

## City Council.

MONDAY.

Alderman Wilshire brought up a revised Report of the Assessment Committee, for Macquarie Ward, stating that the valued rental of the ward was upwards of £43,900 sterling.

Alderman Broughton brought up a Report of the Finance Committee, recommending the liquidation of certain claims amounting in all to £8 17s. 4d.

Mr. Driver presented a petition from Mr. John Kellick, of Margaret-place, complaining that the line of that street had been altered so as to encroach on his property, and praying that the matter should be enquired into.

The use of shed A of the George-street Market was granted for the next show of the Floral Society.

A letter from Mr. C. Morris, the owner of some ground in Bourke-street, was read, stating that his property had been encroached on by the line of street laid down, and that unless compensation was allowed, he would commence building on the same.

Mr. Agars moved—"That all former resolutions relative to the lighting of the city of Sydney, or parts thereof, be rescinded; and that, in terms of the 74th clause of the Municipal Corporation Act, this Council do order a lighting rate of one penny in the pound to be levied for the purpose of lighting the city, under the directions of a Committee to be determined upon."

Mr. Driver seconded the motion.

Alderman Macdermott opposed the motion, on the ground that it would give a monopoly to the Gas Company who, when formerly applied to on the subject, had acted very illiberally.

Alderman Wilshire opposed the motion on similar grounds.

Mr. Fisher moved for the appointment of a committee of one-third of the members of the Council to correspond with the Gas Company, and also to ascertain the expense of lighting the City with oil, and to report on the same to the Council, as speedily as possible.

Mr. Iredale seconded the amendment.

Mr. Thurlow and Mr. Holden supported the amendment.

Alderman Flood opposed both the motion and the amendment.

A division took place, when the amendment was carried by a majority of 12 to 10.

Mr. Thurlow moved—"That a wooden jetty be carried out from the steps already built at the Market Wharf to a sufficient depth to allow boats of ten tons burthen to unload at low water, and that a gas lamp be fixed at the said wharf."

Mr. Wilkie seconded the motion.

Alderman Macdermott moved, as an amendment, that the motion just made be referred to the Finance Committee, in order that enquiry might be made as to whether there were any funds available for forming the work, if it should be deemed necessary by the Market Committee to go on with the erection of the same.

Mr. Josephson having seconded the amendment,

Mr. Thurlow withdrew his motion in favour of the amendment.

Alderman Flood proposed, as an amendment, that the City Surveyor be called on to report whether a jetty has been constructed

at the Market Wharf—by whose orders, at what cost, and under whose superintendence it had been erected.

Mr. Coyle seconded the latter amendment, which was lost on a division of 12 to 7, and Alderman Macdermott's was put and carried.

On the motion of Alderman Broughton, the Report of the Finance Committee, recommending, in a supplementary estimate, that the sum of £100 be appropriated for payment of the salary of the City Solicitor for the year ending 31st December, 1845, was considered and approved of; Mr. Fisher alone being opposed to the motion.

Sundry accounts, amounting to £64 16s. 4d., were ordered to be paid.

The Council then proceeded to consider the Report of the Water Committee of the City Council for the half-year ended 31st December, received on the 22nd of January last. The Report and its appendages being read by the Town Clerk, Mr. Fisher moved and Mr. Wilkie seconded the reception and adoption of the same.

Alderman Flood moved, as an amendment, that the Report be sent back to the Committee, in order that additional information may be obtained by them respecting the state of the tunnel, as there was no definite information in the City Surveyor's letter on the subject.

Mr. Driver seconded the amendment, which, after some discussion, was put and carried.

On the motion of Mr. Josephson, the memorial of certain citizens of Macquarie-street South and Sheriff's Gardens, complaining of an uncovered stagnant drain, and praying the Council to instruct the City Surveyor to cause a barrel, or covered drain, to be made in that locality, was referred to the General Improvement Committee.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

NEW DISCOVERY.—Just as we were going to press, we received the gratifying intelligence that several important mineral discoveries had been made upon the South Australian Company's lands at Rapid Bay, and that some fine specimens of lead and copper ores were in the possession of the Company's Manager.—*Adelaide Observer*.

IRRIGATION.—Mr. Thomas Dowling, of Launceston, has succeeded in constructing a wheel for the purposes of irrigation, at once cheap, simple and effective. The farm of Aubrey fronts the North Esk, and a few logs are laid in the middle of the river, on which one end of the shaft is placed, while the other rests on the bank. The wheel itself resembles that of a mill, destitute of the ring or circle of buckets; by fastening a few broad palings on the ends of the parallel spokes, each pair forms a kind of paddle on which the stream acts, and our readers will easily understand, that where the current is strong such a wheel without obstruction would move with great velocity. A small wooden box, capable of containing about two quarts, is attached to the outside, and within a few inches of the top of each paddle. As the wheel revolves, the boxes dip into the water, immerge empty, and emerge full, and are carried round with the wheel until they reach an angle of forty-five, when they commence to discharge their contents into a trough placed alongside the wheel to receive

the water, and from thence it is conveyed by channels into the fields to be irrigated, or when not required, permitted to fall into the river again by a small drain. The quantity of water raised is ample for the purposes of irrigation.—*S. A. Register*.

PARKHURST BOYS.—At a meeting of the Colonists of South Australia, held on the 21st January last, John Morphet, Esq., M.L.C., in the chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—1. "That this meeting has heard with the greatest alarm and regret that the question of introducing into this colony, convicts from Parkhurst and other prisons, as free emigrants, has been revived in England." 2. "That this meeting views such a scheme, virtually as an attempt to evade the Acts of the Imperial Parliament which have enacted that convicts should not under any circumstances be transferred to these shores." 3. "That this meeting pledges itself to resist, by all lawful means, the introduction of such characters into this Province." 4. "That a memorial to the Right Hon. Lord Stanley, Secretary of State for the Colonies, be immediately prepared, protesting against the introduction into this colony of any convicts from England or elsewhere under any pretext; that a committee be appointed to prepare such memorial, and that His Excellency the Governor be requested to forward the same at the earliest opportunity.—*Adelaide Observer*.

ROMANTIC.—Thomas Newman applied yesterday to B. T. Finnis, Esq., (a Justice of the Peace for New South Wales), under the following singular circumstances. It appears that about a year ago, or a little more, he was a servant in the employ of Messrs. Cowie and Stead, in the Geelong district, and received a letter from London, by which he found himself suddenly entitled by the death of a relation, to from £50,000 to £60,000. He found no difficulty in raising some large sums of money; and his former employer, Mr. Stead, went to England, armed with full powers from him to act on his behalf. Meanwhile, he married, and lately left his house with his wife and her brother, to go, as was supposed, to Lake Colac. The next day his wife returned, and the day following her brother—but not himself. Rumour declared that he was murdered: and warrants were actually issued for his wife and brother-in-law; to the former of which it was said he had lately left his property by will. Several circumstances seemed to confirm the suspicion; and, to strengthen the whole, before the lady could be secured, she had disappeared too; but her brother was taken into custody. Mr. Newman, who states that he had gone forward to give directions about some cattle he was sending overland to Adelaide, his wife following by appointment, now applied to the Magistrate to take his own and some further testimony to his identity, that documents might be forwarded by the Palmyra, to stay the charge of murder against his brother-in-law. He informs us that ample evidence having been produced, the papers will be immediately forwarded with his Worship's signature. We learn from another source that the accused party has already been able to establish his innocence, by proving the fact of Mr. Newman's leaving the Colony, and that he was, of course, liberated.—*South Australian Register*.

## SONG.

"Out of the day and night  
A joy has taken flight."

Shelly.

A voice for ever sweet and low  
Like the fluting of a brook;  
Richly familiar,  
Like some old song given to flow  
From some loved book,—  
Day by day was at my side  
Amid the hills where I was born;  
And, if it went at eventide,  
It came again at morn;  
And 'twas the last that blest me when  
I parted from my native glen.

A wanderer long; again I hear  
Just the streams that then I heard;  
Wildly familiar,  
Dreams of old are warbling near  
In each glad bird;  
Yet the more I feel alone  
That round me these known things rejoice,  
Because I miss in every tone  
The once-according voice,  
Which I must listen for in vain  
In all the weary world again.

CHARLES HARPUR.

## BIOGRAPHY.

## SIR JOSEPH BANKS.

JOSEPH BANKS was born in London, Feb. 13, 1743. Of his childhood we find few memorials. He passed through the ordinary routine of education; having been first committed to the care of a private tutor at home, then placed at Harrow, afterwards at Eton, and finally sent to complete his studies at Christchurch, Oxford. Born to the inheritance of an ample fortune, and left an orphan at the age of eighteen, it is no small praise that he was not allured by the combined temptations of youth, wealth, and freedom, to seek his happiness in vicious, or even idle pleasures. Science, in one of its most attractive branches, the study of animated nature, was his amusement as a school-boy, and the favourite pursuit of his mature years: and he was rewarded for his devotion, not merely in the rank and estimation which he obtained by its means, but also in his immunity from the dangers which society throws in the way of those who have the means of gratifying their own passions, and the vanities and interests of their friends.

He quitted the university in the year 1763. In 1766 he gave a proof of his zeal for knowledge by engaging in a voyage to Newfoundland. He was induced to choose that most unattractive region by having the opportunity of accompanying a friend, Lieutenant Phipps, afterwards Lord Mulgrave, well known as a navigator of the Polar Seas, who was sent out in a ship of war to protect the fisheries. Soon after his return a much more interesting and important field of inquiry was open to him by the progress of discovery in the southern hemisphere. In 1764 Commodore Byron, in 1766 Captains Wallis and Carteret were sent into the South Seas, to investigate the geography of that immense and then unfrequented region. These expeditions were succeeded in 1768 by another under the command of Captain Cook, who first obtained celebrity as a navigator upon this occasion. Lord Sandwich, then First Lord of the Admiralty, possessed an estate in Lincolnshire, on the borders of Whittlesea Mere. Mr. Banks's chief property lay in the same neighbourhood: and it so chanced that similarity of tastes, and especially a common predilection for all aquatic amusements, had produced a great intimacy between the statesman and his young country neighbour. To this fortunate circumstance it may

probably be ascribed, that on Mr. Banks expressing a wish to accompany the projected expedition, his desire was immediately granted. His preparations were made on the most liberal scale. He laid in an ample store of such articles as would be useful or acceptable to the savage tribes whom he was about to visit: and besides the usual philosophical apparatus of a voyage of discovery, he engaged two draughtsmen to make accurate representations of such objects as could not be preserved, or conveyed to England: and he secured the services of Dr. Solander, a Swedish naturalist, a pupil of Linnæus, who had previously been placed on the establishment of the British Museum. The expedition bent its course for the Southern Ocean, through the Straits of Le Maire, at the southern end of America. Mr. Banks and Dr. Solander landed on the desolate island of Terra del Fuego, where the severity of the cold had very nearly proved fatal to several of their party. Dr. Solander in particular was so entirely overcome by the drowsiness consequent on extreme cold and exhaustion, that it was with great difficulty, and by the unwearied exertion and resolution of his more robust companion, that he was prevented from falling into that sleep which is the forerunner of death. Their farther course lay through the islands of the Pacific Ocean to Tahiti, which had been selected as a fitting place for the main object of the voyage, the observing of the passage of Venus over the sun's disk. At that island their stay was consequently prolonged for several months, during which the Europeans and the natives mingled together, generally on the most friendly terms. In this intercourse Mr. Banks took a very leading part. His liberality, and the high station which he evidently held among the strangers, conciliated the attachment and respect of the unpolished islanders: and the mingled suavity and firmness of his temper and demeanour, rendered him singularly fitted both to protect the weaker party from the occasional wantonness or presumption of their visitors, and to check their knavery, and obtain satisfaction for the thefts which they not unfrequently committed. Once the astronomical purposes of the navigators were nearly frustrated by the loss of the large brass quadrant; and the recovery of this important instrument was chiefly due to the exertions and influence of Mr. Banks. Both hemispheres owe to him a tribute of gratitude; for while he gave the savages the improved tools, the esculent vegetables, and the domesticated animals of Europe, his exertions led to the introduction of the bread-fruit, and of the productive sugarcane peculiar to Tahiti, into our West India colonies.

Leaving Tahiti they proceeded to the Society Islands and New Zealand, exploring the coasts as they proceeded. On the 31st of March, 1770, they quitted New Zealand and proceeded to New Holland, the eastern coast of which they surveyed for the first time. The name of Botany Bay, given by Banks to their landing place, perpetually connects the subject of our notice with this country.

After the lapse of three years the voyagers returned home, and were received with lively interest by all classes of society. Part of their collections were lost through an accident which happened to the vessel; but the greater portion was preserved, and their

novelty and beauty excited the admiration of naturalists. George III., who delighted in everything connected with horticulture and farming, manifested a warm interest in inquiring into the results of the expedition, and conceived a liking for the young traveller, which continued unimpaired even to the close of his public life.

It was Mr. Banks's intention to accompany Captain Cook in his second voyage, in 1772: but the Navy Board showed no willingness to provide that accommodation which the extent of his preparations and the number of his scientific followers required, and he gave up the project, which indeed he could not satisfactorily execute. In the summer of that year he went to Iceland. Passing along the western coast of Scotland, he was led to visit Staffa, in consequence of local information; and to his description that singular island was first indebted for its general celebrity. He spent a month in Iceland. An account of this visit has been published by M. Von Troil, a Swedish clergyman, who formed one of the party. On this, as on other occasions, Mr. Banks, unwearied in quest of knowledge, seemed careless of the fame to which most would have aspired as the reward of their labours. Of none of his travels has he himself given any account in a separate publication; indeed, a few papers in the Horticultural Transactions, and a very curious account of the causes of mildew in corn, not printed for sale, constitute the mass of his published works. But his visit was productive of much good to the Icelanders, though it remained uncommemorated in expensive quartos. He watched over their welfare, when their communication with Denmark was interrupted by war between that country and England; and twice sent cargoes of corn, at his own expense, to relieve their sufferings in seasons of scarcity. His benevolence was warmly acknowledged by the Danish Court.

Returning to England, Mr. Banks, at the early age of thirty, entered on that tranquil and useful course of life, from which during a long series of years he never deviated. His thirst for travel was checked or satiated; he undertook no more distant expeditions, but he ceased not to cultivate the sciences, for which he had undergone so many hardships. It was long hoped that he would publish some account of the rich harvest of vegetable productions which he had collected in the unknown regions of the Pacific; and for this purpose it was known that he had caused a very large number of plates to be engraved at a great expense: but most probably owing to the death of Solander, these have never been given to the world. But if he hesitated to communicate himself to the public the results of his labours, in amends his museum and his library were placed most freely at the command of those who sought, and were able to profit by his assistance; and to these sources many splendid works, especially on botany, have mainly owed their merits, and perhaps their existence.

From the period of his return from Iceland Mr. Banks took an active part in the affairs of the Royal Society. His house was constantly open to men of science, whether British or foreign, and by the urbanity of his manners, and his liberal use of the advantages of fortune, he acquired that popularity which six years afterwards led to his election as President of that distinguished body. Two

or three years afterwards a dangerous schism had nearly arisen in the Society, chiefly in consequence of the unreasonable anger of a party of mathematicians, headed by Dr. Horsley, afterwards Bishop of St. David's, who looked with contempt on sciences unsusceptible of mathematical proof, and loudly exclaimed against the chair of Newton being filled, as they phrased it, by an amateur. It would be little profitable to rake up the embers of an ancient and unworthy feud. We shall only state therefore that Banks was elected in November, 1778; that for some time a violent opposition was raised against him; and that in January, 1784, the Society, by a formal resolution, declared itself satisfied with the choice which it had made. Horsley and a few others seceded, and for the rest of his life Banks continued the undisputed and popular president; a period of forty-one years from the epoch of his election.

We have said that at an early age Mr. Banks was fortunate in gaining the royal favour; marks of which were not wanting. In 1781 he was created a baronet; in 1795 he received the Order of the Bath, then very rarely bestowed upon civilians and commoners; and in 1797 he was made a Privy Councillor. The friendship between the king and the subject was cemented by similarity of pursuits; for the latter was a practical farmer as well as a philosopher, and under his care the value of his estates in Lincolnshire was considerably increased by improvements in the drainage of that singular country, in the direction of which Sir Joseph took an active part. He is said to have possessed such influence over the king's mind, that ministers sometimes availed themselves of it to recommend a measure unpalatable to their honest but somewhat obstinate master. We know not whether this be better founded than most other stories of backstairs influence, easily thrown out and difficult to be refuted: it is at least certain that if Banks possessed such power, he deserves great credit for the singular moderation with which he used it. For himself he asked and received nothing: fortunately his station in society was one which renders disinterestedness an easy, if not a common virtue. His influence was directed to facilitate scientific undertakings, to soften to men of science the inconveniences of the long war of the revolution, to procure the restoration of their papers and collections when taken by an enemy, or the alleviation of their sufferings in captivity. The French were especially indebted to him for such services. It is said by an eminent member of the Institute, in his Eloge upon Banks, that no less than ten times, collections addressed to the Jardin du Roi at Paris, and captured by the English, were restored by his intercession to their original destination. He thought that national hostility should find no entrance among followers of science; and the delicacy of his views on this subject is well displayed in a letter written on one of these occasions to Jussieu, where he says that he would on no account rob of a single botanical idea a man who had gone to seek them at the peril of his life. In 1802 the National Institute of France, being then remodelled, elected him at the head of their Foreign Associates, whose number was limited to eight. Cavendish, Maskelyne, and Herschel were also members of this distinguished list. In replying to the letter which announced this honour, Sir Joseph Banks ex-

pressed his gratitude in terms which gave offence to some members of that distinguished Society over which he himself presided. This exposed him to a virulent attack from an anonymous enemy, who published the letter in question in the English papers, accompanied by a most acrimonious address to the author of it; prompted, it is evident, not so much by a reasonable and patriotic jealousy, as by ancient pique, and a bitter detestation even of the science of revolutionary France.

Towards the close of life Sir Joseph Banks, who in youth had possessed a robust constitution, and a dignified and prepossessing figure, was grievously afflicted by gout. He endured the sufferings of disease with patience and cheerfulness, and died May 19, 1820, leaving no children. Lady Banks, whom he had married in 1779, survived him several years. His magnificent library he devised to the British Museum; and among other bequests for scientific purposes, he left an annuity to Mr. Frederic Bauer, an artist whom he had long employed in making botanical drawings from the garden at Kew, upon condition that he should continue the series.

*Protection of Commerce.*—The fairs of Botzen are the principal fairs of the Tyrol, for every kind of merchandize, they are held four times in the year, and last a fortnight each time. The fair had begun a few days before I reached Botzen, and I visited it for the first time on the evening of my arrival. There is one very long street in Botzen, with covered arcades on both sides; and it is under these arcades, partly in shops, and partly on stalls, that the fair is held. Every kind of merchandize was exposed. All the goods were Austrian: no manufactures of other nations are admitted; and the protective system is fully acted upon. Whatever may be the wisdom of the measure as regards the government, individuals suffer by it. I enquired the prices of several of the articles which were exposed; and found that good broad cloth, but not by any means equal to the west of England cloth, or the cloth manufactured at Verviers in the Netherlands, cost eight florins a yard (about 18s. 8d.); and calicoes, very inferior to the English, both in quality and colour—to say nothing of taste—were at least one half dearer. Other articles were proportionably dear; especially every kind of cutlery, which, I need scarcely say, was of a very inferior quality.—*The Tyrol, by H. D. Inglis.*

*Abstraction from Ourselves Recommended.*—Men are apt to grow, in the apostolic phrase, too "wordly;" the propensity of our nature, or rather the operation of our state, is to plunge us, the lower orders of the community, in the concerns of the day, and our masters, in the cares of wealth and gain. It is good for us sometimes to be "in the mount." Those things are to be cherished which tend to elevate us above our ordinary sphere, and to abstract us from our common and every-day concerns. The affectionate recollection and admiration of the dead will act gently upon our spirits, and fill us with a composed seriousness, favourable to the best and most honourable contemplations.—*Godwin's Essay on Sepulchres.*

*How to live on Nine Shillings a Week.*—Every man's income is limited more or less; and he must limit his expenditure accordingly. Thus, he may be forced to content himself with a house of a rent not exceeding two thousand pounds a year, with no greater number of servants than a dozen, with six horses and no more; but with two carriages; with turtle, venison, champagne, and burgundy, only now and then; with a middling box at the Opera, and so on. 9s. a week is a decidedly limited income. To live upon it a man must first cut down his expenditure to the fewest possible branches, and secondly apply the closest shaving to each. They can hardly be reduced below three—food, clothes, and lodging; but if anybody could do without one of these, the difficulty would be much simplified. As to lodging. The cheapest to be had must be chosen; the more unpleasant the situation the better, as the rent will then be more reasonable. A roadside hovel, or a ruinous old house up a court, may be recommended. A single room, however small, must suffice for a whole family, however large. Chairs, tables, bedsteads, and other moveables, may be dispensed with; the entire furniture should consist of a few blankets and some straw; and the blankets ought to be begged. Coals and candles are too expensive; and it is extravagant to have any fire at all, except to cook a few potatoes, or to avoid being frozen to death. With regard to clothes. These must be obtained, if in any way possible, through charity; there is another way of getting them, which it would be hardly right to hint at. By a proper economy they may be made to last till they fall to pieces, which they will not altogether do for years. If it is necessary to buy clothes, they must be bought; but the purchase should only include indispensables. Shirts and stockings are superfluities; and the younger children may always, and the whole family at times, manage to do without shoes. Food must be confined in general to bread and potatoes; but perhaps with management a little bacon may be indulged in now and then. It will be out of the question to think of any other drink than the plain water; and tea and sugar are luxuries not to be dreamed of. By following the above rules it is perhaps possible to live honestly on 9s. a week with a wife and family. Medical attendance is out of the question. What are called comforts must be considered unattainable; for any man, even though starving and perishing, to help himself to a meal, a handful of wood, or anything of the kind is highly immoral; the law respects not persons but property, and severely visits such wickedness.—*Punch.*

*Of the Operation and Effects of Stays.*—As years advance, various causes combine to render this practice more inveterate and more pernicious; and still the potent instrument, the lace, lends its ready and effectual aid. Now a taper waist becomes an object of ambition, and the stays are to be laced more closely. This is still done gradually, and, at first, imperceptibly to the parties. The effect, however, though slow, is sure, and the powers of endurance thus exercised come in time to bear almost unconsciously what, if suddenly or quickly attempted, no heroism could possibly sustain. The derangements to which this increased pressure gives rise must now be considered. The first is the obvious impediment to the motions of the ribs which this constriction of the chest occasions. For

perfect respiration these motions should be free and unrestrained. In proportion as respiration is impeded, is the blood imperfectly vitalised; and in the same ratio are the nutrient and other functions dependent on the blood inadequately performed. Here, then, is one source of debility which affects the whole frame, reducing every part below the standard of healthful vigour. According, also, as each inspiration of air becomes less full, the wants of the system require, as a compensation, increased frequency; and thus quickened respiration commences, disturbing the lungs, and creating in them a tendency to inflammatory action. The heart, too, becomes excited, the pulse accelerated, and palpitation is in time superadded. All these effects are capable of resulting from mere constriction of the chest; they become fearfully aggravated when, at a more advanced stage, additional sources of irritation arise in flexure of the spine, and in derangements of the stomach, liver, and other organs subservient to digestion. The foregoing disturbances are formidable enough, and sufficiently destructive of health, yet they are not the only lesions (injuries) which tight lacing induces. The pressure, which is chiefly made on the lower part of the chest, and to which this part most readily yields, extends its malign influence to the abdominal viscera also. By it the stomach and liver are compressed, and, in time, partially detruded from the concavity of the diaphragm, to the great disturbance of their functions; and being pressed downwards too, these trespass on that space which the other abdominal viscera require, superinducing still further derangements. Thus, almost every function of the human body becomes more or less depraved. Nothing could have prevented the source of all this mischief and misery from being fully detected and universally understood, but the slow and insidious process by which the aberration from sound principle effects its ravages. The mere weakness of back, so often adverted to, becomes in its turn an aggravating cause of visceral lesion. The body cannot be always cased in tightly-laced stays; their pressure may be endured to any extent under the excitement of the evening display, but during the day some relaxation must take place. Under it, the muscles of the back, deprived of their accustomed support, and incapable of themselves to bear the recumbent weight, yield; and the column of the spine bends, at first anteriorly, causing round shoulders and an arched back; but eventually inclines to one or other side, giving rise to the well-known and too frequently occurring state of lateral curvature. This last change most frequently commences in the sitting posture, such females being, through general debility, much disposed to sedentary habits. As soon as the lateral curvature commences, the lungs and heart become still more disturbed; anhelation (difficulty of breathing) from slight exertion, short cough, and palpitation ensue; and at this time, chiefly in consequence of the pulmonary derangement, alarm begins to be entertained, and the approach of phthisis apprehended.

*Hints on Spectacles.*—In general persons begin to require artificial aid to sight between the age of thirty-five and forty-five. This, however, is greatly influenced by the constitution, habits, and general health of each individual, and especially by the degree of care which has been taken of the eyes—some

persons retaining the power of reading even the smallest print without glasses until a very advanced age, while others need them in early age. Even the shape and size of spectacles are matters of great importance; they should, as I several years ago stated in my work on the eye, be round and large, so that there may be no possibility of the eye looking against the frames, which is apt to produce *muscae volitantes*, and other affections of the organ. There has of late years been a foolish practice of wearing spectacles merely for the sake of the supposed becoming appearance which they have, and not because the eyes need such assistance; and it is not surprising, therefore, that the neatness of the spectacles has become a matter of greater importance than any of their other qualities. Accordingly, very small oval spectacles are all the rage, although this construction is the worst that can be imagined: a fact better known in Germany than in this country. I noticed that the spectacles worn there were almost invariably large and round, in particular those used by medical and scientific persons. Those who object to such spectacles on account of their appearance in the streets, might have one pair of serviceable glasses for use in doors, and another for show when out of doors, as they would not then do the eyes so much harm as when reading, writing, &c., with them. His late Majesty George the Fourth was always particularly careful of his eyes; and it is by no means improbable that the afflicting blindness of his revered father, during several of the closing years of his life, was often present to his mind, and was a main care in this respect. The spectacles he used in viewing distant objects were No. 6; for nearer objects No. 2; but it is very singular that for reading he wore only preserves of 36 inches focus. In proof of the injury done to the eyes by looking against the frames of spectacles, I may mention, that it is said, in France, during the time of Napoleon, young men, in order to exempt themselves from the conscription, used sometimes to render their sight defective by simply wearing small bars of iron before their eyes for a short time. The proper selection of glasses, says Sir D. Brewster, for imperfect vision, is a point of much deeper importance than is generally believed. An oculist who is acquainted only with the human eye, without possessing any knowledge of it as an optical instrument, is often led professionally to recommend glasses when they ought not to be used, and to fix on focal lengths entirely unfit for the purpose to which they are applied; and the mere vender of lenses and spectacles is still more frequently in the habit of proffering deleterious counsel.—*Curtis on the care of the Eyes.*

*American Politeness.*—When an American female of whatever condition (always alas! provided she has no negro blood in her veins) enters a coach, or packet, or any other conveyance, the universal practice is for the best seat to be resigned to her use; this in a carriage is considered to be the one which enables the traveller to sit with his face to the horses. Mr. Stuart being aware of this custom, but at the same time suffering much from riding backwards, took measures on one occasion for securing himself against the necessity of resigning the seat of honour; by application at the coach office he obtained a positive promise that the favourite place should be reserved for him, and that he should be left

in the undisturbed possession of it. At starting, Mr. Stuart, much to his satisfaction, seated himself according to his bargain, promising himself for once at least a day of comfort on his journey. His felicity, however, was of very short duration. The coachman pulled up in a street near the outskirts of the town, a door opened, and the usual cry of "ladies" from the cad warned our traveller that his newly chartered rights were in danger of being contested. It was in vain that he pleaded his bargain; the whole covenant was declared null and void ab initio; coachman, porters, passengers, and by-standers, all joined in denouncing his claim as abominable and preposterous; the ladies refused to enter the vehicle or even to leave their house until the seat was vacated; and all was uproar and confusion. The landlord of the hotel whence the coach had started, being sent for to decide the dispute, refused to acknowledge the validity of the agreement, into which, considering its extraordinary nature, his book-keeper could have no right to enter without his especial permission; and on Mr. Stuart's continuing to turn a deaf ear to representation, persuasion, remonstrance, and invective, the angry proprietor at length declared that if he persisted in retaining his seat, he might do so, but that he should derive little benefit from his obstinacy; for that he would order the horses to be detached and led off to a spare coach, in which the ladies should have their proper places. As even yet no sign of concession appeared, the threat was actually put in execution; and our traveller finding at length that an individual has but little chance of resisting the united opinion of a whole population, was finally reduced to the necessity of following to the other vehicle amidst the jeers and exulting laughter of the by-standers. Mr. Stuart who tells the whole story with infinite good humour, adds that after travelling a few miles he entered into conversation with his fair ejectors, and that the whole party soon became perfectly cordial.

*Punch's Charge to Juries.*—The following is from *Punch*:—Gentlemen of the Jury—You are sworn in all cases to decide upon the evidence; at the same time, if you have any doubt you are bound to give the prisoner the benefit of it. Suppose you have to pronounce on the guilt or innocence of a gentleman accused of felony. You will naturally doubt whether any gentleman would commit such offences; accordingly, however strong may be the testimony against him, you will, perhaps, acquit him. The evidence of your own senses is, at least, as credible as that of the witnesses; if therefore, your eyesight convinces you that the prisoner is a well-dressed person, you have a right to presume his respectability; and it is for you to say whether a respectable person would be likely to be guilty of the crimes imputed to him. In like manner, when you see a shabby-looking fellow in the dock, charged for example, with sheep-stealing, the decision rests with you; first, whether or not that individual is a ragamuffin; and, secondly, how far it is probable that a man of that description would steal sheep. Of course, as has been before said, you will also be guided by the evidence; but then, whether the evidence is trustworthy or not is a matter for your private consideration. You may believe it if you choose, or you may disbelieve it; and whether, gentlemen of the jury, you will believe it or disbelieve it, will depend on the constitution of your minds.