

man was dangerous, nor was it long before he displayed the ferocity of his temper in a remarkable manner, that convinced us that if Tom Baldrey were not actually a murderer, he owed his exemption from that awful crime more to the prudence of his neighbours than to his own forbearance.

He had been drinking excessively one Saturday night, and spent the whole Sunday in the same disgraceful manner, and about four o'clock in the afternoon came home without his hat, in an ill humour, ready indeed, as his poor wife afterwards said, to quarrel with every body, even with the stones in the street. Tom Baldrey had been forced to leave his hat in pledge for the payment of the potatoes he had been swallowing at the Swan, a house he had never been known to frequent before. But Tom, who was lately become a rich man, as we have seen, thought he ought to use a genteel inn and commence gentleman at once. He ordered about him bravely, and having drunk up all the money he had about him, began to drink upon trust. The bar-maid, who refused to score for him without the cash, laughed at Tom's boast of his legacy, which she considered as the coinage of his brain, and finally detained his hat until he should bring the money to redeem it. Shorn of his self-importance, as well as bare-headed, the drunkard reeled home with the hot beams of a July afternoon sun shining in his face, and heating his already excited brain. To add to his mortification the weather was intensely hot, and the congregation of the village church were just coming out as he passed it, for it lies by the highway-side, and the tippler could not avoid it without going a mile out of his way. With the aspect of an unchained bear, Tom Baldrey faced the matter out, and turning round with a sort of inward growl whenever any reflections upon his want of sobriety met his ear, reached home without having engaged in any affray, though anger was burning fiercely in his veins, and he was longing to destroy every living witness of his degradation. To go to bed was, I believe, his first intention, but he found the door locked and his family out. They had gone to church, and were not yet returned, having stopped to speak to their neighbours on their way home, and though on hearing that their unworthy relative was on before, much the worse for what he had been taking, they had hurried forward, they were too late for Tom's liking, to whom in his angry mood the delay seemed to be an age. He was sitting on the door-stone, the very hottest place he could have chosen for a seat, and was regarding the passengers with looks of rage and defiance, when his wife and children came home.

Without daring to speak a word, his poor wife hastened to unlock the door, though she did not accomplish this object without receiving sundry thrusts from the elbow of her drunken and moody partner.

"La, father, what has become of your hat?" asked one of the girls, with more curiosity than prudence, "I am sure your head must be very hot without it."

"Father has lost his hat," whispered Robert to his other sister, "I wonder what he has done with it. The people were talking about it as we came out of church."

"I dare say it's at the Swan," remarked Tabitha, "for I heard that he was there all night. If I were mother I would go and see, for it's a bran new silk beaver, and cost a deal of money."

"Mine is quite as good," answered the boy, "and I will take care of it too. Why every looked at me as I went to church. I should have liked to wear it in sermon time, that the whole congregation might see how grand I looked."

"How wicked, Robert, you grow!" remarked his mother. "Pride is a sin, and we ought not to go to church to show off our fine clothes, but to say our prayers, and attend to the sermon: we should go to serve God, not to stare about, or want to be stared at."

The children continued their remarks in a sort of under current, regardless of their mother's gestures, who evidently wished them to keep silence, when Baldrey suddenly rose from his sitting posture, pushed them all into the house, and seizing the new beaver hat, the improper

object of Robert's veneration, beat it about his person till it had lost all shape, and actually hung in strips that bore no vestige of its original form. It was well for the boy that the soft yielding materials thus converted into a weapon of offence was capable rather of receiving than giving injury, or he might have suffered severely from his father's brutality. Robert, used to such attacks, dexterously covered his face and ears with his hands, and therefore remained unhurt; but the new hat, the improper object of his idolatry, was no longer a hat, but a shapeless ruin. Robert uttered a loud roar, expressive of displeasure and mortification, and then burst into tears. The sight of his son's grief by no means appeased the angry passions of the drunkard; he looked about him for his stick, which had been slyly put out of his reach by his daughter Tabitha, and seeing nothing like a fitting instrument of correction, snatched up a quart pewter pot, and commenced an action of assault and battery upon the boy's head with that dangerous implement. A few blows would probably have put an end to the existence of the boy, but what mother can see her child in danger without opposing her feeble strength against the aggressor? Dame Baldry was a quiet woman, a submissive woman, patient of injury, and endowed with much long-suffering; but she could not stand by and see her child murdered; she threw herself upon her husband, wrenched the pewter pot from his grasp, released Robert from his perilous situation, and locking her husband firmly in the face, cried out, "Dear heart alive, would you kill your own flesh and blood—your own precious child?" For a moment Tom regarded his wife with the aspect of a tiger whose prey has unexpectedly been torn out of his mouth. Her courage astonished him, for hitherto he had found nothing in her character but timidity and passive endurance. The most timid creatures in existence became brave when danger threatens their young, and maternity is always disinterested, fearlessly fond, vigilant and faithful in the defence of its offspring. At any other time Tom might have admired the force of maternal love, but now all feeling, all reason was lost in inebriety, and clenching his hands and grinding his teeth he muttered, "I will kill my own flesh and blood, but, wife, I mean to kill you." Then with desperate force he drove the children forth, who had gathered round their mother, shut the door, and bidding his victim sit down, ran up stairs for a hammer and nails, and began to nail up the door. I always wondered why his wife did not run out of the house during his temporary absence. Either she was paralysed with fear, or perhaps her late contest with her husband had unnerved her; it is even possible that her reasons for her stay might be found in the unfathomable depths of a mother's love. It was better for him to murder her than her poor children, she might think, and perhaps she even yet clung to the hope that God would deliver her out of her husband's hands. The poor children ran shrieking about the road in great distress, and the quiet family next door came round the window, and implored Tom Baldrey to spare his good, quiet, unoffending wife.

"Run, Tabitha, to madam's house," cried Sam Burton's wife, "and beg her to come directly, or old Tom will murder his wife, and then see for my man, and tell madam to bring Peter with her, and all the help she can get."

Off flew, rather than ran, the poor girl, who rushed into the house with the ominous-sounding words, "Madam, madam, father is killing mother; pray, come and bring your man Peter, before mother is wholly done for." Then wringing her hands, she added, "If the young squire were but at home, father would undo the door for him. I know."

But a long stretch of sea and shore lay between poor Tabitha and her wish, for my brother was abroad and beyond recall. My mother, however, was not a woman to desert one of her own sex in the time of need; she summoned Peter, and taking my sister with her, followed the weeping Tabitha to Rose Cottage. Near the gate, they met Peter's father, the respectable farmer for whom Baldrey worked, and he readily consented to use his influence, if it should be

needed, with our refractory tenant. By the gate stood Robert, with his head badly cut, and his sisters crying round him. The neighbours were gathered about the door in a timid group, with faces indicative of consternation and affright. "Look into that window, madam," cried Anne Burton, "and you will see a dreadful sight."

Tabitha screamed; but my mother being a woman of a resolute character, walked up to the window and looked in. There stood Tom Baldrey, with a hatchet in his hand, bending over his wife, who was sitting, pale as marble, on a chair, her hands tied, apparently awaiting the descent of the blow that was about to deprive her of life. A cold shudder stole throughout my mother's frame, but she mastered her feelings, and rapping at the casement to attract the intended murderer's attention, she said, in an authoritative tone, "Baldrey, open the door, and let me in. I want to speak to you."

Tom started back at the sound of her voice, and in his surprise dropped the deadly implement. "Who are you? I don't know you at all," was his civil reply.

"Why, Tom, it's madam, to be sure, who does you the honour to come to see you," said his master. "Open the door, and show some better manners. Sure you must know madam?"

"Somehow I have a notion I do; but what business she can have at my house on this day, which I take to be Sunday, I don't know at all. However, every man's house is his castle, as I have heard say, and so, as my door is nailed up, I shall not force it open for she."

"Shame, 'bor, shame," remarked the farmer, "you won't be so bold as to keep madam out of her own house?"

"I pay for it, and so it's my house; and as for you, I don't know what concern you can have with my nailing up my door, for I never saw you to my certain knowledge in my life before."

"Why, Tom, am I not your master? have not you worked for me ever since you came into this parish?"

"I tell you I don't know you at all, for if I am your slave six days in the week, I am my own master of a Sunday."

"Shame, shame!" retorted the farmer. "Here's a way to keep the Sabbath in!"

"It's my way," sharply retorted the labourer, "and if you don't like it you may lump it, as the saying is. However, I must finish my wife first, and then I will come out and do for you," and the madman took up the hatchet.

"If, madam, you are not afraid of going in, I will let you through my house, and Peter shall unnailed the door that parts the dwelling, and you can get into the room in spite of old Tom," said Anne Burton; and as Peter, and his father, and my husband are here, I think we can get that poor soul out of her peril without much danger."

My mother thanked her, and approved her plan, and in two minutes the whole party stood in the presence of the drunkard and his wife, just in time, indeed, to save her life. Peter, strong and brave, stole behind Tom, and possessed himself of the weapon. The intended victim raised her hands in silent thanksgiving; the madman turned fiercely round, but catching my mother's eye, to the astonishment of every body, caught up an old red nightcap, and hastily dusting a chair, "hoped that she would be pleased to take a seat."

My mother quietly seated herself, and Baldry, standing before her, asked her reason for coming to see him?

"Why do you ask that question?" replied the lady, glancing significantly at the tear-stained visage of his wife.

"Madam, I think I have been a year and a half under your roof, and you never did me such an honour before. Now the visit is inconvenient, because I wanted to get rid of my wife, for she does not suit me at all."

"Baldrey, she is a good woman, and an excellent wife," rejoined my mother, "a wife, indeed, without a fault."

"She is well enough," replied her ungracious spouse, "but then she is very ugly; only look at her," and Tom lifted up his wife's downcast face in an insulting manner, that every body might see that she was indeed "no beauty." Now nature had not certainly been prodigal of charms.

in this instance, and the addition of two tremendous black eyes from her husband's hand, had not at all improved dame Baldrey's small personal attractions. Her true loveliness consisted in the charm of a meek and quiet spirit, which we are told is an ornament, in God's sight, of great price. Beside "these inward adornments of the mind," Tom's wife was at least as good-looking as her husband, therefore he ought not to have despised her for what she could not help. "You all see that she is no beauty; indeed, she is looking an old fright; now, I am myself a very handsome young man."

"Father," said Tabitha, "if I were you, I would not talk so much about my beauty." Though the artless reproof was spoken in sober seriousness, and the speaker was in tears, the effect was so irresistibly comic that every body laughed, and the persecuted wife could not restrain her risibility, and even my mother relaxed from her dignity, and joined in the general laugh at Tom's expense. For truth to say, that self-satisfied man was short, thick, swarthy, hard-featured, and far advanced in life, nor was his natural ugliness improved by a bushy black beard, of a week's growth, not to speak of his slovenly dress and atrocious appearance. "Your daughter is quite right," said my mother, regaining her self-possession, though not without an effort; "there is no beauty in you to boast of, and I am sure that you use your wife too ill to hope to get another, if you are so unfortunate as to lose her. Make much of her, and leave off your tipping ways, and then she will seem as fair in your eyes as when you first chose her from all the world."

"Well, madam, I will look at her to-morrow, and if I think her handsomer, I won't kill her at all." He then unbound his wife's hands, and began to suggest a great many improvements in the house, to which he entreated his landlady to pay particular and early attention. My mother made no objection to anything he urged, but advised him to go to bed, and to think over the alterations, about which she would confer with him in the morning. She then took her leave, perfectly satisfied that Tom would not make any fresh attack upon his wife or family. The morning brought with it, as usual, contrition, shame, and oft-renewed promises of amendment, but no real reformation. My mother endeavoured to point out to the drunkard the perilous state of his soul, but found him callous to religious feeling and she knew that till he could get a right view of his sin he would still cleave to it; nor was she mistaken. He did not, it is true, make any fresh break out while he remained in Rose Cottage; but he drank up his legacy in a few years, and is in far more reduced circumstances than his neighbour was at the time of his decease. I have said that Samuel Burton was a sober man, and that affliction made him a pious man: I have only to add that he was cheered by the reflection that his sufferings came from the hand of God, and were not the bitter consequences of debauchery. He was able to profit by them, and found in the word of God consolation and hope. The idea that his Saviour had suffered for his sins was sweet and soothing to his departing spirit, and he died happy and contented in his own comfortable cottage, surrounded by his family, to whom he bequeathed his blessing and good example. Tom Baldrey will most likely end his days in the work house, for he has made no provision either for this world or that which is to come. The family of Samuel Burton do well; they are all prosperous and estimable members of society, but that of Baldrey is remarkable for evil doing. His son is a notorious drunkard,—his daughters are unchaste; for the young people have followed the evil paternal example, and resemble the children of drunkards in general. Tom himself is a changeling; and though he does not assault his wife or neighbours, as he did while my mother's tenant, he often hurts and wounds himself, and may frequently be tracked by his own blood to his old haunts, the public house or beach. Yet, perhaps, even this drunkard may not be beyond the reach of means. I am lending him the tracts and publications of the temperance society, and as he is a scholar, he may at length perceive the extreme sinfulness of his sin. If he

should in this narrative recognise his own portrait, may he not resolve to put away his habit? a habit that must eventually destroy both body and soul. If he continues to drink, he will one day find that no salvation is offered to the unrepentant drunkard—for our Lord came to save men from their sins, not in them. Let him abstain and "return unto the Lord, and he will forgive, and to our God, and he will abundantly pardon," and his sin shall be blotted out and his pardon sealed, ere he go hence and be seen no more. May he remember that sin-stained as he is, his conversion would cause great joy in Heaven, for the Lord hath no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but would rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live.—*Temperance Penny Magazine.*

A WORD TO COMMITTEES.

ON THE CHARACTER OF ADVOCATES.

With those who can feel better than reason, and declaim better than argue, in all attempts to destroy creeds or opinions opposed to their practices or their prejudices, it has ever been a favourite fallacy to impute the personal vices of individual professors to the great principles of the institution or creed of which they were merely the advocates. Hence the infidel of every age has reproached the professor of piety with the weakness or wickedness of his brethren; and, not content with unjustly imposing the crimes of the guilty upon the innocent, he has converted the impurity or imperfection of the human subject of religion, into an argument against the lofty and everlasting truths of religion itself.

We have before us a small pamphlet, issued by a young minister at Ramsgate, in which this most illogical and illiberal species of reasoning is employed against the teetotal society. But if the spirit and conduct of those professors of christianity who in all ages since its divine advent have mistaught, mispracticed, and misapplied its sacred truths, can furnish no rational argument against the truth itself—as assuredly they cannot—neither can the spirit or proceedings of any teetotal advocates or societies from any rational objection to the principles of the institution itself.

Still it is a matter of very great importance that the spirit and actions of the teetotaler should give no just occasion for the enemy to stab our principle by a sneer at the inconsistency of its professors—and it is especially important that PUBLIC ADVOCATES of teetotalism should sustain a character for good morals worthy of the cause in which they are engaged. It must, therefore, be a question of interest with every sincere lover of teetotalism—how can we be best secured from the disgrace of immoral advocates? The question is forced upon us only from necessity, for it is ever with pain that we recur to the subject in connexion with individuals. There are, however, few societies in England which have not suffered serious injury from the advocacy of worthless or wicked men. Last month we had to direct attention to a case which came before the attention of the "TEETOTAL UNION" at Wakefield: the particulars of which the secretary of every temperance society should peruse.

At the Conference of the BRITISH TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION, held at Liverpool in 1839, a conversation arose upon this very subject, which resulted in the unanimous adoption of the following resolution:—

"It having been proved, to the conviction of the Conference that the cause of temperance has been greatly injured by the immoral conduct of some popular travelling advocates; this Conference strongly recommends that no travelling advocates be countenanced, nor any persons be elected as members of committees, or to any office in the society, whose moral character will not bear the strictest investigation.

The case to which we last month referred, and one which recently transpired in London, prove the existing necessity of the recommendation. The evil is not yet abated; and the question therefore arises—how shall the recurrence of such cases be prevented? The best and most

efficient test we have been able to devise, has been long ago, though it appears unavailingly, recommended. It is, that temperance committees should employ no travelling advocates but such as are the accredited agents of some general association. Had this test been adopted, much injury to the cause, and much discredit to individuals, would have been avoided. In the case immediately in view, there was no lack of individual testimonies; for such are often either given incautiously, or obtained disgracefully. The only security is to act upon the principle of employing only the accredited agents of large societies or general associations. If an advocate have talent and character, he can become honourably and profitably engaged as such an accredited agent; and if he have not both talent and character, he ought not to be engaged at all.

Let the societies, then, seriously consider this subject. Let them discountenance those immoral adventurers who have so greatly disgraced themselves and the cause. Let them judge of the purity and character of every advocate by his willingness to conform to the salutary and necessary principle laid down. And, instead of squandering large sums on such lecturers, let them unite heart and hand with the BRITISH ASSOCIATION, and enable the Executive Committee to send out those whose character and talents shall entitle them alike to the respect and admiration of the community.

TESTIMONY OF THE BISHOP OF NORWICH.

EXAMPLE TO THE CLERGY.

"It is on temperance societies the fulcrum might be rested, to raise the British nation to what it ought to be. Few, indeed, can bear more impartial testimony to their merits than myself, inasmuch as that, for a considerable length of time, I was opposed to them, on the supposition that they were visionary and impracticable. I have, however, long since been a convert, from a conviction founded on experience and observation, that they are most instrumental in raising thousands and tens of thousands from degraded profligacy to virtuous and industrious habits, and converting sinners from the ways of vice to those of religion. I need scarcely add, that I think that every clergyman who has the welfare of his parishioners at heart, and is really zealous in the cause of his profession, ought to give them his support; in fact in these and all other institutions, whereby the character of the people can be raised and purified, it is surely a paramount duty for the clergy to take the lead, and be themselves devoted examples of activity and zeal, and by their exertions uphold our church in the estimation of the public."—*Extract from one of his Lordship's addresses.*

THE MEANING OF INTOXICATION.—The liquors now under consideration, are called intoxicating liquors, from the Greek word *Toxicon*, which signifies a poisoned arrow: and I think it may be affirmed that all the poisoned arrows that ever were shot from the bows of warriors, have not done so much mischief, nor destroyed so many lives, as intoxicating liquors. "They have cast down many wounded, yea many strong men have been slain by them."

TEETOTALISM—NOT TEETOTALLERS.—I do not intend to say that I approve of all that teetotalers have done and said, but that I approve of the system in its general principles and operations. I presume that, in our advocacy of any system, we are not called upon to justify all that is done by its advocates and adherents. The apostle Paul cordially approved of the Gospel; but, then, he neither sanctioned the cowardice of Peter, nor the heresy of Hymeneus and Philetus.

PAUPERISM AND INTEMPERANCE.—Dr. Adams of Dublin, on questioning the first twenty applicants for soup in the parish of St. Peter's, found that eighteen of that twenty of them had that morning paid for spirits to a greater amount than the value of the soup they came to beg.

LADIES' CORNER.

TO THE SUN.

Emblem of Him that made thee, source of light,
Heat, vegetation, beauty, and defence!
Let not the unbelieving sons of night
Scoff at our notion, that Omnipotence
Cares for the meanest worm that crawls the earth.
E'en as thine aureate tide thou pourest forth
On all sides equally, at every point,
Flooding creation with thy boundless beams,
And yet with thine own image dost anoint
Each individual daisy's head; so teems
Full on the universe, through all its round,
The radiant power of the Divinity:
But still, with special aim, is resting found
Upon the lowliest of the lowly—me.

DICK'S SIDEREAL HEAVENS.

The distances and magnitudes of the stars surpass all ordinary conception, and in general philosophers have been able only to determine that they must be greater than a certain calculable amount, in relation to the planetary orbs which have been ascertained. Recently, however, Professor Bessel of Königsberg appears to have made discoveries of distance, by means of a double star in the constellation of the Swan, which has been found to have a great proper motion.

The result is, that the annual parallax of the star 61 *Cygni* is 0".3136; that is, somewhat less than one-third of a second. It follows that the distance of this star from the sun is 657,700 times the mean distance of the earth from the sun; and as the distance of the sun from the earth is 95,000,000 miles, this number is multiplied by the former produces 62,481,500,000,000, or sixty-two billions, four hundred and eighty-one thousand five hundred millions of miles, which is the distance of the star 61 *Cygni* from the sun, and which of course is nearly about the same distance from the earth; the earth being in one part of its course ninety-five millions of miles nearer the star than this distance, and in the opposite part of it ninety-five millions of miles beyond it. This, I have no doubt will be considered as one of the most interesting and splendid discoveries which have been made in astronomy for a century past. It lays a foundation for precise and definite conceptions of the distances of some of the starry orbs, of the amplitude of the celestial regions, and of the magnitude and grandeur of those countless orbs which diversify the spaces of immensity. It likewise proves to a demonstration the annual motion of the earth round the sun, and all the principles and phenomena with which it is connected, as well as corroborates the general views of former astronomers respecting the immense distance of the fixed stars.

The distance inferred from the parallax ascertained by Bessel is more than three times greater than what was formerly considered the least distance of any of the fixed stars. In order to acquire some rude conceptions of this distance, it may not be inexpedient to illustrate it by the times which certain moving bodies would require to move along such a space. Light is the swiftest moving body with which we are acquainted; it flies from the sun to the earth, a distance of ninety-five millions of miles, in about eight minutes, or at the rate of 192,000 miles every moment of time; yet light, incomprehensibly swift as its motion is, would require 10 years and 11½ days to fly across this mighty interval; so that if the star 61 *Cygni* were supposed to be only just now launched into existence, it would be more than ten years before its light could reach the distant globe on which we dwell, so as to appear like a small star twinkling in our sky. Suppose a cannon ball to move 500 miles every hour without intermission, it would require fourteen millions, two hundred and fifty-five thousand, four hundred and eighteen years before it could move across the same interval. But to come to motions with which we are more familiar; sup-

pose a steam carriage to set out from the earth with a velocity of twenty miles an hour, or 480 miles a day; at this rate of motion, continued without intermission, it would require 356,385,466, or three hundred and fifty-six millions, three hundred and eighty-five thousand, four hundred and sixty-six years before it could pass from our globe to the star alluded to above—a number of years sixty-one thousand times greater than the whole period which has elapsed since the Mosaic creation."

RESTORATION OF THE JEWS TO PALESTINE.

It is interesting to find the following important topic discussed in an English paper.

The only means we now have of restoring the balance of the power in the Levant, and checking the further progress of Russia southward, is to establish some nation in our interests in Syria, capable, with our assistance, of overawing, and if necessary, repelling her advance on the Mediterranean. Turkish power is extinct—Egypt has returned to its original insignificance—Armenia has no nationality, and is immersed in ignorance. The mountain tribes of Koordistan, would, if properly managed, form like Circassia a stationary check to encroachments; but where shall we find a people sufficiently enlightened to set under good counsels, united by every tie of religion and nationality, and of physical power and intellect capable of high cultivation? Does not the finger of time, the voice of prophecy, and the feeling of Europe point to the Hebrew nation? The restoration of the Jews under English protection would retrieve our position in the Levant, and give us a commanding station from whence to counteract the designs of northern enemies. The Hebrew people are intellectually and physically one of the finest forms of the human race: their present degradation is a natural consequence of the state of slavery or oppression under which they have been groaning for nearly two Chilliads, and it is only surprising, after such an ordeal, that they should still retain any moral worth; but there are men among them of talent and great capabilities, and they possess in a high degree the virtues of fortitude, firmness, and perseverance. Their spirits have been broken and their feelings embittered under the thralldom of Mahomedan despotism and the insults of the world; but relieved from this cloud, and treated as men, the natural nobility of their nature would be developed, and they would soon assert a high rank amongst the nations of the earth. Religion, patriotism, and nationality, have kept their attention fixed through ages on Palestine, to which they never doubt of returning; and their gratitude to their liberators and restorers would be unbounded, at the same time that they could not by any possibility gain anything by turning against us. Russia has been disappointed in her expected occupation of Constantinople by the unwonted decision of our Government in the rapid dash on the coast of Syria, which was the means of withdrawing the forces of Ibrahim Pacha from their intended march on the Bosphorus, to defend their own shores, and which precluded the necessity of our faithful ally advancing on that capital. Burning under the vexation of being foiled in this quarter, she has tried to cause a diversion in her favour by allowing the Persians (the Shah being perfectly willing) to march on Herat. That Russian influence is paramount in Persia, may be gathered from the fact that Sulimania, in Turkish Arabia, was given up at their remembrance, and an army which Mahomed Shah had levied in 1840 to march on Bagdad, was disbanded at their command. To establish a balance of power in the East we must maintain a footing either directly or indirectly in Syria; the most advisable means of effecting which appears to be, by the restoration of the Jews under British protection.

A ONE-SIDED FENCE.—The *New York Sun* describes a fence made of such crooked rails, that every time a pig crawled through it came out on the same side.

RATHER SHARP.—In a case of bail before the Court of Bankruptcy, in Nov., 1840, one of the proposed sureties was examined as to the amount of property he possessed unencumbered, when the following colloquy took place:—"Of what does your property consist?" "Of stock in trade and household property." "Where is it?" "In Cheapside." "What is the value of your stock in trade?" "£2,000 and upwards." "And what may be the amount of your debts?" "Not 5, thank God! By the bye, the rent becomes due to-day, so I owe that, but its sure to be paid—(laughter). The Solicitor—"Now, answer me this question, is there not a bill in your window which says 'This shop to be let?' The proposed surety, with firmness—"No, certainly not." The Solicitor—"Have you not a bill in your window which states that you are selling off, and that the shop will close on Saturday?" The proposed surety, with considerable glee—"I have, I am always selling off, and shops generally close on Saturday night, don't they, Mr. Sharpshooter?" (Roars of laughter.) The Solicitor appeared rather chagrined at this retort, but proceeded. He was understood to ask the witness something about selling at reduced prices. "Yes (said the proposed surety), and if I had you, I would sell you at half-price with all your abilities," (Laughter.) In answer to a further question, he said, that when the bill which was at present up in his window got dirty, he should have another in its stead. The solicitor confessed himself overdone, and he did not wish further to trouble the gentleman.

THE AMERICAN WHALE FISHERY.—The number of vessels engaged in this fishery in 1833 was 434, whose total value was 10,300,000 dollars, and employing about 10,900 men. Of the common oil taken in that year, about one-half found a market in Europe, one quarter in the West Indies, and the remainder in the United States. The greater part of the sperm oil is used in the United States, in steam-boats, and other machinery. The Americans are able to bring to this country the sperm oil, at a duty of £25 per ton; although at that high rate, they are still gainers.

NOVEL MATCH: STEAM AGAINST HORSEFLESH.—A novel description of a match was run, between a railway train and a team, or rather, two teams of horses. A considerable wager, we understand, depended on the event, which was to prove whether a coach, starting from Monk's Ferry, could beat the railway train to Chester. The gentleman who undertook to drive the studs, eight of which were to do the work (changing at Sutton), was a Mr. Burke, of trotting celebrity, and all the appliances of training, &c., were put into requisition to give him every advantage. The coach selected was the *Hirondelle*, which was to carry six passengers. The train was to run in the usual manner, with the ordinary stoppages. The wager was to be awarded to the party which first set down the passengers at the White Lion. It was presumed, that the delay at the railway terminus would give the coach and horses an advantage. The result, however, has completely proved the superiority of steam power over horseflesh, for the train beat the coach full 20 minutes, with the additional advantage, that the engine of the former was no more distressed at the end of the journey than at its commencement.—*Manchester Advertiser*.

NEW RAILWAY CARRIAGES.—Mr. Henry Houldsworth, of Manchester, has taken out a patent for railway carriages, which are intended to combine the pleasantness of an open with the comforts of a closed carriage, either wholly or in part, with metallic wire gauze, cloth, or net, of a texture sufficiently close to break the force of the wind, and destroy the violence of the currents produced by rapid motion through it; and also to impede the entrance of the particles of coke dust emitted by the locomotive engine chimney, and yet not materially to obstruct the view of external objects.

The receipts of the London and Birmingham Railway, during the last six months, have been £407,334, being £60,000 more than those of the corresponding six months for 1839.

He who receives a good turn, should never forget it; he who does one, should never remember it.—*Chapman*.

HONG-KONG.

The following interesting account of the newly ceded Island of Hong-Kong is derived from Dr. Clarke Abel's Narrative of a Journey to China.

Sailing with the Amherst embassy in 1816, the squadron, on the 12th of June, weighed, and stood for Hong-kong, which is one of the Ladrone Islands, distant from the great Lemna sixteen miles in a N. E. direction.

"Looking," says Abel. "from the deck of the 'Alceste' early on the following morning, I found that we were in a sound formed by some small islands, by which it was land locked in every direction, and of which Hong-kong is the principal. As seen from the ship, this island was chiefly remarkable for its high conical mountains, rising in the centre, and for a beautiful cascade which rolled over a fine blue rock into the sea. I took advantage of the first watering boat to visit the shore, and made one of those mountains and the waterfall the principal objects of my visit.

This mountain, the highest on the island, is, according to Captain Ross, who has measured it, about 1500 feet above the level of the sea, and is composed of trap, approaching to basalt in the compactness of its structure.

The scenery of Hong-kong is composed of barren rocks, deep ravines, and mountain torrents, but presents few characters of a very picturesque description. Of its inhabitants none were seen but some poor and weather-beaten fishermen, spreading their nets, and drying the produce of their toils on the rocks which supported mud huts. Its cultivation corresponded with the apparent state and number of its population. Patches of rice, small plantations of yams, and a little buck-wheat, were all their visible means of vegetable support.

Hong-kong Sound is represented by my naval friends as affording admirable shelter for ships of any burden.

The typhoons, which sweep over the island at this season, are sometimes tremendous. One of these novel, though brilliant appearances, occurred while we were in these parts, such as led us to fear would be followed by formidable weather; but the great gale that arose, creative of a slight fall in the barometer, was fortunately groundless. Flights of *libellula* were frequent when the wind shifted north.

The height of the barometer varied very little during our stay at Hong-kong, but the thermometer and hygrometer underwent frequent changes. The mean of our observations whilst we remained there, from the 10th to the 13th, gave for the barometer 9 deg. 64 min.; thermometer, 81 deg. 5 min.; hygrometer, 0 deg. Prevailing wind, south-west.

Hong-kong was one of the first places of resort, among the islands adjacent to Macao and Lantao, which the adventurous Portuguese under De Gama and Pinto frequented, though rather as a place of convenience than commerce.

The Ladrone, or cluster of islands, of which, as before remarked, Hong-kong forms one, obtained their names from the pirates who infested them, *ladrones* signifying thieves or robbers. Their original name was the *Islas de las Velas*. In the "History of the Pirates who infested the China Sea from 1807 to 1810," written by Ying Hing Soo, and translated by Mr. Neumann, mention appears to be made of this island as the chief retreat of these incorrigible ruffians.

The following is an extract from a popular work by Captain Basil Hall:—"It was indispensably necessary, however, before steering to the northward into seas so little known, to complete our stock of water, and we made sail accordingly for the island of Hong-kong, one of the great cluster called the Ladrone. The islands in this quarter lay so close to one another, that even in the daytime it was difficult to discover any outlet; but at night the mountains appeared to form a continuous barrier. The nature of the ground also being black and unbroken, it seemed as if the ships had been transported by some magical process to the centre of a solitary lake, lying in the bosom of a Highland glen. Soon after we had taken up our station near the waterfall, but before this curious basin was lighted by the moon, and when the most perfect silence pre-

vailed over the whole scene, a fleet of several hundreds of Chinese fishing boats suddenly advanced in large groups of forty or fifty each, from behind the islands. They were rowed about with great celerity from place to place, and in each boat two or three men stood in the bow, with flaming torches in their hands, which they waved backwards and forwards, while others of the crew were employed in beating, in the most furious manner, several large gongs, suspended to the masts. To give full force and finish to this extraordinary serenade, a chorus of yells and shouts was set up from all the boatmen, at the full stretch of their voices—an uproar which awakened the echoes of the surrounding hills, and rendered the whole scene so truly diabolical, that the sailors, astonished and delighted at this sudden eruption, insisted upon it that a legion of Chinese devils must surely have been let loose to frighten away the ambassador! But this tumultuous and amusing uproar was evidently intended to drive the fish from the centre of the harbour into nets placed across the narrow channels, between the surrounding islands."

The following extracts are from a new work entitled "The Chinese as They Are":—"This (Hong-kong) is a magnificent harbour in extent and diversity of outline, securely sheltered by lofty hills, and well deserves that distinction which has been given to it. The ships usually anchor in about ten fathoms water, but there is a deep bight in the main land, receding about two miles and a half towards the north, which is about a mile and a half, or somewhat more, in breadth, where the depth of water varies from three to five fathoms. As this inner harbour, as we may call it for the sake of clearness and perspicuity, is completely land-locked; it resembles a beautiful lake, surrounded by many a ridgy height and some towering peaks of steep and rugged ascent. At the top of this inner harbour stands the village of Coroloon, which recently gained some celebrity by a skirmish between Captain Elliott and the Chinese cruisers, but which has been long known to naval men by the great civility and kindness of its inhabitants towards the foreigner. From the harbour of Hong-kong there is a passage to the eastward, about half a mile in breadth, where in some places there is 25 fathoms water; but as this course is rather intricate, and requires a variety of winds to make it an easy one, ships proceeding to the north prefer a sweep round the island of Hong-kong, and dropping down the Lama channel to steer southward and eastward till they emerge into the China Sea. The harbour of Hong-kong is famed among foreign residents in China for its extreme healthiness; and many a sojourner at Macao, after trying what medicine and exercise could do for him there, has at length repaired to Hong-kong, and found what he had so long sought for in vain. The writer of these remarks, while at the place last mentioned, in the spring of 1828, made full proof of physic, diet, rest, and light excursions, but discovered that he was growing weaker, instead of improving, under this treatment. Just at the time when hope began to give place to despair, an American captain invited him to take a trip to Hong-kong: the invitation was accepted, and after the lapse of a fortnight he was so invigorated by the breezes of that delectable place, that he went to Canton, and worked through a summer of unusual sultriness. Thus much may be said in reference to the healthiness of this piece of newly-acquired territory."

Again:—"In a withdrawing nook, in what we may call in the landsman's phrase, the farthest corner of the harbour of Hong-kong, there is a small delta and a very charming valley, in which the former terminates. On this delta, fairly "embosomed in tufted trees," stands a small village, inhabited by persons who are not wealthy, but not so poor but that some had delicacies which had been brought from Macao, and to which they bade the writer a most hearty welcome. Several of them could read, and a man to whom a copy of the New Testament was given, seemed to be a person of intelligence, though his daily cares were parted between his fishery and his farm. This shelter is nearly an equilateral triangle, each side being about one-fourth of a mile in length. It

terminates in a very pleasant dell, where shrubs and plants grow in great profusion; after passing about a mile along this dell we find ourselves in a broad valley, flanked by hills adown whose sombre and glistening sides the water falls in refreshing streams. Here we meet with dwelling-houses and outbuildings for the stowage of grain. It is entirely rural in all its aspects, and exhibits the counterparts of grange and farm in miniature. The writer found the villagers kind and inquisitive, though they were at first very much surprised at the unusual, if not the first, appearance of a European in that valley. The delta and the valley beyond it would prove very desirable country residences for the sojourners at Hong-kong harbour. It may be remarked, once for all, that a considerable portion of the island is of the trap formation, which abounds with escarpments wherever it is met with; hence the common occurrence of waterfalls."

ENGLISH EXTRACTS.

COMMISSARIES' ACCOUNTS, &c.—The total receipts into the several military chests, at the following colonial stations, viz., Canada, Nova Scotia, &c., Newfoundland, Bermuda, Bahamas, Windward and Leeward Islands, Jamaica, Honduras, Gibraltar, Malta, Ionian Islands, Cape of Good Hope, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Ceylon, New South Wales, Van Dieman's Land, West Australia, and St. Helena, from April 1, 1839, to March 31, 1840, amounted to £3,451,938, and the total disbursements therefrom to £3,399,923.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer intends to give up the present passenger tax on railroads, and substitute a tax on the gross annual receipts on passengers at the rate of five per cent.—*Globe*.

Dr. Short has, it is said, been appointed to the vacant see of Sodor and Man.

The Belfast Chamber of Commerce, at a general meeting of its members on Saturday last, resolved to petition in favour of a change in the timber duties, and for a moderate fixed duty on corn.

The Portishead Pier Bill (Bristol) has been thrown out, the standing orders of the house not having been complied with.

Mrs. Jenner, who was shot by her husband at Liverpool, in a fit of morbid dread lest his family should be left destitute, died on Saturday last, after having lingered in great pain up to that time.

It is said that Mr. Power, the comedian, had no less than 30,000 dollars in specie on board the President when she left America. This large sum was the product of land which he had from time to time purchased in Texas, from earnings hardly accumulated in that country, and which, on the occasion of his last visit to the states, he had sold, with the laudable intention of consolidating his pecuniary means in the English funds.

Mr. Jackson, who was last year one of the Under-Sheriffs of London, has announced himself a candidate for the City Controllorship, vacant by the resignation of Mr. Hookey. There are now four candidates—Mr. James, one of the Secondaries; Mr. Saunders, who opposed Mr. C. Pearson for the office of City Solicitor; Mr. Bradd, of the City Solicitor's office; and Mr. Jackson.

What you leave at your death, let it be without controversy—else the lawyers will be your heirs.—*F. Osborn*.

AMERICAN MAXIMS.—If your coat is comfortable, wear it two or three months longer; no matter if the gloss is off. If you have no wife, get one; if you have, God bless her, stay at home with her, instead of spending your evenings in expensive flat fooleries. Be honest, frugal, plain; seek content and happiness at home; be industrious and persevering; and our word for it, if your circumstances are now embarrassed, they will soon become easy, no matter who may be President, or what may be the price of stocks.—*Grant's London Journal*.