and of Ships had fallen. Fears were entertained that attempts would be made to rescue the Chartist prisoners of Newport. Affairs in Hanover were approaching a crisis, --- a dissolution of the Assembly of the Estates was expected, and several towns resolved not to elect deputies for a new Assembly.

Another great fire had occurred at New York.

The Legislative Session of New Brunswick had been opened by a speech from Sir John Harvey. His Excellency adverted to the loyalty and prosperity of the Province, and recommended attention to the great roads, and the construction of a ship Canal at Bay Verte.

Sir George Arthur, it is asserted, has been recalled from the Government of U. Canada.

THE LEGISLATURE.—The question of responsible government occupied the attention of the House on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday last. The subject was introduced by Mr. Howe, who submitted four resolutions, declaring that inconvenience, delay, and loss of funds, and dissatisfaction, had arisen from the present system, and that the House had not confidence in the Executive Council. These were explained, as being preparatory to a change of men and measures in the Executive Council, and to the harmonizing of the various branches of Government. The resolutions were carried 30 to 12. The whole House will wait on His Excellency, with an introductory address and the resolutions, on Monday, at 1 o'clock.

On Thursday the Civil List Bill of last year was taken up. After some discussion it was referred to a select Committee. The opinion seems to be that a measure will pass, providing that incumbents receive their present salaries, that reductions shall take place on new appointments, that a sum of about £4500 be granted for the payment of public officers, not already provided for, and the Casual and Territorial revenues be placed at the disposal of the House.

A Bill for granting a Charter of Incorporation to Queen's College, and enabling that institution to grant degrees, occupied the House on Friday. An adjournment left the Bill before the House. The question will no doubt be taken to-day.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Mr. A. McKinlay concluded his lectures on Heat, with several beautiful experiments, last Wednesday evening. Doctor Grigor will lecture on next Wednesday evening.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.—The debate of last Monday evening was on the effect of anonymous writings in the public papers. Next Monday evening is appropriated to Recitations.

The monthly Temperance Meeting will be held in the Old Baptist Meeting House, on Monday evening next at half past seven.—Simultaneous meeting at the Masonic Hall on the 26th.

Acting Commissioner for the Poors' Asylum for this month— J. W. NUTTING, Esq.

MARRIED.

At Rawdon, on the 26th ult. by the Rev George F. W. Morris, Mr. Wickworth Eustace, to Mrs. Experience Parker, of Newport.—Also, on the 24th, Mr. William McDowal, of Douglas, to Miss Phoebe, only daughter of Mr. John Deamore of Rawdon.

DIED.

On Thursday last, departed this life, with a glorious prospect of life eternal, Mr. Daniel Livingston, of H. M. Ordnance—a native of Dublin, Ireland—aged 72.—after a long and painful illness, through which he exhibited the power of the religion of Christ to support amidst the greatest bodily sufferings. Never was he heard to murmur, but calmly and patiently endured the Divine will. Few of whom it might be more emphatically said, "Behold an Israelite, indeed, in whom was no guile." Funeral to take place from his late residence in Jacob's Street, at 1 o'clock on Sunday next.

On Monday last, Mrs. Rachel Longard, in the 84th year of her age, an old and respectable inhabitant of this town.

Drowned, on Thursday, 30th ult. by falling through the ice in Bedford Basin, near the nine mile House, Adelaide Agnes, aged 8 years youngest daughter of Mr. John Heffer.

At Truro on the 22d ult. Mr. David Page, Senr. an old and respectable inhabitant of that place, aged 70 years.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

PORT OF HALIFAX.

ARRIVED.

THURSDAY—Brigt. Pearl, West, Martinique, 20 days—molasses to C West & Son;—lost jib and anchor in the gale of the 23d. off Capt Lollave—left brig Gazelle for Liverpool NS.

FRIDAY—Brig Louisa, Dolby, Pernambuco, 42 days—hides to Fairbanks & Allison—experienced heavy weather, lat 40, lon 41, lost part of sails; brig Lady Sarah Maitland, Grant, Demerara 33 and St. Thomas 24 days.

MONDAY—Schr. Rival Packet, McLear, Liverpool NS, staves—brigt. Dove, Cobb, for Barbadoe, in heating out of Liverpool harbour missed days, and went ashore near Herring Cove, 31st ult. was got off same night; and will leave to discharge; schr. Vernon, Cunningham, Montego Bay, 58 days, via Isaac and Country Harbour, ballast, to J. Strachan; made Cape Sable 15th ult; barque Norman, Bond; brigt. Susan Crane, Coffin, sailed a day previous for Savannah la Mar and Bristol, Falmouth; Dec 6 sailed, schr. Venus, DeLong, Wilmington.

FRIDAY—Brigt. Portree, Simpson, Boston 48 hours—wheat; brigt. Margaret—molasses to T. C. Kinnear.

CLEARED.

THURSDAY 31st.—Brigt Trial, Hobson, Liverpool GB—oil, lumber &c. by W. Stairs. 1st. brig Coquette, Harrison, BW Ladies—four, fish, &c. by J. A. Moren; schr. Louisa, Muggah, Cuba—fish, and lumber by Fairbanks & Allison; brigt. Margaret, Kinney, BW Indies,—pork, flour, oil, &c. by Fairbanks & Allison. Feb. 3 schr. Eight Sons, Eaton, BW Indies,—fish, lumber flour, &c. by J. Fairbanks.

SAILED—Wednesday 29th ult. H. M. Packet Darque Spey, Lieut James, for Falmouth. Friday, 31st brigt. Emerald, Freeman, Lunenburg.