

Dr. Ross spoke at great length against the resolution. Among the charges brought against the committee, was one founded upon the description of books in the library; but Dr. Lang would no doubt be glad to be convinced of his error in this particular. The library contained upwards of 13,000 volumes; of these only 1837 were works of fiction. He (Dr. R.) did not advocate this description of reading, but speaking of it as in connection with this institution, which had for its object the convenience of members, he did not think this number at all too large, especially considering the character of works of this kind which were issued from the British press. There were upwards of two thousand works on biography and history, an ample supply of works on geography, on all the sciences, also of classics, and of English standard works of every description. The catalogue of the Library if fairly examined, would be a sufficient reply to all that Dr. Lang had said on this point. With reference to the price paid for books, the Committee were at present waiting for a reply to a communication which had been sent to their bookseller on the 13th July, 1843, on the subject.

Mr. Cape, Mr. Windeyer, M. C.; Mr. Foster, M. C.; Dr. Nicholson M. C.; and Mr. James Macarthur, followed on the same side.

Mr. Lowe, M. C., after severely censuring the conduct of Dr. Lang in dragging the subject before the public, through the medium of the press, and the virulent abuse with which he had aspersed the committee, moved as an amendment—

“That the resolution proposed by Dr. Lang, implying, as it does, a censure on the Committee of the Library, is totally unasked for, and that this Meeting express their entire confidence in the integrity and efficiency of their Committee.”

Dr. Bland seconded the amendment, which, after a few remarks, from Mr. Kemble, and from Dr. Lang in reply, was put and carried almost unanimously.

Dr. Lang said the next resolution which he had to propose was respecting the ballot, and as it was getting late, he should not make any observations upon it, but simply move, “That the practice of balloting for the admission of new members be forthwith discontinued, as being totally inapplicable to the character and circumstances of a public library, liable to the grossest abuse, and decidedly prejudicial to the best interests of the Institution.”

Mr. Therry seconded the resolution, his main inducement in putting his name to the requisition having been the hope that this resolution would obtain the sanction of the meeting. Considering the state of the institution, he did think that the ballot acted too exclusively, that there were difficulties in obtaining admission to the Library which required to be removed, that it should be made more easy of access to the public.

The Attorney General said the Institution was a public Library, or at any rate ought to be so; it was called a public library in its Act of Council, and had received grants of land as a public library. With respect to the resolution under discussion, he approved of it and should support it; he had seen most respectable men blackballed; he had been grieved at the conduct of some of the members. An institution like this required to be

moulded to the circumstances of the colony which was in a transition state, and he thought the time had arrived when reform had become necessary.

Mr. J. R. Brenan supported the motion: he thought the exclusive mode of admission which was in existence highly objectionable, and a public Library; he thought the public had a right to become members of it without being subjected to the ballot.

Mr. McLeay said, he had the honour of belonging to many of the learned societies of England, and in all of them the ballot was used. In the Royal Society, in the Antiquarian Society, in the Linnæan Society, of which he had the honour of being Secretary for twenty-five years, the Horticultural Society, and the Zoological Society, in all these the ballot was used. He also at one time belonged to a Society called the Westminster Library, which had one of the finest collection of books in London, and in consequence of their not being sufficiently particular in the admission of members, in two years the library was broken up, and the books sold.

The question was then put and negatived.

Dr. Lang said, that as there was nothing pressing in the other resolutions, and as enquiry had been refused, he should defer the moving them until the next ordinary general meeting.

Mr. James Macarthur was then called to the chair, and a vote of thanks to the President have been carried by acclamation, the meeting broke up.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE AND INDIGENOUS ARTS.

We are glad to learn that a society, under this title, is in progress of formation for the purpose of promoting and improving the Agriculture of Australia, and those manufactures in particular which relate to indigenous produce. Its object is also to develop the hidden resources of the Colony.

The following details of its constitution are extracted from the prospectus, which is an elaborate and interesting document, but too lengthened for our space. We shall, however, often have occasion to return to the subject, should the society progress, as we trust it will.

“The ordinary business of the Society will be conducted by periodical general meetings of the members. Permanent Committees will also be appointed in the several departments of art and science, which fall within the province of the Society, for reporting upon all papers laid before the Society, as also upon such processes in the arts as may be submitted for encouragement or reward. The Committee will also originate and report upon such measures as they may respectively deem to be useful to the Colony.

“The Committees will be classed as follows:—Agriculture, and its implements; irrigation and embankments; chemistry, and the chemical arts; mechanics: engineering; indigenous manufactures; natural history and native produce; expenditure; &c.

Honorary Secretaries will be appointed for each of the four leading objects of the Society, as follows:—

“1. Chemistry, and the Chemical Arts and Manufactures.

“2. Agriculture and Implements.

“3. Mechanical Arts and Engineering.

“4. Natural History, and Native Produce.

“The Committee of Agriculture and its implements, will have under its direction an experimental field, in the vicinity of the capital, which will be placed under the management of some practical cultivator, who will be permitted to take the profit of the same, in return for the labour he may bestow upon it.

“District Committees, or Branch Societies, will be established in every chief town of the Colony, each having under its direction an experimental field, after the manner of the parent society. Their attention will be specially directed to the procuring of all statistical details required by the Society, and to the question of irrigation and embankments, together with other means of preventing the loss of water in their several districts.

“Measures will be taken to cause the proceedings, both of the Committees and the general meeting, to be accurately reported by the public Press of New South Wales; and all papers and communications of interest, laid before the general meeting, will be periodically published, in a cheap form, on the plan of the *Mechanics' Magazine*, of London.

“No steps will be taken for the election of the officers of the Society until it shall have been fully organized, and a general meeting of the members shall have been convened for that purpose.”

We entirely agree with the writer in thinking that “the calamities by which we have been overwhelmed might have been wholly averted had the interests of the Colony been watched over by an enlightened Board of Agriculture and Arts,” and that a grant from the public treasury in aid of a well organised institution of this description would be a most judicious appropriation of the surplus revenue.

City Council.

MONDAY.

Alderman Macdermott presented a petition from Mr. John Garrett, on behalf of the Australian Methodist Society, praying that the building belonging to that Society in Pitt-street, might be exempted from taxation, and the money refunded which had been paid on account of it, alleging as a reason, that it was exempted by the terms of the Corporation Act.

Mr. Agars presented a petition from nineteen citizens, residing at Miller's Point praying that a slaughter-house in Argyle-street, belonging to a Mr. Purnell, might be removed, being a nuisance to the residents in that neighbourhood.

Mr. Holden moved that a number of accounts passed by the Finance Committee, amounting in all to £217 15s. 5d., might be paid.—Carried.

The Town Clerk read a letter from the Colonial Secretary, enclosing a copy of a letter from him to the Trustees of the Bethel Union, informing them, that having a deed of grant there was nothing to prevent them from taking possession.

The Town Clerk read a letter from Messrs. Windeyer and Miles, the Police Magistrates, protesting against the reductions effected in their salaries by the City Council, and a

Similar protest from the Clerks at the Police Office, made, as stated in their letters, with the view that their acceptance of the reduced salaries might not be a bar to the claim for compensation which they conceived they had a right to seek through the Government by whom they were appointed.

The Town Clerk read a letter from Mr. Councillor Woolley, tendering his resignation of his seat in the Council, and

Alderman Macdermott, after expressing regret that the Council should be subjected to the loss of so useful a member as Mr. Woolley had shown himself, moved that his resignation might be accepted, and that he be fined in the sum of £25, according to the terms of the Corporation Act.

After some desultory conversation the motion was put and carried.

Mr. Cowlshaw brought up a report from the Board of Works Committee relative to the petition of the labourers employed on the Civic Works for Compensation on account of their lost time, stating that the committee were unable to recommend any means of relief in the terms prayed for by the petitioners.

Read and received.

Mr. Cowlshaw then brought up another report from the same Committee relative to the proposed cut through the rock between Argyle and Fort-streets, but as this report related principally to the tenders which had been received for that work, it was read with closed doors.

Mr. Cowlshaw also brought up a third report from the Board of Works Committee recommending that a main sewer of brick work might be commenced forthwith in Pitt-street.

Read and received.

Alderman Allen moved that the sum of £51 15s. 3d. might be paid to the collectors of rates, being the amount due to them for commission, at four per cent., on the sums collected since the 1st of January last.

Alderman Macdermott contended that the reduction of the commission of the collectors from five to four per cent. upon the moneys collected, did not apply to the rates which had accrued during the last year, but merely to such as fell due subsequent to the 1st January, when the reduction was to commence. He therefore moved as an amendment that the sum paid to the collectors might be £64 16s. 11d.

Mr. Brown seconded the amendment, but the original motion was carried by a large majority.

Alderman Broughton moved that distress warrants might be issued against forty persons residing in Bourke Ward, and twenty-eight resident in Phillip Ward, who had refused the payment of their rates.—Carried.

The Council adjourned.

IRELAND.

At the second meeting held at the Conciliation Hall, the Government reporter was accommodated with a seat removed from the press table, beside an inspector of police. Mr. O'Connell moved that John Halpin Rorke, Esq., be called to the chair, which passed with acclamation. Mr. Ferguson read a highly complimentary address to Mr. O'Connell from the Repealers of the county of Tipperary. It was signed, he said, by 93,517 ardent Repealers of that county. (Cheers.) He expressed a hope that Mr.

O'Connell would again come among the people of Tipperary. Mr. O'Connell, addressing Mr. Ferguson, said: Tell the people of Tipperary that that repeal is certain if the rest of Ireland imitates their peaceable conduct, as I am sure they will. (Hear, hear.) Tell them that that repeal is not remote if peace and order be observed, and assure them also that if they hear a rumour of any compromise of the great question of the repeal, to totally discredit it, for they have my solemn pledge that Ireland is to have a Parliament of her own. (Cheers.) A note addressed to the Chairman was put into Mr. O'Connell's hand: it was from a gentleman who claimed the privilege of addressing the meeting for a few moments, in order to complain of, as he said, a wrong inflicted on him by the Association, and that gentleman was Tresham Gregg. (Laughter and groaning.) If the least indignity were offered to Mr. Gregg, that instant the Association would adjourn. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Gregg here presented himself in front of the platform: A wrong has been done me. Three minutes will set it right, and I think what I shall say will be conciliatory. Mr. O'Connell: Then, for the novelty of hearing anything conciliatory from you, we will hear you. (Laughter.)—Mr. Gregg, addressing the Chairman, said: As the very humblest of the Irish people, I presume for two or three minutes to claim your attention. I say, I am the very humblest.—Mr. O'Connell: Oh, do not mind that. (Laughter.)—Mr. Gregg: The report of yesterday's proceedings in that hall purported to contain a vote of thanks of the Irish people to Mr. Smith O'Brien. Now he denied that he, as one of the Irish people, agreed to that vote. (Great laughter.)—Mr. O'Connell, amid great laughter, moved that the Association did not consider Mr. Gregg included in the vote which was passed. Mr. Gregg was then handed out. Mr. O'Connell read a letter from Mr. Caleb Powell, M.P., the colleague of Smith O'Brien, enclosing £5., and requesting to be admitted a member of the association. The honourable gentleman was admitted amid great applause.

Mr. O'Connell then asked what assistance was Ireland getting in the present struggle from the English press? Were not nine-tenths of them opposed to Ireland, and was not the remaining portion that affected liberality their worst enemies? (Hear, hear.) The most paltry motives, the most scandalous calumnies, were contained in that press—he need only refer to the *Morning Chronicle*, that came out with some letters full of falsehood and calumnies. (Hear.) The Whigs were making a kind of by-battle—they were endeavouring to filch into authority, to steal into office, and they sought the assistance of the Irish in that endeavour; but he had no wish to conciliate the Whigs. (Hear, hear.) He thought they were a despicable party. (Hear, hear.) In one of their leading journals he was accused of wishing for tyranny in France by the promotion of the elder branch of the Bourbon family to the throne. Now that was calumny; for he distinctly said that he wished that promotion with this proviso, that liberty was to be advanced by it, and free institutions established. (Hear.)

THE ARMS ACT.—The Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council of Ireland had fixed on the 13th of November as the day on which the Irish Arms Act was to come into operation.

FRANCE.

THE *Presse* states that the Minister of Public Works intends to propose to the Chambers to empower the Government to complete the construction of the Northern Railway. The deposits withdrawn from the Paris savings banks on the 22nd and 22rd October, exceeded the receipts by 29,631 francs. The *National* announces that the Sicilian sulphur question is terminated. The indemnity to the British merchants has been fixed by a special commission at 130,000 Neapolitan ducats.—The *Times* Paris letter of October 25th, contains the following passages: "The French funds declined again to-day. I have endeavoured to trace to its source the cause of the unsatisfactory state of the market, and have learned that it proceeds from a sense of uneasiness on several accounts. 1. The unsettled situation of Spain. 2. The disturbances in Italy; and 3, the occurrences in Greece. Respecting Spain, there appears no reason for apprehension at present. Endeavours are made by different parties to bring about the marriage of the Queen, which they expect will put an end to all disagreement in that country. Of the three candidates for her Majesty's hand (the son of Don Carlos, the son of Don Francisco, and the brother of the King of Naples), the latter, being, of course, supported by France, is likely to be the happy man. Of Italy we know so little that we can only guess at its condition from the fears which I know exist in the highest quarters that the spirit of revolt may spread. Even in Naples, it would appear, some alarm prevails. Respecting Greece, much uneasiness is felt lest the Greek Propagandists produce risings in the neighbouring provinces. In these you have the secret of the gloom that hangs over our money market."

SPAIN.

THE impatience of the Government party to arrive speedily at their grand conclusion of the declaration of the Queen's majority was shown in their efforts to get over the verification of the claims of the Deputies to sit. The commission for the purpose was appointed on the 16th. It consisted chiefly of Moderados, and of such zealous politicians, that they promised to have their labours completed in a week. It generally requires from five to six weeks to achieve the task. On the 18th the Government assembled in council, calling in their friends Martinez de la Rosa, the Duke of Rivas, Garella, Isturitz, Cortina, Bravo, Madoz, and Las Navas. There ensued a lengthened discussion as to what was to be done relating to the Queen's majority. It was finally decided that the minister should make a communication to the Chambers, showing the necessity of proclaiming this majority, and recommending that it should be voted in the two Chambers united. The Chambers would no doubt do as they were bidden.

Great intrigues were in progress. The Provisional Government had announced a conspiracy against the life of the Queen (which nobody believed), and were converting her palace into a garrison for themselves on pretence of defending her.

A rising was announced at Salamanca chiefly in consequence of the decree of the Government abolishing or removing the schools of medicine. The Government will

permit none of these students in the capital, they being too liberal. *Fra Gerundio*, a Spanish *Charivari* or *Punch*, makes very merry with the war carried on by Narvaez against the medical students.

Another attempt at insurrection had taken place at Seville. The Captain General was to have been assassinated, but the plot failed. A Carlist plot in the province of Valencia has also failed.

Concha had not opened his batteries against Saragossa on the morning of the 19th. It was reported that the insurgents had proposed a capitulation.

The *Journal des Debats* contains a letter from Bayonne announcing the commencement of troubles of a somewhat serious nature at Bilboa on the 16th October, on the occasion of the provincial election. The result was looked for with anxiety.

ITALY.

A LETTER from Bologna of the 15th October, states that fresh disturbances had taken place in that city and its neighbourhood. In the evening of the 3rd the populace came to blows with the Carbineers and Swiss in the streets of Borgo, San Pietro, and San Donato. The Swiss having given way, a troop of Dragoons was immediately sent to the assistance of the Carbineers, and soon restored order. On the 8th several military posts were attacked in the lower city. Similar outbreaks were said to have occurred in other parts of the province, and Cardinal Spinola applied for a leave of absence and quitted the city. On the 10th he was succeeded *ad interim* by Cardinal Vannicelli Casoni. The prisons of Bologna contained seventy political offenders, and fifty more were detained at Pesaro until they could be safely removed to fort San Leo. It was reported that in a recent congregation of Cardinals, held at Rome, to consider the situation of the legations, Cardinal Bernelli recommended that concessions be made to the people and a general amnesty granted to all persons implicated in political conspiracies since 1831. This proposition, however, was rejected by the almost unanimous vote of the assembly.

The Austrian troops have, it is said, marched into the Pope's territories of Bologna, to the number of 4,000, under the command of Count of Radetsky.

PORTUGAL.

WE have advices from Lisbon to the 19th October. The attempts of the Opposition to get up a revolution during the absence of the Queen and her leading Ministers in Alemtejo, had entirely failed, although the Municipal Chamber of Evora had most unexpectedly addressed her Faithful Majesty, in the presence of Senhor Costa Cabral praying her to dismiss him and the rest of her Ministers. There was every prospect of profound tranquillity in Portugal.

RUSSIA.

The *Frankfort Journal* states, that the report of a shot having been fired at the Emperor of Russia's carriage at Posen was a mere device of the Emperor to cause the expulsion of the Polish refugees from that Grand Duchy.—The *Augsburg Gazette* of the 19th October states, that according to all probability the Emperor of Russia will protest against the late revolution in Greece.

GREECE.

The *Augsburg Gazette* of the 8th Oct., represents men's minds, at least, as by no means tranquil at Athens. An English steamer had gone to fetch Mavrocordato from Constantinople; but the hatred lately concentrated against Bavarians, is, according to the Bavarian prints, directed against the Fanariotes. The English Envoy had recognised the new Government, and the English Admiral had given a ball in honour of the Constitution. All the Liberal party were invited. The Ministers had refused to accept any salary under existing circumstances.

AMERICA.

WE quote the following remarkable passage on American "repudiation" from a speech delivered in September last by Mr. Webster at the meeting of an Agricultural Society in Rochester, New York State.

"Mr. President and gentlemen what is the credit and character of this glorious country, to which we all belong, abroad? We are rich; we are powerful; we have all the means of accomplishing whatever virtuous human desire can embrace. But what is our credit? And I am not one of those disposed to complain or to stigmatize in any way the efforts of the States of this great Union, who have sought for funds abroad to carry on the enterprises and improvements which their sense of utility has projected. On the contrary, I think that the circumstances of the times and the necessities of the case may justify, at least to a considerable extent, the engagements into which some of the States, especially the Western States, have entered abroad. Among those which have thus justifiably become involved, is the State of Pennsylvania, the richest state in the Union, in my judgment—perhaps I ought to except New York—but taking her mineral, commercial, and agricultural facilities into consideration, I don't know on the face of the earth, excepting England, a richer state than the State of Pennsylvania. [*Governor Seward*—"Take off her debt!"] My friend Governor Seward says 'Take off her debt.' Her debt—her debt! What can be the debt of a state like Pennsylvania, that she should not be able to pay it—that she cannot pay it, if she will but take from her pocket the money that she has in it? England's debt is engrafted upon her very soil; she is bound down to the very earth by it; and it will affect England and Englishmen to the fiftieth generation. But the debt of Pennsylvania—the debt of Illinois—the debt of any State in this Union, amounts not to a sixpence in comparison. (Cheers.) Let us be Americans: but let us avoid, as we despise, the character of an acknowledged insolvent community. (Cheers.) What importance is it what other nations say of us, if they can nevertheless say, 'You don't pay your debts?' (Applause.) Now, gentlemen, I belong to Massachusetts; but if I belonged to a deeply indebted state, I'd work these ten fingers to their stumps—I'd hold plough, I'd drive plough, I'd do both, before it should be said of the State to which I belonged, that she did not pay her debts. (Loud cheers.) That's the true principle—let us 'go it' to its full extent. (Deafening applause.) If it costs us our comforts, let us sacrifice our comforts; if it costs us our farms, let us

mortgage our farms. But don't let it be said by the proud capitalist of England, 'You don't pay your debt.' 'You Republican governments don't pay your debts.' Let us say to them, 'we will pay them—we will pay them to the uttermost farthing.' That's my firm conviction of what we ought to do. That's my opinion; and water can't drown, fire can't burn it out of me. (Loud Applause.) If America owes a debt, let her pay it. (Deafening cheers) What I have is ready for the sacrifice. What you have I know would be ready for the sacrifice. At any rate, and at any sacrifice, don't let it be said on the Exchanges of London or Paris—don't let it be said in any one of the proud monarchies of Europe—'America owes, and can't or won't pay.' God forbid! Let us pay—let us pay.' (Long-continued and loud applause.) Let us say to them, 'Produce your bond, and take your money, principal and interest. Add it all up, and take your money.' Let us say to them, 'We are not your slaves; we are not paupers; we will not be your debtors; we will pay. Produce our bond—here is your money—take it.' (This was followed by repeated and deafening cheers.) And until that is done my friends, you and I cannot feel as if we could draw a free breath. I don't want to be indebted to the capitalists of Europe: If we owe them any thing, let them produce their bill. If my professional earnings are of any worth—if they are wanted—if my farm is wanted—if the conveniences of life for myself, for my wife and children, are wanted—so far as I am concerned, so far as America, is concerned, come and take them. (Cheers.) That's the right ground to take, and let us take it. In the North and South, in the East and West, if there live any who are descended from the fathers of the Revolution, any in whose veins runs a drop of their blood, and in whose hearts lives a particle of their spirit, let them rise up and say that if we owe Europe, Europe shall be paid. (Loud cheers.) I wish to breathe the breath of an independent man. A citizen of a proud and honoured country, I abhor the idea that my daily happiness is to be marred by the consciousness that any thing disgraceful hangs on the country or any part of it. Let us, gentlemen, be proud of our country; but let us preserve for that country the character of a just and debt-paying nation. Let it never be said among the nations of Europe that the United States of America—the nation that had its birth in the glorious scenes of '76—the country of Washington—the example and great type of all modern republics—cannot or will not pay its debts!"

THEATRICAL REGISTER.

AFTER a most injudicious suspension for some evenings of the performance of *Cinderella*, this delightful opera has resumed its place in the bills, and has been repeated night after night to full and fashionable audiences. The success of *Cinderella* is a gratifying proof of the progress of taste and of the influence of talent even in a Colony where wealth, not knowledge, is supposed to give power, and where the arts have been hitherto neglected, or patronized more from vanity than esteem. However the seed which has been sown by the parties, to whose taste we are indebted for this agreeable offering to

the Sydney stage, is beginning to yield an abundant harvest, and notwithstanding the predilection for the melodrama said to prevail in the management, we cannot doubt that such predilection, if it exists, will give way to that sure test of public opinion the treasury.

We are extremely gratified to learn that next season will be opened by Mr. Knight with Mozart's inimitable *Nozze di Figaro* and Auber's sparkling *Fra Diavolo*, the translation and arrangement of which will be got up under the direction of the gentlemen who have been so successful in *Cinderella*.

We have alluded to the suspension of *Cinderella* for a few evenings. It is hardly worth while to add that, on Monday evening, a most offensive importation from Norton Falgate was allowed to disfigure the programme of the entertainments. A melodrama—we crave the cockney *litterateur's* pardon—a domestic tragedy, called *Grace Clairville*, was enacted, for the purpose of introducing a Miss Julia Allwood to a Sydney audience. The repulsive nature of the piece proved of singular disservice to the *debutante*, whose appearance was otherwise prepossessing.

As we have no Lord Chamberlain to direct the substitution of oratorios for dramas during the present season, we must take leave to conclude our theatrical season with this notice. We shall, therefore, have no other opportunity of noticing Mrs. Bushelle's benefit, which takes place on Friday evening next, when she will be supported by the band of the 80th Regiment, which will perform, among other pieces, Páer's grand overture to *Sargino*, which has been put in score for this occasion by her musical instructor Mr. Nathan.

LITERARY REGISTER.

NEW PUBLICATION.

Tales for the Bush, No. 1.—Sydney; Welch, 1844.

THIS is the first of a series of religious tales, understood to be from the pen of a clergyman of the Church of England, the object of which appears to be the inculcation of the ordinary moral and religious duties. The style is simple, we would not say, jejune, and the plots are equally free from art. The subjects of the two tales comprised in the first number are the observance of the Sunday and of the Fast of Lent. The latter will probably be regarded as enforcing a new precept by most of those inhabitants of the bush to whom these tales are more particularly addressed.

CONFESSIONS OF A VETERAN LAWYER.

PART I.

MY FIRST CLIENT.

I AM now a sexagenarian, and, "*sic fata volunt*," a bachelor—and an old one, though few like to admit that adjective, but as time has legibly imprinted his stamp upon my brow, and my looking-glass convinces me of the home truth that I am not blessed with perpetual juvenility, and as

"Wrinkles, these damned democrats, won't flatter,

I may as well submit with a good grace, and

for the information of my readers, introduce myself to their notice as

"MATTHIAS PLEADWELL, ESQ., BARRISTER AT LAW."

a plain, hearty, personable old bachelor of sixty-two.

But though fate has so decided that I should be an alien from the married state, and vegetate in single blessedness, yet, on two occasions, inclination has urged me to become a candidate for the hymeneal noose, but the edict of destiny was opposed to my wishes, and having attained to my present period of existence without pronouncing the indissoluble vows, it is very unlikely that I shall ever alter my condition.

My father was a gentleman, possessed of a small estate in the county of Kent; his family consisted of myself, a brother, and sister. My mother having died while we were yet in our infancy, my father never deemed it advisable to supply her place, but devoted himself to the enjoyment of field sports, which he pursued with uncommon earnestness, and the pleasures of the table, of which he partook with equal zest, until his death, which was occasioned by a fall from his horse while hunting, left us orphans, when, as his estate was not entailed, it was sold by his executors and equally partitioned amongst his three children. My sister, young, handsome, and accomplished, and possessing a fortune of four thousand pounds, soon married, and, with her husband, a lieutenant in a marching regiment, departed for a foreign station. My brother Tom, who participated in our sister's partiality for a red coat, purchased a cornetcy, and (as Napoleon was then in his zenith, and giving no small trouble to our "little nation of shopkeepers") his military ardour was soon gratified by his being ordered on active service. As I happened to be one on whom—

"The ear piercing fife, the spirit stirring drum,
And all the pride, pomp, and circumstance of war."

could make no impression, and having been moreover brought up to the legal profession, and eaten the usual routine of dinners at the inns of court, I lost no time in procuring my initiation as a member of the honourable fraternity of the "long robe." How long I pared my nails in the various courts, and sat in state in my chambers before a table, covered with musty parchments wisely ranged for show, and files of folded papers tied most professionally with red tape, without earning sufficient to purchase powder to dust my forensic wig I need not say; long enough, at any rate, to render me heartily sick of the *far niente*, and induce me to contemplate the adoption of some other pursuit which might hold out brighter prospects of success than the one in which I was at present engaged.

One evening as I sat in my chambers, occupied with these reflections, the tingling of my office bell aroused me from my reveries.—Who could it be?—a dun?—No, I had always made it a point to live within my income; and, consequently, entertained no dread of visitors of this description. A client I scarcely dared to hope—yet such it was. I had thrown myself in my arm-chair with an air of *nonchalant* gravity, and trimmed the lamp which burned on the table before me, when my clerk entered escorting a female who, "with hesitating steps and slow," approached, and with a voice of most

melodious sweetness, solicited the honour of a private interview:—the tremulous and plaintive tones of that sweet voice still vibrate on mine ear! Requesting my fair visitor to be seated, I dismissed my clerk for the night, resumed my place, and prepared myself to bestow all due attention to the business of my client.

On removing the veil which concealed her features, a countenance the most lovely I had ever beheld met my view;—I was absolutely dazzled, but soon recovering my self-possession, I listened with breathless attention and intense interest to the details of her case, which presented a narrative of complicated villainy.

The father of my client was a gentleman possessed of considerable property in one of the western counties; he had married the daughter of a French emigrant nobleman, of which marriage she was the only issue. The ceremony had been privately performed, and on the death of her parent, the property was claimed by a distant relative, under a will executed previous to his marriage; and the mother of my client, and herself, were cast upon the world, without friends, without home, without means of support. Such was the substance of Miss Rusport's story. On further enquiry, I learned that a subsequent will had certainly been made, but how disposed of could not be ascertained. One of the witnesses had been removed by death, and the other, a clerk to a country attorney (who was employed to prepare the instrument) was wholly, and conveniently, forgetful of the occurrence. The mother and daughter, thus robbed of their inheritance, were compelled to support themselves by the labour of their hands, and by the precarious proceeds of a small school which they had succeeded in establishing. One of their pupils, who happened to be sister to my clerk, chanced to mention my name and profession, and thus determined them to apply for my advice, in the hope that some portion of the property might be rescued for the rightful heirs to the whole.

Gloomy as seemed the present aspect of affairs, I yet ventured to speak the language of hope, and pledged myself to leave no effort untried to obtain redress for my clients. My fair visitor, depositing in my hands a written statement of her case which she had prepared, rose to depart, and with timid and tremulous hands proffered a fee of two guineas. The blood rushed tumultuously to my head, and I should as lief receive a portion of the thirty pieces of silver for which Judas betrayed his master, as touch the gold tendered by the trembling girl! I peremptorily declined all recompense until I should have presented her with some prospect of success. Recompense did I say? I was recompensed at that moment, for the tears of gratitude which dimmed the eyes of the lovely girl, as she returned her fervent thanks, seemed to my feelings, at the instant, more gratifying than the highest fees I have since received during my professional career.

Miss Rusport now prepared for her departure. The night was dark and gloomy, and the distance between my chambers and ——— street, where she resided, considerable; I therefore respectfully proffered myself as an escort, and my services were accepted. On our arrival at the house, the rain commenced to fall in torrents, and I