

**CAPTURE.**—On the 12th instant Mr. Wood, Chief Constable of Maitland, apprehended a man who gave his name as Thomas Birch, on several charges of passing off disguised £1 notes as genuine £5 notes. It appears that Birch's process was as follows: He was in the habit of tendering five £1 notes to the bank or elsewhere in exchange for a £5 note; from the latter he tore off the corner where the figure 5 was placed; from another £5 note the word FIVE was also torn off. The numeral 5 and the word FIVE were afterwards pasted over the numeral 1 and the word ONE at the corners of the one pound note. A third five pound note was also mutilated in the centre, so that the words "FIVE POUNDS" could be taken from it and pasted over the words "ONE POUND." The mutilated notes were then paid away without danger, as there was still enough on them to prove that they were genuine. The fabricated notes, it appears, were generally passed away in paying for small purchases and receiving the balance. After the prisoner had been secured, his lodgings were searched, when some drawing utensils were found, which had been probably employed in completing the word pounds, by adding the final S; about fifteen corners of £5 notes were found, each with the word FIVE on it. Chief Constable Wood stated in his evidence that the prisoner's description and dress agreed exactly with that given in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of a man who had some days previously passed off a fabricated £5 note to Mrs. Davy, in Hunter-street, when paying for a clothes brush (a clothes brush was also found in the prisoner's lodgings). After the prisoner had been remanded till Mrs. Davy could be communicated with, he tore the coat he had on to pieces in the cell in the lock-up, and endeavoured to conceal it by stuffing it in between the slabs of the place where he was confined.

**EXECUTION.**—On Wednesday, the 17th instant, the extreme penalty of the law was carried into execution, at Newcastle, upon Joseph Vale, aged thirty, and Mary Thornton, aged between twenty and twenty-one, convicted at the late Criminal Court held at Maitland, of the murder, by poison, of John Thornton, the husband of the latter. Both prisoners had been regularly visited for spiritual instruction since their condemnation by the Rev. C. P. N. Wilton, M. A., who, at the request of both the criminals, announced to the assembled crowd that they acknowledged that they were guilty of the crime for which they were about to suffer, as well as the justice of the sentence which had been passed upon them. The firmness of the female culprit, both in ascending the drop and when upon it, was exceedingly great.

**FORGED NOTES.**—On Saturday evening last, a woman named Maria McHenry, went into Mr. Smith's public-house, in King-street, and called for half-a-pint of brandy, in payment for which she threw down a forged one pound note of the Bank of New South Wales, and the fraud was not discovered by Mr. Smith until Monday morning, when the woman was apprehended by Inspector Molloy, and is now in safe custody.

**INSOLVENTS' CERTIFICATES.**—The following parties obtained their certificates, no opposition being offered:—Archibald Campbell, John Stephenson Clarke, William John Morris, John Scott, and Edward Agnew.

**ESCAPE OF SIX PRISONERS.**—On Monday morning, before break-of-day, six prisoners belonging to the gang at Nobby's Island, escaped from the General Hospital, and seizing the cutter *Brothers*, the property of Mr. Smith, from the Ballast Wharf, escaped to sea, taking the crew with them. The wind blowing fresh from the N.W. enabled them to make considerably to the eastward by day-light, at which time the vessel was so far off as to be scarcely visible.

**ROBBERY.**—On Saturday morning, about two o'clock, a daring robbery was committed at the residence of Mr. Thomas Schofield, Camperdown, by a man armed with a pistol and a large clasp knife, who threatened to take the lives of all the inmates if they made the slightest resistance; he took a box of clothes and all the money he could find, with a loaf of bread, when he left; but returned in a few minutes after to console them with the satisfaction that a dead cock never crew, and he would make them that they should never tell hereafter. An alarm was given to the neighbours, when every exertion was made to apprehend the fellow, but without any effect.

**HOUSE ROBBERY.**—On Thursday, between three and four o'clock in the afternoon, the house of Charles King, a waterman, residing in Windmill-street, was broken into by two men, by opening one of the windows, when they took a quantity of wearing apparel and a pair of shoes; one of the thieves being seen leaving the house, Sergeant Frawley of the Sydney Police apprehended him before he had got far from the house; the other, named Joseph Rice, was pursued into George-street, and taken by constables McGuire and McGrath; on searching him, a letter was found in his possession directed to one of his friends on Cockatoo; the prisoner Rice has been only a few days free.

**SQUATTERS' MEETING AT PENRITH.**—On Tuesday a few gentlemen met at Penrith, Mr. Lethbridge, J. P., in the chair, at which a series of resolutions were passed condemnatory of the new squatting regulations, and a petition to the Legislative Council was agreed to embodying the substance of the resolutions, and praying "whilst they would hope it may not be necessary to resort to the extreme constitutional measure of refusing to vote the supplies," that the house might take steps "to guard against licensed occupiers of land beyond the boundaries being again placed in such a position as may render them liable to be interrupted in the quiet possession of their stations, till the same shall be included within the boundaries of location."

**CRICKET.**—A match between the Victoria and Australian Cricket Clubs was played on Monday and Tuesday last, the Victorias winning by 29 runs. The grand feature in this match was the batting of W. Still and Fitzpatrick, which is confidently asserted by good judges never to have been surpassed in the colony—the former scoring 65 runs, and without throwing away half a chance; and the latter scoring 70, carrying out his bat! and this, too, in the face of very fair bowling.

VICTORIANS.		AUSTRALIANS.	
1st innings	44	1st innings	86
2nd ditto	174	2nd ditto	103
Total	218		189
	189		

Winning by 29 runs.

**ACCIDENT FROM FIRE.**—On Thursday morning a young girl, named Margaret Burfield, aged 14, in the service of Mr. Williams, cabinetmaker, of York-street, very narrowly escaped being burnt to death by her clothes catching the flames, as she was making the fire about half-past eight o'clock, in her master's kitchen. The girl imprudently ran out of the front door into the street, when she was enveloped in flames almost instantaneously, and must have perished, had she not been observed by the police messenger, who happened to be at the adjoining house, who promptly jumped over the fence, and catching her up in his arms, succeeded in extinguishing the fire before it had penetrated too far beyond the surface of the skin. Notwithstanding, the legs and lower part of the body, as far up as the chest, was dreadfully burnt. She has since been removed to the Colonial Hospital.

**ANOTHER SEIZURE.**—On Saturday last, the Chief Inspector of Distilleries and Mr. McGregor proceeded to a solitary house in the bush, about three miles from Sydney, near the new Botany road, said to be rented by a Mr. Campbell. A chimney was found in a garden in the immediate vicinity of the house, and on the other side of the fence, a sort of hatchway, concealed by turf, which gave admission to a large apartment, where there was a complete distillery in full operation. The roof was securely supported by pillars, and covered with about half-a-foot of earth, in which were planted both bushes and grass, giving it the appearance of the adjoining scrub. The still, of about ninety gallons contents, was running, and as well as the head and worm was of copper; about thirty gallons of spirits were found, with several puncheons of wash in a state of fermentation, and also six or eight bags of sugar. There was no appearance of water near the house or garden, but a well in the under-ground premises afforded an abundant supply. On Tuesday, while the articles were being removed, Mr. Cassels and Mr. Livingston observed an old well at the kitchen door, the cover to which was nailed down to prevent the children from falling into it, as they were told; on examining it they found a few feet of stagnant water in it, and succeeded in fishing up another still-head and worm, all copper.

**INQUEST.**—On Monday afternoon an inquisition was held at the Sortsman's Arms, corner of Hunter and Phillip streets, on the body of Mary Trant, aged about fifteen years, an inmate of the School of Industry, Macquarie-street. It appeared that on Saturday the deceased was leaning over the fire, when her frock caught fire; she ran out to the bakehouse, when some person jumped over the wall, and another took a tablecloth and wrapped it round her, which put out the fire. Surgeon Harnett certified that he had viewed the body, and was of opinion that death had been caused by a severe burning, produced by her clothes taking fire. The jury found a verdict accordingly.

**MARINERS' CHURCH.**—On Wednesday the foundation stone for a church for seamen visiting the port of Sydney was laid by the Hon. Captain Hope, of Her Majesty's Ship *Thalia*, under the direction of the Bethel Union Committee, on a piece of ground at the extremity of Erskine-street, commonly known as Soldiers' Point.

## City Council.

MONDAY.

Mr. Charles Henry Chambers, the late Town Clerk, was called, pursuant to a resolution passed at the last meeting, and addressed the Council at some length in support of the claim made by him for the remuneration to which he considered himself entitled for services performed by him, and partaking of the duty attached to the office of City Solicitor, while he was filling the office of Town Clerk only. He contended that the duties of the Town Clerk were merely secretarial, and although the Act stated that this office might be filled by a solicitor, it did not follow that the officer should be expected to perform any professional duties. The duties of the Town Clerk, as prescribed by the Act, were obviously such as did not require the appointment of a solicitor for their fulfilment, although it might have been contemplated by the Legislature that a legal practitioner would be the fittest person to be entrusted with these duties, and the provision for the appointment of a solicitor, if thought necessary, might be accounted for upon this ground.

The various items in Mr. Chambers's account were then gone through seriatim, and his explanations were taken upon each item as it came before the Council.

Alderman Macdermott then moved that the sum of £37 2s. might be paid to Mr. Chambers, being the amount claimed by him, with the exception of £16 16s. demanded for drawing a petition to the Legislative Council praying for certain amendments in the Corporation Act, and of one-half the amount which had been charged for drawing a lease of the Town Hall, the Alderman being of opinion that the drawing of this petition was part of Mr. Chambers's duty as Town Clerk, and that although the charge made for drawing the lease was a reasonable one, the Council ought not to pay more than half the amount.

Mr. Thurlow seconded the motion.

Alderman Broughton opposed the motion. With respect to the lease in particular, he contended that Mr. Chambers had not received any actual authority for drawing it; and that, by admitting Mr. Chambers's demand, the Council would, in reality, bind itself to an approval of the lease, by which, without any intention on their part, they were compelled, unless they gave notice at the end of three years, to keep possession of the premises for seven years. He concluded by moving as an amendment, that the sum of £26 17s. 10d. might be allowed.

Mr. Driver seconded the amendment.

After some further discussion the original motion was carried.

The Report of the Finance Committee, recommending payment of certain accounts, amounting in the aggregate to £222 10s., was adopted by the Council upon the motion of Mr. Cowlishaw.

Messrs. Lewis Moore and James Dodds were accepted, upon the motion of Alderman Macdermott, as sureties for Mr. Kelly, the Clerk of the Hay, Corn, and Cattle Market.

The Town Clerk read a letter from the Colonial Secretary, communicating the answer of his Excellency the Governor to the Standing Regulations adopted by the Council.

The Town Clerk read a letter from Mr. Charles Windeyer, P.M., enclosing one from the Attorney-General, declining to give legal advice to the Police Bench on any future questions of law that might arise, upon the ground that the Corporation ought to be provided with a regular standing Counsel.

The Mayor stated that he should put a notice upon this subject among the next orders of the day, in order to take the opinion of the Council as to whether there was a necessity for such an appointment.

Letters were read by the Town Clerk from Mr. Forster, the Inspector of Slaughter Houses, and Mr. Bown, the principal Engineer and Fireman, tendering their resignations of these respective offices, both of which resignations were accepted.

The Town Clerk was instructed to prepare an advertisement calling for applications for the situation of Inspector of Slaughter Houses, but with reference to that of Engineer, it was understood that it would not at present be necessary to appoint a successor to Mr. Bown.

Alderman Broughton moved that the sum of £800 having been raised by assessment, for the City Fund, since the 1st of January last, the Town Clerk might be instructed to apply to the government for a like sum, according to the terms of the Corporation Act. Motion carried.

Distress warrants were ordered to issue against certain parties who had made default in the payment of their rates.

Alderman Macdermott moved that Alderman Allen and Councillors Ryan and Agars might be appointed a committee to open the tenders for stationery and printing, and be requested to report at the next meeting. Motion carried.

The Council adjourned till Monday next.

## NEW ZEALAND.

From the Wellington papers we learn that Governor Fitzroy had, on the 12th February, an interview with the Chiefs Rauparaha and Ranhaeata, and a considerable body of natives, on the subject of the Wairau massacre. The first named chief gave his Excellency a long account of the provocations received from the Europeans, who, according to his account, attempted to take possession of their land by force, and were, moreover, the first to commence the slaughter. With respect to the murder of the prisoners, Rauparaha continued—"It is not our custom in war to save the chiefs of our enemies. We do not consider our victory complete unless we kill the chiefs."

When the Chief had finished his relation, his Excellency, after a silence of about half an hour, rose and addressed the natives as follows:—

"Now I have heard both sides, I have reflected on both accounts, and I am prepared to give my decision.

"I, the representative of the Queen of England, the Governor of New Zealand, have made my decision, and it is this. Harken chiefs and elder men to my decision.

"In the first place the English were wrong; they had no right to build houses upon land to which they had not established their claim—upon the land, the sale of which you disputed, and on which Mr. Spain had not decided.

"The were wrong in trying to apprehend you who had committed no crime.

"They were wrong in marking and measuring your land in opposition to your repeated refusal to allow them to do so, until the Commissioner had decided on their claim.

"Had you been Englishmen, you would have known it was very wrong to resist a magistrate, but not understanding English law, your case was different.

"Had this been all, had a struggle caused the loss of life in the fight, wrong and bad as it would have been in the sight of God, I could not have blamed you so much as the Englishmen.

"The very bad part of the Wairau affair, that part where you were so very wrong, was killing unarmed men who had surrendered, who trusted to your honour as chiefs. Englishmen never kill their prisoners; Englishmen never kill men who have surrendered. It is the shocking death of these unfortunate men that has filled my mind with gloom, that made my heart so dark, that has filled me with sorrow. But I know how hard it is to restrain angry men when their passions are roused. I know that you repent of your conduct, and are now sorry that those men were killed; and my decision is that, as the Englishmen were very greatly to blame, and as they brought on and began the fight, and as you were hurried into crime by their misconduct, I will not avenge their deaths.

"In future let us dwell peaceably without distrust. I have told you my decision, and my word is sacred.

"I will punish the English if they attempt to do what is unjust or wrong; you chiefs must help me to prevent the natives from doing any wrong, so that we may live happily in peace—helping and doing good to one another—no man injuring or encroaching on his neighbour, but buying and selling freely as each may desire, with the consent of the other, but not unwillingly; by such means we shall receive mutual advantages. The natives must not interfere with Englishmen who have settled on land and fairly purchased; the English shall not encroach upon land which the natives have not fairly sold.

"No pah, nor cultivation, nor burial ground shall be encroached upon or touched by any Englishmen, except by the desire of the natives to whom it belongs; where there is any mistake or doubt about boundaries of purchase, appeal must be made to law. The law will see justice done, and I will be responsible for its execution, by properly qualified persons."

This decision had given little satisfaction to the Europeans interested.

Before leaving the meeting the Governor introduced Major Richmond to the natives as his representative, and Mr. Spain, the Land Commissioner, who had authority to investigate and decide all land claims. £300 had been awarded to the natives as a final settlement for the New Zealand Company's Land at Wellington, and accepted after much hesitation.

The Governor had sailed for Auckland, where the Legislative Council was summoned to meet in April.

A duel was fought in the last week in February between Mr. W. V. Brewer and Mr. H. Ross, both of them barristers. The quarrel arose out of a dispute in the Supreme Court. At the first exchange of shots—Mr.

Brewer was mortally wounded, and died within forty-eight hours.

The colony continued in a state of great depression.

## LITERARY REGISTER.

## THE MANIAC TO HIS LADY-LOVE.

The summer light in love's warm skies,  
When all the world lies fair before us;  
The tears that start from star like eyes,  
When sorrow's winter darkens o'er us;  
Common are these as sun and cloud,  
Alike to lowly heart and proud.

Eut, ne'er was known so deep a joy  
As nature unto us bequeathed,  
Such splendour, free from all alloy,  
As o'er our passioned souls was breathed;  
Oh! few of mortal birth could guess  
Earth e'er contained such blessedness!

How bright, beyond expression's power,  
On my young heart thy beauty rose!—  
How poor were likening thee to flower,  
Or gem, or star 'mid heaven's repose!  
Too mean were fancy's rainbow dyes,  
Thy form of light to idealise.

In trembling wonder long I gazed;  
And oft in that wild trance, alone,  
I strove 'gainst hopes presumptuous raised,  
Startled at thoughts I dared not own:  
F'n then, what holy rapture thrilled  
My soul, with love's first voicings filled!

And thou didst breathe that one rich word,  
Which told those high hopes were not vain;  
The same new heaven of feeling stirred  
Thy heart, that gladden'd mine to pain:  
And in that truth all confident  
We grew, whereon our beings leant.

Where the green wood walks loneliest led,  
We wandered, at the moonrise hour,  
In Pan's hushed haunts, inhabited  
Only by insect, bird, and flower.  
And when we parted—oh, how sweet  
Morn's light, for us again to meet!

The day in brighter glory broke;  
The rose a richer fragrance gave;  
With sweeter song the birds awoke:  
More lightly rolled the fountain-wave;  
All nature wore a happier guise,  
Illumed by thy seraph eyes.

A foul and fearful change there came!  
Thy eyes divine no longer smiled;  
Thy sweet voice sounded not the same;  
Thy looks grew haggard, strange, and wild.  
I knelt to thee, adoring still,—  
But knelt 'mid thousand shapes of ill.

A foul and fearful change there came!  
On me demonic hands were laid,  
Smiting my soul with pointed flame;  
Cursed voices mocking, when I pray'd,  
For now I knelt in prayer to thee,—  
And madness knelt and pray'd with me!

Ah! who shall say a grief has been  
Unutterably great as ours?—  
The earthquake where fair homes were seen,  
A poisonous blight where grew sweet flowers,  
Ruin so drear ne'er left behind  
As that which spreads o'er heart and mind!

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The leperous horror which has crept  
O'er me and this world's light so long,  
Shall surely yet away be swept,  
For death's all-reaching hand is strong;  
The fiends that tore our hearts in twain  
Shall die, and we be one again.

Yes, yes, sweet love! some moony cave,  
In heaven's mysterious solitude,  
Will open for us beyond the grave,  
With love's immortal blossoms strew'd;  
In some Elysian bower we yet  
Shall meet, as in life's spring we met!

H. PARKES.

*University Intelligence.*—We have been favoured with an authentic copy of the Latin speech, delivered to Her Most Gracious Majesty at Cambridge by the Vice-Chancellor. It was as follows:—*Oratio Cantabrigiæ Habita, VIII. Kal Novemb. 1843. Domina illustrissima necnon formosissima, — Nos omnes, hæc tua Universitas, mefnum agimus, pro vasto illo honore quem nobis fecisti, quem (si expressione ita validâ uti liceat) nobis jam facis. Tua regia crura sub nostro robore uno die posita fore nos valde—diu—quidem volumus. Speramus nec dubitamus Dominum Divum Ellychnium, extra hæc veneranda mœnia, proprium rei genus fecisse—ac, nisi mores nostri omnino sunt tessera, fallimur. Nonne Oxonienses isti homines flavas induent caligas? Valde bene! atque in additione, hanc, quam tua Majestas jam in manu meâ videt, papyrus, si velint, tubis suis ponant, illanque gument ex. Te hic diu mansuram esse speramus. Nullus dies erit, in quo non omnia alaudarum genera parabimus: nulla nox erit, quin oppidum et toga cruentos nasos nigrosque oculos invicem largituri sint. Cur in mundo abire velles? Quamobrem perticam tuam scinderes? Cur non, nunc es hic, materque tua te ex esse novit, totum porcum ires? Optimum quidem nostrum nos Collegiorum capita faciemus, ut tu, Regina, et Doctor Albertus, unâ voce dicant vos nunquam tales vidisse ex-et-ex lateres coctos quales sumus nos, Tui obediens humiles servi. (Translated for the ladies by Punch.) *Speech made at Cambridge, Oct. 25, 1843*—Most illustrious and likewise most beautiful Lady,—All we, this thy University, our marrow bones being bent, do give urt to thee no end of thanks, for that vast honour which thou hast done unto us, which (if it may be lawful to use so strong an expression) thou now doest unto us. We have a very long time, indeed, wished that thy royal legs should one day be placed under our oak. We hope, and doubt not, that Lord Hardwick, outside of these venerable walls, has done the proper sort of thing, and unless our manners are altogether the ticket we are mistaken. Will not those Oxford men put on yellow leggings? Very well! and in addition let them put this paper, which thy Majesty now seest in my hand, in their pipes, and smoke it out. We hope that thou art about to stay here a good while. There will be no day, in which we shall not get up all kinds of larks; there will be no night but town and gown will give each other bloody noses and black eyes. Why in the world wouldst thou wish to be off? On what account shouldst thou cut thy stick? Why shouldst thou not, now thou art here, and thy mother knoweth that thou art out, go the whole hog? We, the heads of Colleges, will indeed do our best, that thou, O Queen, and Doctor Albert, may say with one voice that ye never saw such out-and-out bricks as are we, thy obedient humble servants.*

*The Universal Progressive General Happiness Association.*—This Institution is regulated by a committee, and has for its object the distribution of happiness to the human race. It is a well known fact that contentment produces happiness. It is likewise a well known, though lamentable fact, that no man, whether high or low, is contented with his present position in life, whatever it may be. It cannot be denied that every man would be still more discontented

were he placed in a position below that to which he had been accustomed. It is therefore presumed that were each man raised one step immediately above that which he has hitherto held, universal contentment would be the result, and general happiness must necessarily follow. The committee therefore propose, then, that a universal system of gradual progression be adopted, by which society, or at least that portion of it which will become incorporated with the Association, will be divided into distinct classes or divisions, commencing from those whose earnings amount to five shillings per week, and progressing gradually upwards until it ends with those whose annual incomes reach £5000. And by this simple and easy transition, it is confidently expected, (each man duly appreciating the change in his position) that universal happiness and contentment will be the beneficial result! In order, however, to provide against the unpleasant contingency of the highest class being left destitute of an income, by seceding it to that immediately below them, the committee have made arrangements with the Bank of England for the employment of their surplus capital, to any extent they may require, towards the indemnification of the above class, ample security being of course furnished for the same—by somebody with whom the committee are not at present acquainted. The committee themselves, in forming this Association, are actuated solely by disinterested motives; they ask but the privilege of enrolling themselves amongst the happy society they are about to form.—*Punch.*

*Woman's Mission.*—A book with the above title has been advertised in the papers. We have never read it; but we have our opinion as to what its contents ought to be, and of this we shall give a summary. In treating of the mission of Woman, we shall omit all notice, further than the present, of washing, ironing, baking, brewing, frying, stewing, roasting, boiling, scouring, scrubbing, grate-cleaning, turning the mangle (though that, perhaps, is as often Man's mission as it is women's mission), selling apples, and carrying fish; because, albeit these things are the mission of some women, they are not by any means that of Woman, considered as that charming, smiling, bewitching, fascinating abstraction, which the term will suggest to the reader. The mission of Woman, as we understand Woman, though some people may doubt whether anybody understands Woman, is two-fold. Some great philosopher—we forget them—observes that it resembles that of a candlestick; Woman, like that piece of furniture, being destined for utility and ornament. But perhaps Woman is rather like the candle than the candlestick, she being universally admitted to be the light of life. On which point the profoundest sages, inclusive, we believe, of "the wisest man the word e'er saw," are agreed; as likewise are all the poets, with the exception of Euripides and Juvenal. The physical conformation of Woman, is admirably adapted for certain purposes of utility, for which the clumsier sex is disqualified. When we consider the female hand, we observe that it is furnished with peculiarly delicate and taper fingers; thus exhibiting an admirable provision of Nature for darning the stocking—pleasing task!—and for hemming the pocket-handkerchief. The female middle finger

will be seen, on examination, to have been especially fashioned for the thimble; for, though an implement of that name is used by the tailor, it is quite another thing. It is open at both ends, and wants the elegantly conical form, which is characteristic of that of the sempstress. To replace the shirt-button of the father,—the brother,—the husband—which has come off in putting on the vestment;—to bid the variegated texture of the morning slipper or the waistcoat grow on the Berlin wool: to repair the breach that incautious haste in dressing has created in the coat or the trousers, which there no time to send out to be mended—are the special offices of Woman; offices for which her digital mechanism has singularly fitted her: and without her what should do for their performance? In the ornamental, no less than the useful capacity of woman, the conformation her hand is of singular service. Its peculiar capabilities of touching the ivory key are well known: Woman was made for the piano, and the piano was made for Woman. The immortal Milton, in his lovely poem "L'Allegro," sings with much feeling of the "savory dinner" of

"herbs and other country messes,  
Which the neat-handed Phyllis dresses."

The neatness, therefore, of the hand of woman is evidently, in the bard's opinion, a qualification for culinary proficiency; and to this, though we may not owe the brisket or the sirloin (the Phyllis of the kitchen being generally the reverse of neat-hand), we are certainly indebted for the tart. What but female ingenuity could produce the fairy-like trellis work which decorates the jam? The junket, the omelette, the syllabub, the jelly, are nicest when the handiwork of Woman. Man may brew; but who, save Woman, can make tea? And who has not felt, the difference between the go of grog which the waiter has brought at his call; and the sweeter alcoholic mixture which has been mixed by the spoon of Beauty? Woman's mission, in short, is to make herself as useful and agreeable to man as possible. The writer of the book, whose title has formed the subject of these remarks, has perhaps included among her duties those of setting little boys and girls a good example, and teaching them their alphabet. If not, he—or she—has been guilty of an omission. Whether the said writer considers the study of metaphysics or geology to be involved in Woman's Mission or not, we do not know; but we would not recommend ladies to be wedded to those pursuits who contemplate any other kind of wedding.

*Gas-light superseded by Electricity.*—A letter from Paris, dated Oct. 21, gives the following account of the first public trial of an experiment which has been more than four years in preparation, for fixing at a given point, the electric fluid, and making it applicable to the purpose of lighting the streets and private houses:—On one of the bases of the statues called the Pavillon de Lille, on the Place de la Concorde, a glass globe of apparently 12 or 13 inches in diameter, with a moveable reflector, was fixed in connexion with a voltaic battery, and at a little before nine o'clock the electric fluid was thrown into it by a conductor. At this time all the gas lights of the Place, about 100 in number, were burning. As soon as the electric light appeared, the nearest gas lights had the same

dull, thick, and heavy appearance, as oil lamps have by the side of gas. Soon afterwards the gas lights were extinguished, and the electric light shone forth in all its brilliancy. Within 100 yards of the light it was easy to read the smallest print; it was in fact as light as day. The astonishment of the assembled multitude was very great, and their delight as strong as their astonishment. The estimate made by scientific persons who were present, was, that the electric light was equal to twenty of the gas lamps, and consequently, that five of these lights would suffice to light the whole Place most brilliantly. As regards the expense of production, nothing positive has transpired, but I think I may safely assume that it would be considerably less than that of the generation of gas, whilst the first outlay for machinery and conductors would not amount to a twentieth part of that required for gas works. There would also be another great advantage in the electric light. It gives out no bad smell; it emits none of those elements which, in the burning of gas, are so injurious to health, and explosion would be impossible. The only danger that would arise would be at the battery itself, but that would be under the control of competent persons; and even in this respect there would be no danger, even to unskilful persons, with an apparatus of moderate size. Internal lighting, would be as practicable as external lighting for by conductors the fluid would be conveyed to every part of the house.

*Bankers' Clerks.*—The exertions of the bankers' clerks are of such a paralysing nature, that if any one goes into a banking-house with a cheque, they generally appear to be in a state of mesmerism, and stand for a few minutes opposite the party presenting the cheque without taking the smallest notice of him. Occasionally they are enabled to walk to a desk and speak to a fellow-clerk, after which they so far recover themselves as to attend to their duties.—*Punch.*

*Living in a Hurry.*—Perhaps the most characteristic peculiarity of the social condition of England at present is the unhealthy want of repose. Travelling by railroad is merely typical of the headlong hurry with which the affairs of life are transacted. In business, men are in a hurry to get rich; they cannot submit to the tedious process of adding one year's patient and legitimate gains to those of its predecessor, but seek by bold speculative combinations, by anticipations of intelligence received through the ordinary channels, to make or mar themselves by one bold stroke. The devotees of pleasure seek, as it were, to multiply their personal presence—not only by rattling to a dozen assemblies of a night, as has been the worshipful practice in London during the gay season for some hundred years, but by shooting in the north of Scotland and yachting in the Channel during the same week visiting Palestine and the Pyramids during the Parliamentary recess, and other feats of celerity. The mechanical wheels revolve with accumulated speed to correspond to the hot haste of those who impel them. The long hours of factory and milliner drudges, the gangs of night and day labours relieving each other in printing-offices and coal-pits—all the unremitting, eager, "go-ahead" pressure of society—are but so many symptoms of the excitement which impels men to live in a hurry. It is a

paradox only in form: to say that we are in such a hurry to live, that we do not live at all. Life slips through our fingers, unfelt, unenjoyed, in the bustle of preparing to live. A day of business is a day of breathless haste. The duties of the toilet are hurried through; the breakfast is gulped down without being tasted; the newspaper is skimmed with a dim idea of its contents; the place of business is posted to in a chariot, cab, or bus; the day is spent in straining to overtake complicated details of business too extensive for the mind's grasp; it costs a race to be in time for dinner; and dinner is curtailed of its fair proportion of time, for the debate, or the committee, or the opera, or the evening party, or all of them. Even sleep is got through impatiently, with frequent startings and consultations of the watch, lest the morning hours be lost. We snore in quicker time than our ancestors snored; and the worst of it is, that men cannot help this railroad fashion of galloping out of life. When such a crowd as now peoples these islands are all running at this headlong speed, you must run with them, or be borne down and run over and trampled to death by the mass. It is only by joining in the frantic gallop that you can keep your place and save your bones from being broken. Habit becomes so inveterate, that even when thrown out of the vortex men cannot rest. In the young societies of our colonial empire (and this is not their least recommendation) men might live more leisurely if they chose; but the *gigantic bankruptcy of New South Wales* shows too clearly that even in our antipodean provinces this foolish effort to accomplish everything at once is epidemic. Our very diseases partake of this contagious haste; the lingering consumption is growing less frequent—the instantaneous apoplexy and ossification of the heart are taking its place. Even the moralizers on this universal race, for the sake of running, hurry along with the rest, and pant on their reflections as they run.—*Spectator.*

*Habits of Spiders.*—The following curious fact is given on the authority of Mr. Spence:—Having placed a large, full-grown spider on a cane planted upright in the midst of a stream of water, he saw it descend the cane several times, and remount when it had arrived at the surface of the water. Suddenly he altogether lost sight of it, but a few moments afterwards, to his great astonishment, perceived it quietly pursuing its way on the other side of the stream. The spider having spun two threads along the cane, had cut one of them, which, carried by the wind, had become attached to some object on the bank, and so served the spider as a bridge across the water. It is supposed that spiders, when adult, always use similar means to cross water.

*A Texian Prairie.*—In the direction in which we had ridden out, the grass was very abundant and the flowers scarce; whereas the part of the prairie in which I now found myself presented the appearance of a perfect flower-garden, with scarcely a square foot of green to be seen. The most variegated carpet of flowers I ever beheld lay unrolled before me; red, yellow, violet, blue, every colour, every tint was there; millions of the most magnificent prairie roses, tuberoses, asters, dahlias, and fifty other kinds of flowers. The finest artificial garden in the world would sink into insignificance when compared with