

# THE TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE,

AND

AUSTRALASIAN

COMMERCIAL

& AGRICULTURAL

INTELLIGENCER.

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VOL. 1.

*"Let Temperance be thy companion, so shall health sit on thy brow."*

## TO OUR FRIENDS.

WE are enabled this day to fulfil our hope of presenting to our subscribers a number of THE TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE enlarged to half as much again as the one with which we started. We presume there will be no dissatisfaction at this. It is with pleasure we make this enlargement at the beginning of another quarter. We are grateful to the Committee, in generously seconding our wishes in this respect; for it must be plain to every one, that the Committee must be placed under a heavier responsibility, and nothing but their confidence in the public would have induced them to venture so far.

In endeavouring to supply what the colonists so much like, "a pennyworth for a penny," we shall also seek to supply a commodity as good in quality as it is liberal in point of size. And now we cast ourselves upon the generosity of our friends. We want two things—subscribers and subscriptions. If the Committee act generously toward the public the public ought to deal generously with them. And we think if every subscriber were to obtain another subscriber, we shall be able to go on prosperously. Moreover, if some of our friends will be so good as to pay up their subscriptions, we shall be enabled to pay our way with greater ease; and we think that when the annual sum is so small the whole of it may be easily and advantageously paid in advance. Do, good friends, think of the many persons who may be benefitted by your energy—the printer, ourselves, the committee, and the public at large, who, we are sure, must now feel a Temperance Newspaper to be a necessary of life. The battle of Temperance is far from having been fought,

there is much open and secret opposition to deal with; and it is vain to expect victory unless the artillery keep the field. If the Colonists really wish to have sober servants, sober parents, and sober children, and to deal with sober tradesmen, and to possess sober friends, in short, to be surrounded by a virtuous community, they will rally round our newspaper, which has but one object—one, however, which demands candid, considerate, and vigorous support—the moral good of the land.

## ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the "Temperance Advocate."

SIR.—Under the hope that the subject of my former letter on "Temperance Ships" would be taken up by some other willing and more able hand, I have abstained from further remarks, but being disappointed in this hope, I with your permission resume the subject.

The principal, and, indeed, almost the only argument used for the continuance of ardent spirits as a beverage for sailors, is that their circumstances in life require it, and that without the aid of a constant and powerful stimulant, they could not go through with the arduous duties of their profession, more particularly when, in gales of wind and storms, those duties are so greatly increased.

That the duties of seafaring life are arduous, and, in many cases, severe, I admit; but that they are ordinarily more toilsome than those of mechanics or labourers on land, it is, in my opinion, a question of doubt. Let us consider the point for a moment. It would be easy to produce examples of my position: two shall suffice. The firemen in a gas manufactory are exposed to heat which, to persons unacquainted with their occupation, would appear incredible. The physical exhaustion consequent upon being exposed for a number of hours each day in the furnace room of one of these establishments must be immense, besides which their labour is equal that of any day labourer. Now, if there be a case in which a stimulant is required, it must be such an one as this; and yet, strange to say, it is found by experience—the best teacher—that spirit drinkers are not equal to the task, they soon sink under it. And the only persons who have any chance of success in this employment are temperance men, and, best of all, teetotallers.

My other example is from the anchor smiths of dock-yards. These men are subjected to great heat and extraordinary exertion; and, influenced by the popular error that strong drink is necessary to strong labour, too many of them are both spirit drinkers and drunkards. There are now, however, thanks to the temperance cause, many exceptions to this rule: let one suffice. In a dock-yard in England was an anchor smith, whose physical strength and power of enduring fatigue

were such as to call forth frequent expressions of surprise from his fellow workmen, and others who were witnesses of it; and yet (strange it will, no doubt, appear) this man was a water-drinker: his strength and endurance lay not in excited blood and irritated nerves, the mere effervescence of a moment, but in a muscular system, wisely regulated, and well sustained, by a sufficiency of wholesome food and the simple beverage of nature.

Both the examples adduced will, I think, bear a comparison with a sailor's duties; and if in the one case spirits are not only not needful but injurious, on what ground of special pleading can they be proved useful and necessary in the other?

We all know that in cases of excitement, just in proportion to the strength of the exciting cause is the bodily prostration that invariably follows. And on this principle, it appears reasonable to judge, that the exhaustion of our sailors in gales and storms, manifest by their frequent crying out for grog, arises from their being daily plied with that exciting liquor, by which their natural powers of enduring fatigue are impaired and hence the physical depression which they exhibit after such exertions; a depression, not so much the result of those exertions as of the extra quantity of grog which on such occasions is served out to them. But I am intruding on your and your readers' patience—and, reserving further remarks till your next,

I am, yours, &c.

E. F.

To the Editor of the "Temperance Advocate."

SIR.—Among the many interesting views in which the important subject of Temperance and Temperance Societies may be regarded, there is one which has not yet, I humbly conceive, received all the attention it deserves. I refer to the connection of this important subject with the education of the young. Surely parents and teachers have an important duty to perform in this respect. If education be principally valuable as promoting the formation of good habits, and the instilling of right principles; how necessary that the child, even from the first dawn of reason, be thoroughly trained to a profound horror of that vice which Temperance Societies set themselves to oppose. Early let these habits be formed—they cannot be formed too early; soon enough will the child be connected with circumstances that will tend to justify in his mind sinful indulgence. The joys of a social circle, the return of a natal season, the change in the circumstances of any member of a family,—these things are soon seized upon, we know, to excuse what would otherwise be deemed reprehensible. The little observer will thus associate, too early in his mind, the recurrence of particular seasons with the gratification of animal appetites. We think this bad; let this impression be counteracted, or rather do not allow it to be made; permit him not, for one instant, to form the false notion that pleasure must necessarily be connected with eating and drinking. The habit so common in most families of bestowing any excellence a child may display with a glass of wine, &c., although trifling in itself, as I cannot but conceive (I may be wrong), calculated to lead the child to such an impression as I have mentioned. Once let this idea be firmly settled in his mind, and it will be

well-nigh impossible to eradicate it; soon will a habit be formed, and the mischief is done, past recovery. Parents! teachers! do you shudder at the thought of those interesting children committed to your care rising up to disgrace you, and ruin themselves by intemperate habits? Beware! the smallest leak may sink a ship, and that which is harmless to-day, becomes attended with consequences in successive years, from the bare contemplation of which you now recoil with virtuous horror.

If these thoughts are of any use to you, I may again trouble you on the same subject: in the mean time, Mr. Editor, wishing every success to your valuable Society, as well as to your periodical, its accredited organ,

I am, Sir,

Your constant reader,

H. E.

#### FIGARO'S NOTIONS OF A DRUNKEN MAN.

To the Editor of the "Temperance Advocate."

A drunkard is in my eyes the most despicable of men, and so violent is my aversion to one, that, in sketching his character, I fear lest I may not be able to draw it sufficiently mild.

I am a great stickler for sobriety, but, in protesting against the use of cordials, am myself an *ardent spirit*. I always had the most weighty scruples against a *dram*, and am one of those who feel no commiseration at the fall of the *dram*. When a man once becomes addicted to drink, he seldom leaves the practice off; it is one of those habits which is scarcely ever got rid of, but are always *abandoned*. Property is alike sacrificed to that pernicious influence of liquor; a man given to intoxication never can renovate his broken fortune, though he always fancies he is *coming round*; and, though his head is constantly *swimming*, he can never keep it *above water*. He endeavours to preserve him from melancholy by never being *out of spirits*, yet seldom can he find to enjoy himself except when he is either *eing or whining*. He never thinks of death, though he delights in the anticipation of going to his *beer*. He behaves like a brute to his wife, inasmuch as he is addicted to *lick her*, and, if you tell him he is a villain, he replies that, as such, it is fit he should be *branded*. His mania often drives him to a crime, and though he constantly has a *drop* in his eye, he never thinks about the *gallovs*. His illicit propensities render him blind to the beauty of the laws: he hates the *customs* of his country, and the *duty on spirits* he considers applicable not to the living, but the dead. He is continually making for *the port*, and has so great an anxiety to double *the cape*, that he soon arrives at death's harbour. Though generally the most degraded of men, yet a drunkard is most commonly first of the human *race*, at least, he is the one that soonest gets to the end of his journey.

M. D.

To the Editor of the "Temperance Advocate."

SIR.—I read Mr. Welch's letter on Tobacco with much interest, and am well convinced that the common habit of smoking is very injurious; still I fail to see the propriety of the Temperance Societies adding abstinence from tobacco to their pledge to abstain from intoxicating drinks. Two strong reasons against this course suggest themselves:—First, the narcotic influence of tobacco is widely different from the infuriating power of alcoholic drinks. Tobacco soothes; it does not exhilarate; in a second step, it stupifies: it does not excite; in a third stage it deadens: it does not madden; neither outrage nor crime springs from tobacco; and hence it is a minor evil, to be attacked at some other time, and by some other means. In the Temperance Society we combat with a giant vice: do not let us be diverted from one single aim at this by the pig-wilds which may be clustering at his feet. The second reason is, that by abstinence from liquor the temperance men will do much to diminish the use of tobacco. Hundreds who carry on the pipe and the pot together will be nauseated, and be obliged to resign the pipe as soon as the pot is discarded.

I consider the common practice of smoking as detestable; at the same time, let the Temperance Societies do one thing at a time, and that one thing well.

I am yours,

STEADY.

To the Editor of the "Temperance Advocate."

MY DEAR SIR.—I was highly gratified, and indeed affected, at witnessing, the other morning, the calm and composed manner of the procession of the Members of the Temperance Club through the streets of Sydney. After an absence of about nine months in the country, and knowing some little of the public amusements in the town, it struck me as a happy omen of a more favourable state of morals throughout the city, which I sincerely trust is really the case, for the sake of our general comfort. Indeed, the time seems arrived, when all men of ample potatoes are to be discouraged by common consent, and the Corinthian pranks of the Waterford, Douro, and other *rois equestres* generis, discouraged by the frowns of court: and his Excellency the Governor having promulgated his own veto of displeasure against all such offenders, "queque ipse miscorima vidi, et quorum pars magna fui!"

Still, though I cannot conscientiously consider myself as a confirmed proselyte, yet I do not despair of becoming so ere long, when, perhaps, I am possessed of a portion of that same common sense which has actuated the reverend gentleman who is now one of your most zealous advocates,

"Tho' every brother rake should smile to see  
That miracle, a moralist, in me."

Not to encroach further on your valuable time, but that your cause may prosper, I do sincerely hope, I remain, my dear Sir,

PHILANTHROPOS.

Sydney, Monday Morning,  
4th 1 mo., 1841.

#### FALSE STATEMENT RESPECTING THE REV. W. JAY, OF BATH, CORRECTED.

To the Editor of the British Temperance Advocate.

Worcester, 27th of 7 Month, 1840.

Some time since I read with pleasure a letter addressed to the secretary of the Bath Temperance Society, by W. Jay, Independent minister, of Bath, allowing him to make what use he pleased of it; consequently it was widely circulated through the country in many publications. A short time since I was informed by a very respectable young man, that W. Jay had expressed great regret at sending the aforesaid letter, in consequence of the use made of it. As it appeared from the letter there was full permission to act as the secretary thought proper. I could not believe the report, and therefore wrote to know the truth. The enclosed was his answer, which, being the original, please to return to me as soon as you have made use of it. I think, as it relates to a man of such high standing in the religious world, it ought to have a wide circulation, not knowing to what extent the erroneous statement has travelled. Believe me thy assured friend,

SAMUEL DARKE.

Bath, July 24th.

DEAR SIR.—You must excuse brevity, as I am in the midst of preparing for an excursion of six months to the sea-side. You reason justly, supposing my integrity, from the liberty I gave the receiver of my letter. Instead of repenting of that allowance, I have ever since rejoiced in it, "yea, and do rejoice." I took the pledge and publically avowed it, not to bind myself (for I had long practised teetotalism, from every kind of conviction), but to employ a little influence (which I knew I had from my age, and preaching, and writings) in exciting and encouraging others; and I am thankful, from many acknowledgments, that my wish and my hope have not been disappointed.

"I am sorry so many members and ministers of various religious denominations are unfriendly to one of the most beneficial exertions the providence of God has produced. Surely their opposition must be founded in [want of] information. Had they seen and heard so much only as I have seen and heard, they would be ready to come forward 'to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.' But whatever be the opinion or determination of others, let us be faithful to our own convictions; and bear our verbal and practical testimony 'which will not be in vain in the Lord.'"

"You are free to use this *contradiction* and *recommendation* as you please. In haste, believe me,

"Dear Sir, your's truly,

W. JAY.

#### MR. GREEN'S DESCENT OF THE BALLOON.

Having ascertained that some very exaggerated reports are afloat with respect to the circumstances under which Mr. Macdonnell and I made our descent yesterday evening, I think it right, in order to counteract the impression which might be produced by them, to send you the following particulars:—

Having been in the atmosphere about 15 minutes, our descent took place at 20 minutes past seven P. M. in a large marsh in the parish of Rainham, in Essex, after crossing the Thames four times. The distance, as near as may be, from Cremorne House is about 20 miles. On no former occasion of my numerous ascents have I ever had to contend with so violent a wind as raged during almost the whole of yesterday; in fact, it was only a very short time before we ascended that there was an abatement of its force.

Notwithstanding that the spot selected was very well adapted to effect a descent, being an extensive open marsh land, I never experienced so rough a landing: the first time the grapnel took a firm hold the shock was so violent, in consequence of the state of the weather, that the hoop to which it was attached, and which had been used by me and my son in no less than 313 voyages with success, broke, depriving us of the grapnel and cable, both of which were left behind, firmly fixed in the object to which the grapnel had caught—a bank; we were then dragged about a mile and a half over the earth's surface in the space of three minutes, by which time nearly the whole of the gas was expended, in consequence of our never abandoning the care of the valve-line. We received several severe shocks and concussions in passing over dikes, banks, and fences, and a strong paling, through which the car tore its way by the velocity of its motion.

This illustrates in a new form that fact in natural philosophy, that a comparatively soft body like our flexible wicker car, when in very rapid motion, will force its way through a hard one, without itself suffering material injury.

I am happy to say we eventually escaped, but not without some severe bruises; we did indeed get some hard knocks.

Had it not been for the determined courage of my companion, to whom I had the honour of being introduced by Lord Dudley Stuart, who himself made a voyage with me on a former occasion, the descent must have been attended with most serious consequences.

I understand that one of the reports in circulation is, that the injuries I have received are of such a nature, that I must abandon the profession of an aeronaut. Permit me to say, that I hope to disprove this report by making an aerial voyage from the new world to the old, taking the advantage of the prevalence of westerly winds, as soon as I shall have constructed the kind of balloon which I know to be necessary for that purpose.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

CHARLES GREEN.

Highgate, Aug. 18.

**Dr. CHANNING'S OPINION OF TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.**

The associations for suppressing Intemperance form an interesting feature of our times. Their object is of an undoubted utility and unites the hearts of all good men. They aim to suppress an undoubted and gross vice, to free its victims from the worst bondage, to raise them from degradation to the liberty and happiness of men. There is one strong presumption in favour of the means which they have used. We have never heard of their awakening enmity and counteraction. In one view, the success of the efforts against intemperance affords us peculiar satisfaction. It demonstrates a truth little felt, but infinitely precious, viz: The recoverableness of human nature from the lowest depths of vice; It teaches us that there is always something to work on; a gem to be unfolded, a spark which may be cherished in the human soul. Intemperance is the most hopeless state into which a man can fall; and yet, instances of recovery from this vice have rewarded the recent efforts of the philanthropist. Let philanthropy then rejoice in the belief, that the capacity of improvement is never lost, and let it convert his conviction into new and more strenuous efforts for the recovery of the most deprived.

**SCOTLAND,**

**INTERESTING LETTER FROM THE REVEREND R. G. MASON.**

*To the Editor of the Temperance Advocate and Journal.*

DEAR SIR,—The enclosed document will no doubt fill you with astonishment, and you will be ready to suppose that we have done little to improve the condition of the Aberdeen people. But permit me to tell you, that bad as things are at the present period, they have been still worse in reputedly religious Scotland. It is no, however, surprising that all this should be going on, (for this it but a fair average of what takes place every month) in a country celebrated for its superior morality, and in a city rendered the focus of learning by the existence of two universities? We have posted this black catalogue of crime on the walls of every street, and lectured on the subject in the most public places, and it is doing great good. Convinced that *stern* is better than *stagnation*, we are determined to agitate the question in every direction and on every occasion. We have succeeded in putting the whole country upon its defence, and we are effecting a complete change in public opinion. We are throwing "cold water" on the whole drinking system, and we mean by the help of Heaven to put it out. We rejoice to tell you that the cause of genuine temperance is achieving the most glorious triumphs in every part of our degenerate land, and at the present moment it is in a more healthy condition than at any previous period. Our members are more alive, our meetings are better attended, our converts are more numerous, our enemies are more terrified, our friends more encouraged, and our prospects more cheering. Teetotalism is the chief topic of discussion, and thousands are now speaking its praise who once ridiculed its principles. I have recently been making rapid progress through various hamlets and villages, and gaining access to almost every parish church and chapel. I have lectured in more than thirty parish churches during the last three months, and have had an average of seven hundred hearers on every occasion, in the most rural districts. The people come over moor and mountains for many miles round, and flock to the meetings like "doves to the windows," dark nights, rough roads, wet weather, and long journeys, have proved no impediment. Bakers and butchers, tailors and drapers, are deluged in business; while dram-sellers, pawn-brokers, gaol-keepers and grave-diggers have scarcely any thing to do. Crowds are going to church who had neither the will nor the power to attend before, and many are pressing under the word, who received no benefit by their former attendance. Multitudes are seeking a temporal, and numbers a spiritual deliverance, for God as well as man is at work, and working wonders. Our obstacles are many, but prudence, patience,

perseverance, and prayer will overcome every difficulty. I have now, by the blessing of God, formed societies in every county in Scotland, and they are most of them "fat and flourishing." My hands are full—my head is clear—my health is good—my hope is bright—my heart is glad—Praise the Lord! We are now forming a Northern Union, and commencing a temperance publication. We recently opened an additional coffee house, and last night we crowded a new temperance hall. But the hour is late, and my paper pretty full. Farewell. Yours, in haste,

ROBERT GRAY MASON.

**ANOTHER TROPHY.**

The following letter has been sent to us for insertion by the party to whom it is addressed, in the hope of its doing good to the cause.

"Delhi, East Indies, Dec. 19th, 1859.

"Dear John,—By the blessings of Providence I am still alive, and what will give you scarcely less delight to hear, I am an altered man. Adversity, and illness unto death, have wrought great changes in me; but I had better give you an account of what has happened to me since I left you, four years ago, a cursed and silly drunkard. Never shall I forget my feelings when I awoke the morning after that fatal night, and found myself bound to a service which I detested. The idea of perpetual banishment from my country and the certainty of leaving my bones in a foreign land, almost drove me to distraction. I remained in that state, driving away reflection as far as possible, by drinking as much spirits as my pay would afford, till long after I had arrived in India. Here signs of diseased liver were not long in showing themselves, and the doctors looked on me as a doomed man. I could feel the fatal enlargement in my side, and not till then did I think of leaving off the use of the poison which was killing me, and at this anxious time I fortunately got acquainted with a comrade of the name of James Stevenson, also a Northumberland man, who was a staunch teetotaler, and, by acting on its principles, had preserved his health here for *twelve* years; whilst hundreds of his fellow-soldiers, who were without his wisdom, fell victims to disease. *By his advice and example, my mind was strengthened,* and I practised temperance, drinking only pure water for the last nine months, and at present I feel myself better both in spirit and body than I have been for many years. Oh, John, if you have not done so, let me beg of you to lose no time in joining a teetotal society. Oh, that I had been so blessed years since. What misery and sorrow it would have saved me! We have got up a temperance association among the soldiers here, which is weekly increasing in numbers. We have now thirty members in it, and I am secretary to it. We find that we can get many little comforts now with the money that drink used to swallow up. We often think what a pleasure it is to know that we are engaged in the same great work with so many of the wise and good of our own dear country. The natives here seldom or never taste spirits among themselves, and this *accounts for their escaping the fevers and diseases which kill so many Europeans.*—Your affectionate brother,

"ALEXANDER THOMPSON."

[It is gratifying to know that while one brother was being rescued from intemperance in *India*, the other was also being saved from the same vice in *England*! Christians, can you read this interesting account, and stand aloof from Temperance Societies?]

**DEATH.**—Men fear death, as children fear the dark; and as that natural fear in children is increased by frightful tales, so is the other. Groans, convulsions, weeping friends, and the like, show death terrible; yet there is no passion so weak but conquers the fear of it, and therefore death is not such a terrible enemy. Revenge triumphs over death, love slights it, honour aspires to it, dread of shame preters it, grief flies to it, and fear anticipates it.—**LORD BACON.**

**VOYAGE OF THE BRITANNIA.**

The success of the steamer from Liverpool to Boston by way of Halifax, has caused considerable attention to be directed to that route; and the Boston steamers seem likely enough, not merely to divide trade and passengers with the New York vessels, but to obtain the greater portion of it. The advantage obtained by the *Britannia* over the *British Queen*, both in the outward and homeward voyage, is not owing entirely to her speed, but to the smaller distance which she had to cover, as will be seen from the following statement, which has been carefully taken from the best charts, and may probably interest some of our readers:—

<i>New York to Liverpool.</i>	
To Cape Clear	2748
Cape Clear to Tuscar	150
Tuscar to Skerries	90
Skerries to Liverpool	60
	3048
<i>New York to Bristol.</i>	
To Cape Clear	2784
Cape Clear to Bristol	275
	3023
<i>New York to Portsmouth.</i>	
To the Lizard	2952
Lizard to Portsmouth	200
	3162
<i>Halifax to Liverpool.</i>	
To Cape Clear	2200
Cape Clear to Tuscar	150
Tuscar to Skerries	90
Skerries to Liverpool	60
	2500
Boston to Halifax	350
	2850

The advantage of the route by Halifax and Boston are not confined to the smaller total distance; for, in a steam voyage across the Atlantic, it is a matter of no small consequence to have an intermediate station, at which, if the progress of the vessel should be retarded by unfavourable weather, a fresh supply of coal can be obtained, and the chance of missing the voyage greatly diminished.—*Manchester Guardian.*

**STEAM versus STEAM.**—The voyage of the *British Queen* to New York and of the *Britannia* to Boston has been regarded, by what may be called "the steam world," a trial of speed. If we assume the difference between Liverpool and Boston and Portsmouth and New York at 32 hours, and strike off eight for the detention of the latter at Halifax, the advantage is in favor of the latter steamer by at least one whole day.

**GRATITUDE.**—A few days past some children were playing at the bottom of an old dried-up well, at a small village in the department of Rhone. They amused themselves by stirring up the rubbish at the bottom, and discovered a large iron chest, completely eaten up with rust. One of them was immediately dispatched in search of a strong cord, and the chest was borne in triumph to the owner of the well. On being forced open, it was found to contain an immense heap of gold coins of the three reigns which preceded the revolution of 1789, and also several bundles of family papers. The proprietor, thanked the children for their discovery, but added that he should apply to their parents for some indemnity for the cord, which they had materially damaged in their efforts to draw up the iron chest.

**BURNS AND HIS HIGHLAND MARY.**—We have seen in the possession of Mr. Christie, merchant, in this city, the pair of bibles presented by the poet Burns to his Highland Mary. They are in a good state of preservation. It is rather a curious circumstance, that they should have found their way to Canada; but having been carefully preserved in the family, their present owner emigrated from Scotland some years ago—having refused, before embarking at Greenock, the sum of £10 sterling, which was offered for the bibles, by one very desirous of procuring them. Circumstances having changed, he is now desirous of disposing of them, and has placed them in the hands of Mr. Christie for that purpose, who is about to send them to Montreal.—*Toronto Colonist, U. C.*

## CAPTAIN INNES, J. P.

The subjoined is the memorial, and His Excellency's Reply thereto, respecting the removal of our able and indefatigable Superintendent of Police. This is a case in which the old proverb holds good, that "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." Whatever may be the qualifications of the gentleman appointed from home, it is certain that he will lack Captain Innes's colonial experience—experience gained by long residence and persevering industry—and that, in such a situation, is an accomplishment superior to any other necessary for such an officer. Besides, without flattery, that which is mere play to the present Superintendent, might be both difficult and harduous to another person. To His Excellency Sir George Gipps, Knight, Captain General and Governor-in-Chief of New South Wales, &c., &c., &c.

We the undersigned Magistrates of the Territory of New South Wales residing in the district of Sydney, having been informed that a Superintendent of Police is on his passage from England to relieve Captain Innes from that situation, respectfully beg leave to express our regret to your Excellency, that the Home Government should have contemplated the removal of so efficient an Officer, who has on all occasions performed the important duties required of him to our perfect satisfaction, and having co-operated with us in our Magisterial capacities, the peculiar nature of which in this Colony requires energy and local experience, which Captain Innes possesses in an eminent degree. We therefore humbly request that should it not be inconsistent with instructions from her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, Your Excellency will be pleased to retain Captain Innes in the situation he so ably fills at present.

We are strangers to Mr. Miles, who may be shortly expected to arrive in this Colony, with a recommendation for the above appointment; therefore can have no personal prejudice against that gentleman; our only object in now addressing your Excellency, being to preserve the good order and quietude of the inhabitants of Sydney which have been so well maintained by Captain Innes. J. Bowman, W. S. Deloitte, Robert Johnston, Robert Leithridge, Thomas Shadforth A. B. Spark, W. H. Clarke, Thomas Gore, S. Raymond, Stuart A. Donaldson, Ranulph Dacre, Edey Manning, S. W. Gosling, V. H. McKenzie, John Lord, William Daws, William Carter, H. C. Wilson, W. A. Steel, Henry Smith, Alfred Cheeke, Thomas Urnson Ryder, Thomas Barker.

## HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN.—A Superintendent of the Sydney Police having been appointed by the Secretary of State, I regret it is not in my power to comply with the main object of your address; I am however extremely happy to find that the service of Captain Innes are so highly appreciated by his brother Magistrates, and I assure you there is not one amongst you who estimates them higher than I do.

Though no longer Superintendent of Police, I trust Captain Innes will still continue in a situation in which he may render essential service to yourselves and the inhabitants of Sydney.

GEORGE GIPPS.

Government House, Sydney, Jan. 2, 1841.

## MISCELLANEA.

BIOGRAPHY.—To find that great lengths have actually been gone in learning and virtue—that high degrees of perfection have actually been attained by men like ourselves, entangled among the infirmities, the temptations, the oppositions from wicked men, and the other various evils of life—how does this show us to ourselves as utterly inexcusable, if we do not endeavour to reach the heights we know have been gained by others of our fellow creatures? Biography sets before us the whole character of a person who has made himself eminent either by his virtues or his vices—shows us how he came first to take a right or wrong turn—the prospect which invited him to aspire to higher degrees of glory, or the delusions which misled him from his virtue and his peace;

the circumstances which raised him to true greatness, or the rocks on which he split, and sunk to infamy. And how can we more effectually, or in a more entertaining manner, learn the important lesson, what we ought to pursue, and what to avoid?—*Burgh's Dignity of Human Nature.*

CANAL BETWEEN THE RHINE AND THE DANUBE.—Napoleon's grand project for uniting the Rhine and Danube by means of a canal is very nearly completed. The whole will be finished in 1842, and it is now completed from Bamberg to Nuremberg. A part will be thus open for navigation in the course of next year.

MAHOMEDANS.—The absence of spirituous liquors forms no inconsiderable item in the contrast between an European and an Asiatic vessel. Here our only beverage (with the exception of coffee) was water. I seldom cared for wine, and I found my health and spirits improve rather than suffer by a Mahomedan like abstinence.—*Wellsted's City of the Caliphs.*

A most diabolical attempt was made last week to poison the whole of the passengers, between sixty and seventy, in number, of the steamer 'New York,' on her trip from Cincinnati to Pittsburgh. It appears that a warm discussion on the subject of abolition had been carried on amongst the passengers, a large part of whom were anti-abolition men. The steward of the boat being unwell, employed a black man to bake the bread for supper; immediately after eating it the passengers were taken violently sick, with vomiting, &c. The black man was immediately examined, who acknowledged his guilt, and that he intended to have poisoned all the passengers. He was then confined in the steward's room, but in the confusion of the moment he jumped out of the window, and it was not known whether he was drowned or had reached the shore. There were two kinds of bread on the table, and it was soon ascertained that those who had not eaten the corn bread escaped. Every alleviation possible was afforded the sufferers, many of whom it was feared for a few days would not recover; none however died. Among the sufferers was the Rev. J. F. Clarke, Pastor of the Unitarian church at Louisville, who lay one or two days very sick at Pittsburgh, from the effects of the poison, but has since resumed his journey. The above took place near Marietta. Portions of the corn bread have been brought to this city to be analyzed.—*Cincinnati Chronicle, June 29.*

THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO.—A singular calculation has been made relative to the 2000 officers engaged in that memorable event. There are now living and serving in the army—1 field-marshal, 5 generals, 21 lieutenant-generals, 31 major-generals, 81 colonels, 123 lieutenant-colonels, 82 majors, 108 captains, lieutenants, quarter-masters, and surgeons, which, with 200 killed or died with wounds, and 1348 sold out, died, retired, &c. make up the 2000.

WHAT BECOMES OF THE OLD GIANTS?—"How's the Giant?" said Short, when they all sat smoking round the fire. "Rather weak upon his legs," returned Mr. Vuffin. "I begin to be afraid he's going at the knees." "That's a bad look-out," said Short. "Aye, bad indeed," replied Mr. Vuffin, contemplating the fire with a sigh. "Once get a giant off his legs, and the public care no more about him than they do for a dead cabbage stalk!" "What becomes of the giants?" said Short, turning to him again, after a little reflection. "They're usually kept in caravans, to wait upon the dwarfs," said Mr. Vuffin. "The maintaining of 'em must become expensive when they can't be shown, eh?" remarked Short, eyeing him doubtfully. "It's better than letting 'em go upon the parish or about the street," said Mr. Vuffin. "Once make a giant common, and giants will never draw again. Look at wooden legs. If there was only one man with a wooden leg, what a property he'd be?" "So he would," observed the landlord and Short both together. "That's very true." "Instead of which," pursued Mr. Vuffin, "if you was to advertise Shakspeare played entirely by wooden legs, it's my belief

you wouldn't draw a sixpence." "I don't suppose you would," said Short, and the landlord said so too. "This shows you, you see," said Mr. Vuffin, waving his pipe with an argumentative air "this shows the policy of keeping the used-up giants still in the caravans."—*Master Humphrey's Clock.*

AMUSEMENT.—In studying the character of a people, our inquiry should always be, what were their amusements? We here get hold of great features, which often unriddle the rest. This is indispensably necessary, where states have risen to cultivation. In the finer tracts of the temperate regions of the earth, you meet amusements that are elegant and pleasures that are refined. Departing on either hand to the south, or to the north, you find taste to degenerate, and gratification to become impure. At length, arriving at the extremities, refinement is utterly lost; to give pleasure is to stupify, or to intoxicate—here by opium—there by brandy and tobacco. The happy intermediate regions enjoy the *ivresse du sentiment*. Is the philosopher to set at naught these distinctions? Is he to lay no stress upon the different state of the arts? Is he to imagine it imports not that the peasant in Muscovy subsists on garlic, and solaces himself with ardent spirits; and in Italy that he feeds on a water-melon, and goes forth with the guitar on his back to plough?—ROBERTSON'S INQUIRY INTO THE FINE ARTS.

COMPOSING AND DISTRIBUTING MACHINE.—A great degree of interest has recently been excited in Presburg by the invention of a machine which proposes to effect a wonderful revolution, in the art of printing. The inventor is a person named Joseph Von Kliegel, and the machine is said to possess the twofold power of superseding the operation of the hand in composing and sorting and distributing types. Only the model has, as yet, been produced; but a committee has been formed at Presburg, under the superintendence of Count Ludwig Bathuany, for the purpose of raising the funds necessary for the construction of the machine. Von Kliegel has given to his invention the name of Typographsche Schnellseiz and Sortir Machine. Though capable of conjoint operation in the process of composing and distributing types, yet the two powers of the machine, being quite distinct and independent of each other, are capable of acting separately. Here Von Kliegel has pledged himself first to complete that portion of the machine, applicable to type, sorting. A sheet of Cicero type may, it is said, be broken up and distributed within the duration of an hour and a half, by an operation which requires no manual aid, and may be made to act day and night like clock-work. In the course of a day ten sheets may be broken up and distributed. The composing machine is connected with the distributing machine, so that the type boxes may be instantly transferred from the latter to the former. The distributing machine is worked by means of a handle, turned like that of a mangle; the composing machine acts by means of a key-board, like that of a piano-forte, which must be touched by the compositor. It is expected that, by the aid of this invention, words may be composed as rapidly as they can be spelt. Even a slow, unpractised compositor, may compose a sheet of Cicero type in an hour and a half; and he requires no other help than that of a boy to lift from the machine each page as it is completed.—*Polytechnic Journal.*

AMERICAN FIGURE OF SPEECH.—The verb "to fix" is universal. It means to do any thing. "Shall I fix your coat or your breakfast first?" That is—"Shall I brush your coat, or get ready your breakfast first?" Right away, for immediately, or at once, is very general. "Shall I fix it right away?" i. e. "Shall I do it immediately?" In the West, when you stop at an Inn, they say—"What will you have? Brown meal and common doings, or white wheat and chicken fixings?" That is—"Will you have Pork and brown bread, or white bread and fried chicken?" Also—"Will you have a feed or a check?"—a dinner or a luncheon? In full blast—something in extreme. "When she came to meeting, with her yellow hat and feathers, wasn't she in full blast?"