

LITERATURE.

THE SHOOTING STAR.

[AFTER BERANGER.]

THOU tellest me that some bright star,
 Its holy watch above is keeping,
 On high that kindly spirits are,
 Who guide us waking, shield us sleeping;
 That ev'ry twinkling orb doth own
 A sympathy with human tears;—
 Oh, tell me then, what star is yon,
 That shoots, and shoots, then disappears?

That star, my child, which spark'd bright,
 Watch'd o'er the soul of one as fair
 As ever trod beneath the light
 Of its seraphic guardian here.
 But soon she learn'd to know too well
 The passion which a lifetime sears—
 But what, you star?—Oh, tell me, tell,
 That shoots, and shoots, then disappears.

Yon star held sway o'er heart of one—
 The proudest of Earth's busy throng,
 Of all mankind he stood alone—
 The first, its envious ranks among,
 His home is now where seraphs are,
 Aloof from mortal hopes and fears;
 But, tell me, what is yon bright star,
 Which shoots, and shoots, then disappears?

That star was once the guiding light
 Of one for happiness who sought,
 Whose day declin'd to shade of night,
 When he the tearful wisdom bought.
 Ah me! the hope of bliss below,
 Withers before it reach the shore—
 Yes, father, like yon stars that glow,
 Then shoot, and shoot, and disappear.

The Chinese War, from the Commencement to the Treaty of Nanking. By Lieut. John Uchterlony, F.G.S., of the Madras Engineers, &c. London, Saunders and Otley.

(Concluded.)

THE capture of Chin-keang-foo was, like other actions of the same kind, attended by striking circumstances:—

Evening was now closing in, and guards having been placed at most of the gates and alarm posts, the victorious troops got into quarters wherever shelter happened to be procurable. The night, however, proved one of incessant alarms, as the attempts which were made from time to time by small parties of the survivors of the garrison to escape from the city, invariably caused a rattle of musketry far and wide, and set all the bugles and drummers sounding and beating to arms at every report; several desperate rushes were made upon sentries and guards by Tartar soldiers who had secreted themselves in houses, and a great many men were killed during the night by the Cameronians, who were frequently aroused. Encounters took place even inside houses which had been peaceably occupied as quarters, and in which Tartars were afterwards found concealed.—The morning of the 22nd July rose upon a fearful scene of desolation. The late flourishing city of Chin-keang-foo was now a spectacle of ruin; its ramparts and streets encumbered with the corpses of the slain, and the bodies of the wounded and the dying; many of its finest buildings destroyed, and its main street of shops, and the dwelling-houses near the gates, gutted by the horde of marauders who had commenced their devastations even before the tumult of the fight had ceased and its dangers were at an end. Many of these plunderers, and also most of the survivors of the garrison, must have made their escape under cover of the darkness, through a gateway opening upon the south-east, upon which a guard had not been placed until the morning; and considering the short space of time which had been afforded in the night for their predatory proceedings, the amount of destruction and of property carried off by the marauders was truly astonishing. Armed parties were sent out shortly after daybreak, to patrol the Tartar quarter in search of concealed soldiers, and to destroy the arsenals and depôts of military stores, while fatigue-detachments of sappers and miners were employed in collecting and interring the dead, from whose remains, owing to the excessive heat of the weather, the most noisome exhalations were already rising. Frightful were the scenes witnessed by these men among the houses and enclosures of the city, as group after group of whole families lying stiffened in their blood, within their own homestead, were discovered in the streets occupied by the Tartar troops and mandarins, so numerous and so painfully interesting in their revolting details, as to impress with deep and lasting horror all who witnessed this happily rare example of the miseries and ferocities of war. The bodies of most of the hapless little children who had fallen sacrifices to the enthusiasm and mad despair of their parents were found lying within the houses, and usually in the chambers of the women, as if each father had assembled the whole of his family before consummating the dreadful massacre; but many corpses of boys were lying in the streets, amongst those of horses and soldiers, as if an alarm had spread, and they had been stabbed while they had been attempting to escape from their ruthless parents. In a few instances these poor little sufferers were found the morning after the assault still breathing, the tide of life ebbing slowly away, as they lay writhing in the agony of a broken spine, a mode of destruction so cruel that, but for the most certain evidence of its reality, would not be believed. In one of the houses, the bodies of seven dead and dying persons were found in one room, forming a group which for loathsome horror was perhaps unequalled. The house was evidently the abode of a man of some rank and consideration, and the delicate forms and features of the sufferers denoted them as belonging to the higher order of Tartars. On the floor, essaying in vain to put food with a spoon into the mouths of two young children extended on a mattress, writhing in the agonies of death, caused by the dislocation of their spines, sat an old decrepit man, weeping bitterly as he listened to the piteous moans and convulsive breathings of the poor infants, while his eye wandered over the ghastly relics of mortality around him. On a bed, near the dying children, lay the body of a beautiful young woman, her limbs and apparel arranged as if in sleep. She was cold, and had been long dead. One arm clasped her neck, over which a silk scarf was thrown, to conceal the gash in her throat which had destroyed her life. Near her lay the corpse of a woman somewhat more advanced in years, stretched on a silk coverlet, her features distorted, and her eyes open and fixed, as if she had died by poison or strangulation. There was no wound upon the body, nor any blood upon her person or clothes. A dead child, stabbed through the neck, lay near her; and in the narrow verandah, adjoining the room, were the corpses of two more women, suspended from the rafters by twisted cloths wound round their necks. They were both young—one quite a girl—and her features, in spite of the hideous distortion produced by the mode of her death, retained traces of their original beauty sufficient to show the lovely mould in which they had been cast. From the old man, who appeared by his humble garb to have been a servant or retainer of the family thus awfully swept away, nothing could be elicited as to the

mode or authors of their death—nothing but unintelligible signs of poignant distress. He was made to comprehend the object of the interring party, and at once testified the utmost satisfaction and gratitude for their humane interposition, assisting to carry the bodies down the staircase into the court, where, a shallow grave having been excavated beneath the pavement, he tenderly placed them in their sad resting-place, and having covered them with clothes, the stone slabs were replaced over their remains. The two dying children shortly afterwards breathed their last, and were interred beside the grave of their hapless relatives. The old man remained in the now silent abode of his lost chief, and was seen no more.—No description, indeed, can convey an adequate idea of the utter desolation, ruin, and abomination, which it presented on the seventh day only of our occupation after the troops had withdrawn from their quarters near the gates. It was a city of the dead, and a silence the most dismal and profound rested on its deserted streets and tenantless ruined houses, as though the blight of pestilence had swept but lately over them. In many parts where, from there having been no troops quartered, the interring party had not been very diligently employed, the air was poisoned by the bodies of Tartar soldiers lying where they had dragged themselves to die, or where they had been thrown down by their comrades who had borne them from the field, blackened by exposure to the sun, and swollen to a prodigious size. Wild, miserable-looking dogs, flitting about the streets when disturbed from their hideous banquet, were to be seen by scores, appearing to be the only things alive which remained to haunt the abodes of the departed, save where a gang of native plunderers might be discerned prowling about in pursuit of spoil. Scarcely a single dwelling-house, shop, temple, or public building, had escaped; all had their doors wrenched off, or their windows and walls beaten in; many were roofless, others half destroyed by fire, and the interior of most presented a mingled mass of furniture, wearing apparel, porcelain, arms, books, and every description of household goods, all torn, broken, or trodden under foot, which heaped the floors of their chambers and halls in melancholy and disgusting confusion. Every effort was made by the military authorities to put a stop to the spoliation and plunder which were thus reducing the city to irremediable ruin; but they proceeded, in spite of the denunciations of the officers, and the energetic appeals of the provost-marshal and his guard; for while the front entrances of houses were preserved unharmed by our patrols, they were entered by passages and inlets in the rear, and entirely gutted by the plunderers who swarmed into the city after the assault, long before a suspicion was raised as to their proceedings. Indeed, what with soldiers, camp followers, sailors, lascars, and Chinamen, (the latter of whom secreted themselves during the day, and issued forth at night like beasts of prey,) there was seldom wanting some active agent of destruction to complete the ruin commenced the night after the storm.—Revolting, however, as the scene was in the city, that presented by the suburb was a hundredfold worse; for there, from its great extent, and the endless ramification of its lanes and alleys, it was impossible to maintain the least check upon the maraudings alike of friend and foe, and the jurisdiction and sphere of utility of the active and able Serjeant Baxter, the provost-marshal to the force, were in consequence bounded by the city walls. Utter license, therefore, prevailed in the unfortunate suburb, and not a boat's crew of lascars or Europeans bringing provisions ashore for the troops returned to the transports until after they had made a dive into some fresh, untouched-looking corner, or had carried a foray through a whole side of some once flourishing street. Chinamen and Europeans, Indians, Africans, and Malays, were to be seen mixed up together, jostling one another in the common chase, and generally with the greatest good humour; although when a cargo of "loot" had been collected, it was the general practice to press a gang of Chinamen to carry it off to its destination by means of persuasion not always the most gentle. It was curious too, to observe with what patience and submission the Chinese lower orders bore all this domineering and rough usage, for it was a common spectacle to see a couple of Indians, or two or three ship's boys, with nothing but cutlasses by their sides, driving before them a score of brawny fellows, laden with bags of sugar, boxes of tea, fruits, &c., and belabouring them without mercy whenever they proved refractory; but amongst themselves, the most savage fights took place whenever adverse gangs of native plunderers encountered on the same preserve. The news also of the rich harvest soon spread among the villages adjacent, and the numbers of these wretches increased hourly, until they reached such an amount, and became so ferocious in their practices, that active and sanguinary measures had to be taken to get rid of them from the neighbourhood of the buildings in which some of our troops were quartered.

The treaty of peace, Nanking, the Porcelain tower, the emperor's preserves containing only a few quails and magpies, need not detain us:

On their way to Chusan, Sir Henry Pottinger, the admiral, and the general, proceeded in steamers up the Woosung river, to Shang-hae, which they found wonderfully restored, and exhibiting a scene of great industry and activity. While lying off the town in the "Queen," the plenipotentiary received a visit from a Roman Catholic Priest, who bears the high-sounding title of "Archbishop of Nanking." He is a Frenchman, and reputed for mental attainments and for enthusiasm in his calling. He came, under cover of the darkness, at ten o'clock at night, in the dress of a Chinaman, with a long tail, &c., and remained closeted with the plenipotentiary for a considerable time. His ordinary place of abode is Nanking, but the signs of the times had induced him to remove to the neighbourhood of Shang-hae, where there was, we understand, a large community of native Christians, and where the proximity of the coast, and the presence of a squadron of the British fleet, afforded him readier means of escape in case of need. About the time of the entrance of the Yang-tse-Kiang by the expedition, a number of Catholic missionaries took advantage of the general confusion, and of the temporary dispersal of the mandarins, to follow in our wake, and effect a landing on the banks of the river, for the purpose of penetrating, in the disguise of Chinese (being accompanied and directed by native converts, brought up in the institution of the Propaganda), into the heart of the empire, to carry out those projects, and fulfil those sacred vows, upon which their lives are so devotedly staked, and so often sacrificed.

The tragedy of the Nerbudda and Anne has been already fully treated of in our pages; and with the unhealthiness of Hong Kong we have not data upon which to proceed. We believe it is attributed to the water, but the mountain-range so near and parallel to the coast, interfering with the sea breeze, must produce injurious effects. How far they can be remedied will soon be ascertained. We must now, however, bid farewell to our author, thanking him for his interesting narrative, and simply quoting a matter hitherto unknown to us:—

The public notices and passages of interest which appear in the English newspapers published in China, are translated into Chinese, in Canton, with regularity and with considerable accuracy.—*Literary Gazette.*

Punch.

HUMBLE PETITION.

AIR—*Bonny Prince Charlie.*

READ ye the ATLAS lad, wi' the wig and gown,
 Easy, supine, and indifferent Plunkett,
 Treason and blasphemy, libels and ribaldry—
 I only wish that you knew how I funk it.
 Prosecute—prosecute—why don't you prosecute,
 Fine and imprison them, Mr. Attorney.

Think of the squibs which they wrote on poor Roger,
 Think of the dirt that has tarnished his ermine—
 It really was cruel to see such a jewel
 Dimmed by the slime of such pestilent vermin.
 Prosecute—prosecute, &c.

Think of Macarthur—how I caught a Tartar,
 Only for bringing the public to decency—
 Why that horrid sham trial, should pour such a vial
 Of wrath on my head I could never a reason see.
 Prosecute—prosecute, &c.

Facts they are stubborn, and can't be contested—
 Arguments oft have an aspect that's double;
 But, if you've resolution, a snug prosecution
 Will settle them all without any more trouble.
 Prosecute—prosecute, &c.

There's but one way to fright 'em, and that's to indict 'em,
 They're teaching the youth of Australia high treason,
 They're training each monkey to think me a donkey,
 And especially so when I lecture and reason.
 Prosecute—prosecute, &c.

See how they scoff at the ancient nobility;
 Barons of Botany, where is your glory!
 They show up our jobs, and denounce the servility,
 Dear as his breath to a Currency Tory.
 Prosecute—prosecute, &c.

Theatricals.

WE give below an interesting article on the subject of the Stage, which we have no doubt will be read with much gratification by our Theatrical friends; and we should feel most happy in being able to record a similar deserving testimony of respect to both the management and performers of our Colonial Corps Dramatique.

THE ENGLISH THEATRICALS IN PARIS.

(From the Paris Correspondent to the Times, Jan. 19.)

The performances of the English company have at length been brought to a close. Mr. Macready played at the Opera Comique last night (gratuitously of course), in his celebrated scene from *Henry IV.*, for the benefit of the *Société des Auteurs Dramatiques*.

A press of political matter precluded the possibility of my noticing hitherto the performance of *Hamlet* at the Chateau of the Tuileries on Thursday night—an occurrence, nevertheless, that will figure amongst the most remarkable *fastes dramatiques* of our epoch.

The theatre of the Chateau is precisely the Hall of the National Convention. It is beautifully fitted up, and, I am told, capable of containing 1000 spectators. This, however, appears doubtful, for there were present on Thursday night only 650 or 600 persons, and it was literally crammed.

The hour fixed for the commencement of the performance was eight o'clock. Accustomed as you are in England to punctuality in this respect, you would still admire the clockwork regularity of the King of the French. Precisely at the moment indicated his Majesty and the Queen, followed by the Royal family, with the exception of the Queen of the Belgians and the Duchess Auguste of Saxe Coburg, entered the theatre and took their places. There were present at their entry Lord and Lady Cowley, and indeed the whole of the members of the *Corps Diplomatique* and their ladies, together with—it is hardly necessary to say—the *élite* of French society, and a considerable number of foreigners of distinction. The pit was filled by officers in uniform, among whom were some three or four scarlet. In short, a more gorgeous spectacle than the audience part of the house presented has been rarely witnessed.

The performance commenced immediately, and proceeded to the close unbroken by applause—an indication to reward Macready's fine delivery of the first soliloquy having been at once repressed upon recollecting that the *etiquette de rigueur* prohibited in the Royal presence such manifestations. Macready lost nothing, however, by the delay, as you shall see presently.

There is nothing to be said in the way of criticism on the performance of *Hamlet* on this occasion that I could think of obtruding on you. It was occasionally perceptible to the English present, that in those parts where the dialogue had been cut up to shorten the duration of the play, the force of habit was near involving more than one of the performers in speeches ordered to be omitted, but nothing occurred to mar the effect of the performance, which was, generally speaking, admirable.

The performance was not yet over when Mr. Mitchell received, through M. Delavigne (Conservateur du Mobilier de la Couronne), an intimation that his Majesty would speak to him on leaving the Theatre for his apartments. This intimation was, moreover, accompanied by a splendid gold snuff-box, in a case, with the Royal cypher beautifully chased on the lid. Mr. Mitchell accordingly repaired to the point intimated by M. Delavigne (brother of the late celebrated Casimir Delavigne). Immediately upon the King's approach His Majesty was made aware of Mr. Mitchell's presence, and addressed him with affability in French, but, checking himself, resumed in choice English, thanking him for the pleasure he (Mr. Mitchell) had insured to him, to the Queen and Royal family, and indeed to the people of Paris, by the admirable performances of the theatrical company he had brought over. "I have seen *Hamlet* played frequently," said the King, "and never saw the character so well supported as on this night. Among other *Hamlets* that I have seen was Mr. Bennett. Pray who is Mr. Bennett?" Mr. Mitchell made a reply which I could not catch. "I have been delighted by Mr. Macready," continued the King, "and found Miss Faucit *charmante*." The Queen then addressed Mr. Mitchell, and with equal condescension and kindness similarly expressed herself; and bowing graciously, the Royal party moved on.

The munificence of His Majesty did not end here, however; for Mr. Mitchell was accompanied to Mr. Macready's dressing-room by M. Delavigne, who presented to the tragedian, on the part of the King, His Majesty's and the Queen's thanks for the great gratification he had afforded them, and requested his acceptance at a most splendid poignard, and a still more magnificent case. The blade—a real Damascus one—having upon it an inscription in Arabic, is set in gold; the hilt enriched with diamonds and other precious stones. The case is still more costly, being of pure gold, exquisitely chased, and set in rubies, sapphires, emeralds, and diamonds.

Nor did the King's kindness and bounty end even here. On Friday Mr. Mitchell received, by command of the King, a message.

expressing his regret that the enterprise had not been so successful as it deserved, accompanied by three bank notes, of a thousand francs each, towards covering his outlay.

Thus worthily terminates an enterprise which will long be remembered. Mr. Mitchell left last night for London; Mr. Macready leaves in a few days, bearing with him gratifying proofs of the favour in which he was held here, among which the least is not the thanks of the *Commission des Auteurs Dramatiques*.

FASHIONS FOR JANUARY.

(From the *London and Paris Ladies' Magazine of Fashion*.)

Velvet is the universally favourite material this winter. Mourning dresses, carriage dresses, and evening dresses, are made of it, the style being adapted to the use required; some high, with buttons, others with revers, and others with pointed bodies and berthes, jet, or chenille; it is equally used for pelisses, mantelets, scarfs, as also for trimming dresses of satin and other materials.

Lace and gimp form almost indispensable accompaniments for every article of dress. Point d'Angleterre is used for satin and damas Pompadour; and Pont d'Alençon for velvet. Tunic dresses are very fashionable; made of crape, gauze, organdy, with the latter several rows of gold or silver cord, intermixed with silk cord, are often introduced with good effect. The redingote form is also advantageously used for evening toilettes in satin or pekin, trimmed with gimp. Black preserves its favour: dresses of black tulle are trimmed with satin fringed ribbons, forming what used to be termed volants à la Ninon. Robes, redingotes of serget de soie, or cloth, are made with the corsage casaque; that is tight demibisque in the waist, with jacket all round, rather deep. The Amazon form is much adapted for walking dresses, and admits of various modifications.

As double skirts will be much worn, besides the ornaments of flowers hitherto in use to raise them, a new style is introduced; very small flowers, forming a chain, made narrow, and terminating in large flowers, are placed on each side, and the body and sleeves corresponding.

Furs are much in favour: sable mantelets palatine, and pelerines écharpés of ermine and marten fur, with long square ends, and rounded behind, are used for the promenade. Velvet manteaux are edged with marten or ermine, and have collars forming pelerine to match. The bonnets are now all of velvet or satin, ornamented with bias and lace; some are made of velvet, with crowns of satin filled under a bias; those of velours épinglé are finished at the edge with bias of satin, and another round the crown; others are ornamented with a plait of satin ribbon. Capote à coulisses are ornamented with lace laid at the edge of the first runner, and another on the crown. The petits bords Regence, the turbans Roxane, the Druid coiffure, coiffures à la Vierge, Ondine or Cerito, are all fashionable. Little caps of silk tulle are trimmed with two bias of tulle, and a wreath of blue flowers. Muslin caps are deep at the sides, and trimmed with several rows of narrow lace very little full, and separated by small coques of red velvet, each side finished with a chou and ends of velvet. Caps are still worn small, but the crowns are more ornamented than they were.

For evening parties little caps, toques, or turbans, are very much worn, placed more or less backward on the head, but always very short at the ears, with long ribbon-ends drooping on pompons, or branches, which spring from flowers falling on the neck. These coiffures are made of velvet of every colour, intermixed with lappets of lace or wreaths in feuillage, placed on foundations of point lace; of gold resilles, with bunches of beads falling at the side, or with fringes of bugles, black, green, or white, terminating the scarf which encircles the face.

Memoranda of Men and Things.

THE WEDDING RING.

A ring, since the days of the patriarchs, has been used as the symbol or token of marriage; but the act passed in 1837, which instituted marriage to be a civil contract, does not recognise the ring as an essential part of the ceremony, though it does not forbid its use. Still habit claims it to be part even of the civil ceremony, and the ring holds its accustomed place to distinguish the maiden from the wife. It is the right of a woman hallowed too long by custom and an obvious utility to fall into disuse through the silence of an act of Parliament. The many interesting facts, sentiments, and associations connected with the subject of the wedding ring, and especially its traditional history, will be amply considered on future occasions; our present object is to show, from our own inquiries, that the wedding ring is still used in those marriages where the civil law does not require it. Its continued use furnishes another of the many proofs that customs and habits, spontaneously resulting from the exigencies and natural circumstances of mankind, are stronger and more permanent than written laws. The whole marriages before the superintendent registrars do not exceed a fifty-seventh part of all the marriages in England and Wales. We have made it our business to inquire extensively throughout the country into the use of the wedding ring in such marriages, and out of thirty-five cases only two appeared where the wedding ring was not observed to have been used. The superintendent registrar at Birmingham says he "never married a couple without a ring." At Walsall "the parties always use a ring." "The ring is always used" at Derby. "The people always bring a ring" at Stafford. The superintendent registrar at Sheffield "has seen the ring used invariably." "A ring is always used" at Liverpool; so at Manchester, and at Stockport, and at Wells. At Worcester, on one occasion, the parties were so poor that they used a brass ring, having no better one. The bride's friends indignantly protested that the ring ought to have been gold, and the superintendent registrar was threatened with an indictment for permitting the use of a ring of such base metal. He says that the people in his district "won't believe the marriage to be good without the ring." The superintendent registrar at Bristol, where these marriages are numerous, "always saw a ring used but once;" he asked if the parties had brought one; the man answered it was not necessary, but the woman entreated to have one. The superintendent took part with the woman, and represented that the absence of the ring would expose the woman to insult after her marriage, and he hesitated to proceed with the marriage until a ring was produced. The man yielded at last and fetched one, and the woman's gratitude brought tears into her eyes.—*Historical Register*.

NEW FACTS RESPECTING THE FAMILY OF SHAKESPEARE.

The following new particulars illustrating the biography of our immortal dramatist occur in the return to a commission issued out of the Exchequer in the 32nd of Elizabeth, 1590, for the survey of the possessions of Ambrose Earl of Warwick. This document was discovered last month in the course of an official search at the Branch Public Record Office, Carlton Ride. We avail ourselves of

the information contained in it, with the permission of the Master of the Rolls.

In the return for Stratford-on-Avon, we find as follows—"The street called Henley street—John Shakespere holdeth freely one tenement with appurtenances for the yearly rent of 6d. and suit of Court. The same John holdeth freely one tenement with appurtenances, for the yearly rent of 13d. and suit of Court." This was, without doubt, the poet's father. Mr. Hunter, in his elaborate 'New Illustrations,' I, 18, says that the best support ever given to the tradition of John Shakespere's living in that part of the town known as Henley-street, "where is situated the house which, by constant tradition, is said to have been the poet's birthplace," is the entry in the Court Roll of Stratford, by which it appears that, in 1552, John Shakespere and others were amerced for making a dung heap in Henley-street. The tradition is now fully substantiated; it is certain that Shakespere's father possessed two houses in that street, and equally certain that one of those tenements is that now shown as the poet's birthplace. This entry proves even something more, viz., that in 1590 John Shakespere had still possession of those two tenements, and goes far towards disproving Malone's supposition, that towards the close of his life the elder Shakespere became reduced in circumstances. We refer the reader to the 'New Illustrations,' which contain many pertinent remarks on this part of the subject.

Among the jurors sworn to return the value of the Earl's possessions in Warwick, we find the name of "Thomas Shakespere," a copyholder of land in Warwick, at an annual rent of 4s. 8d. there were many Shakesperes in Warwick, the heads of which were successively named "Thomas." This Thomas is evidently the Thomas named in the will of another Thomas Shakespere of Warwick, dated in 1577.

Under the Manor of Shottery, we find the name of Joan Hathaway as a customary tenant. This is good as showing that the Hathaways were at Shottery at the time of Anne Hathaway, and it is a sufficiently reasonable conjecture that we have here the mother of Anne, the poet's wife.

Under Rowington occur the names of Thomas, Richard, and George Shakespere, who all held lands in that manor; persons well known.

Among the other copyholders in Stratford, we meet the family names of Combe, Hill, and Quiney—families remembered in connexion with the poet. In conclusion, we trust the track of inquiry indicated by this document may be pursued by Mr. Hunter, than whom no one is more capable of bringing an extensive and accurate knowledge of contemporary Warwickshire worthies to bear upon the subject.—*Historical Register*, Jan. 4.

ILLUSTRATED WORKS.

The Illustrated Present Books of the Season, though not abundant in number, have in one or two instances been very novel and startling. Remarkable, first, for a gorgeous emblazoning of colour and gilding, hitherto unapproached in modern art, is the 'Illuminated Calendar.' It is certainly the most forward specimen of colour-printing which at present has been executed in England. The borders of flowers approach very nearly the excellence and beauty of the originals, and the success holds out the prospect that certain branches of the illuminations of the Middle Ages may be completely executed by machinery. The 'Calendar' is an adaptation of the celebrated Hour-Book of Anne of Brittany, in the Royal Library at Paris. It is by far the richest of the gift-books of the season, and makes a cheap, though costly present, suitable for all seasons. A good use of it would be to fill up the respective days with the autographs and birth days of a wide circle of friends.—Another present book of a similar character, though less in size, is the 'Sermon on the Mount.' Every page is illuminated with gold and colours. It is bound with perfect taste by Mr. Hayday, an unusual commendation to bestow on a modern volume. Its great success has led the publishers to announce a series of somewhat similar volumes. One containing the parables is to be ready at Easter—Ruth, Esther, Job. The Proverbs are named as subjects of other volumes. The penitential Psalms, after the models of Middle Age Art, are entrusted to the execution of Mr. H. Shaw, whose admirable works on ancient dresses and decorations are scarcely surpassed by the illuminated books of Count Bastard, which cost seventy pounds for each number.—'Mrs. Myrtle's Story Book of Country Scenes,' for children, with John Absalon's pictures, better coloured than the average, is an excellent little present book. Mr. R. H. Horne is said to have prompted Mrs. Myrtle to its production.—'Sacred Events,' illustrated by three of the greatest artists of ancient time—Raffaello, Holbein, and Albert Durer; and the Traditional Faery Tales of 'Little Red Riding Hood,' 'Beauty and the Beast,' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk,' with pictures in which we may trace the hands of Cope, Horsley, Redgrave, Townsend, Taylor, &c., form the two new volumes of the 'Home Treasury.'—Mr. Murray's new edition of 'Childe Harold,' with steel engravings, is a handsome match for 'Rogers' Italy.'—Mr. Burn's new edition of Nursery Songs, with woodcuts drawn by Mr. Dyce, is sure of a popularity with children.

Among the evergreens, always fresh for presents in every season, to those of our readers who may not know them already, we may name the 'Vicar of Wakefield,' with Mulready's famous designs; 'Thompson's Seasons,' illustrated by the Etching Club; Otto Spector's 'Puss in Boots'; Albert Durer's 'Life of our Lord Jesus Christ,' from the original blocks; all works of an artistic merit, calculated to make them always welcome. Mr. Hayday has recently produced some choice and beautiful specimens of binding prayer books in party-coloured vellum and leather, and velvet, with various kinds of emblazoned goffer edges, bosses, clasps, &c. They may be seen at Mr. Barry's, at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly; Mr. Bell's, 186 Fleet-street; Mr. Cundall's, 12 Old Bond-street, &c.

Several new periodicals have commenced an existence with the new year. Three at the price of one shilling, and each very different in its size, character, and appearance. Highest in purpose is 'Parker's London Magazine,' addressing "hearty churchmen and loving subjects,"—"disclaiming all connexion with parties in the Church, as parties,"—avoiding questions "which we cannot settle,"—and "longing to see the Church of England what her old parochial theory makes her, and what, in the language of eulogy, she is styled, the Poor Man's Church." Its selection of articles is various—suggestive of serious reflection, and yet not unmindful of the entertaining; antiquarianism, poetry, music, and the more thoughtful essay, are treated in turn, and fill up eighty octavo pages for the shilling. 'Douglas Jerrold's Shilling Magazine' has, too, a steady, serious purpose to be worked out in a different way—in a fashion which Dickens may be said to have originated. It is of a novel and convenient pocket size, and its whole ninety-two pages tempt an examination. Then the well-known George Cruikshank addresses his numerous admirers with his 'Table Book,' for a shilling, in co-operation with Gilbert à Beckett, famous for his 'Comic Blackstone' in 'Punch.' This redoubtable man of fancy has produced nothing more curiously fanciful than the title page of the 'Triumph of Cupid!' Its

exuberance, fun, and clever execution—being one of the best of George Cruikshank's etchings—balance the want of other artistic qualities. The Table Book is a better antidote against bile than many a shilling box of pills, and much more agreeable to take. New numbers of the 'Quarterly' and 'Edinburgh Reviews' have also appeared, but our report of them must remain till next week.—*Historical Register*, Jan. 4.

FRANCE.

The following speech of M. Guizot, in answer to the Opposition and in defence of the Ministerial measures respecting Tahiti and Morocco, will be read with much interest:—

It has been said that we did this on account of Tahiti—the assertion is false. Were there not such a place as England in the world—had her interests not been in any way connected with those of Morocco—the simple fact of Algeria being deeply concerned in the matter would have rendered it our duty to arrive promptly at peace. I trust that M. Thiers, after what I have just said, will not reproach us for having paid undue attention to the legitimate interests of England in this circumstance. In regard to Tahiti, the Government never had an idea of possessing itself of it, and putting France and England in contact on that point. All it sought for was a desirable port in those seas. The Admiral sent on that expedition had considered it his duty to assume the protectorate of Tahiti, of which no mention had been made in his instructions. Two reasons determined us not to refuse what the Admiral had done, and the first reason was, that the protectorate of the island of Tahiti was of some importance to our establishment in the Marquesas, and the other that we did not wish to see the French flag withdrawn immediately after its appearance. This provisional protectorate, a protectorate not yet sanctioned by the Government, continued for 14 months. It had, it is true, met with difficulties and embarrassments; but there had not been any thing like tumult or sedition, every thing went on regularly and peaceably. When, on the contrary, Admiral Dupetit Thouars thought it his duty to convert the protectorate into a sovereignty, disturbances commenced. Thus, during the 14 months of the protectorate Mr. Pritchard, who was then at Tahiti, was unable to excite any insurrection; it was after the assumption of the sovereignty he was able to do so. The Government, therefore, were not so much to blame when, after having accepted the protectorate, it refused the sovereignty. The former appeared to it necessary to protect the interests of France, for which the latter was useless. I now come to the last incident—that of Mr. Pritchard. You will remember the strong sensation created in England on the receipt of the news of his arrest. This emotion appeared to me to proceed from two causes: first, the quality of agent of the English Government with which he was invested; and, next, his religious character. The conduct adopted by us in this matter was this: we first sought to establish the truth of the facts of the case—to prove that Mr. Pritchard was not an official agent, but a simple foreigner, living under the protection of a law common to all. Had he been a Consul, there would have been certain forms to have been observed with regard to him when desiring his expulsion; but he was not Consul, and the truth of these facts we have been able to prove to the English Government. As to his religious character, we have also established that he has nothing to complain of at our hands; We have proved that the most perfect religious liberty prevailed in Oceania. This done, we remained quiet, in order to allow the angry feeling which had been raised in England to subside. When the proper moment arrived to examine the affair to its foundation, what was the conduct of the Government? We fully maintained the right of the French authorities at Tahiti to expel any foreigner who should disturb public order. After having supported this right, we maintained that our agents at Tahiti had just reasons for using it, and that they had acted properly in so doing. After this we made the admission that some of the conduct used towards Mr. Pritchard was open to blame, and to be regretted; for it could not be admitted that French agents should, in any quarter of the globe, forget those maxims of equity and consistency which were the rule of all regular Governments. Our conviction was, that, in the arrest of Mr. Pritchard, some of those maxims had been departed from; and I will explain in what those acts consisted. Without entering into any irritating details, we considered that, although there was enough in the circumstances of the case to warrant the authorities in taking every necessary measure for their safety, yet that it was unnecessary to keep Mr. Pritchard in solitary confinement for eight days, and prevent his seeing even his wife and children. We thought that it was neither just nor proper to use more severity than was really necessary. We considered that the step which had been ordered by the Admiral on his arrival at Tahiti, six days after, should have been done at the time, viz., to compel Mr. Pritchard to leave the Island. In saying this I do not mean to shelter the Government behind the Governor of Tahiti, for that would be neither honorable nor just. They had no such intention. M. de Bruat was one of its most intelligent and bravest officers. He every day gave proofs of this. We have admitted that there were certain points connected with this affair for which it was honorable in us to express our regrets and our disapproval, and we, at the same time, thought that there might exist reasons why a pecuniary indemnity should be granted. The Chamber sees that I do not avoid any point connected with the question. Independently of the rules of which I have spoken, there is a fact of which I will remind the Chamber. Some years before this affair, two French Catholic missionaries had been expelled from Tahiti. Those missionaries had gone to that island under a Government which forbade any preaching contrary to the established religion of the State. The will of Queen Pomare is the charter of that country. The missionaries who went to preach at Tahiti acted at variance with that law, and it was in virtue of it that they were expelled from the island. Violence had, it is true, been used towards them, but two years after Admiral Dupetit Thouars had demanded and received an indemnity of 2500 piastres for the treatment they had experienced. The Admiral was perfectly right in what he did, but it served as a precedent for the French granting an indemnity to Mr. Pritchard. At the same time, however, that we agreed to this indemnity, it was expressly stipulated that it was not given on account of his expulsion, but merely in consequence of the harsh treatment to which he had been subjected. It would be weakness in Ministers to deny that they were glad that this indemnity had been the means of removing the clouds which had hung over the relations with England, but they should, at the same time, have granted an indemnity had no political considerations been connected with the affair. This, Gentlemen, is what I have to say on the ensemble of the question. At a future time I shall enter more into details. I will now say a word as to the conduct of the English Government with regard to the affair of Morocco. It made known to us how far its interests might be involved in it; it strengthened its force on that station, but at the same time kept it below our own, to make it appear that it only sought to protect the legitimate interests of the country. This done, it entered into our complaints, and both at Tangiers and elsewhere represented those complaints to be just, and our demands moderate; it did