THE TURKS AT A FIRE.

I was not long in Constantinople before I came in for what is of very frequent occurrence there, namely, a fire. Indeed, I believe that, as a storm is said to be always going on in some parts of the sea, so a conflagration, larger or smaller, is always raging in some parts of the narrow wooden streets of Stamboul.

The people have few public amusements, and this is considered one of the best, if I may judge by the demeanour of the crowds, whose singular bearing was to me more interesting than the spectacle I witnessed in common with them. At first I knew not what it meant. I had observed that vast multitudes were moving with what, for a Turk, is haste, towards the court of one of their mosques, and stationing themselves, as soon as they had reached it, on the steps, balustrades, and every spot whence a view was commanded.

Joining the company, I discovered the cause of their assembly, in a whole street from which clouds of smoke were rising, and from which it was every moment expected that the flames would burst. Nothing could exceed the business like alacrity of those who struggled for a place in the balconies, or the placid enjoyment of those who had attained one. In expectation of the great event, piles of carpets, pillows, and cushions had been already brought from the neighbouring houses, and placed wherever room could be found.

On these comfortable seats the multitude had established themselves—the men in one part, sedately smoking; the women in another, now looking, and now playing with their children. In a moment refreshments of all sorts were provided; sweetmeats, confectionary, and sherbet, by a number of rival purveyors, who advanced with unalarmed alacrity, amid the smoke and falling spars, plainly considering the scene of destruction a sort of "benefit," got up for their especial behoof, and unceremoniously elbowing to one side the police, who rushed with pails of water on their heads, to the rescue of the burning houses.

In a few minutes more the flames burst out with a loud crash, mounting high into the heavens, and flinging an exciting and surable heat into the face of the crowds, who, without ever removing their pipes, (except to drink,) gazed with silent but impassioned interest on a scene which, to them, was no more a matter of surprise than a street preacher would be in Edinburgh, a "Funziane" at Rome, or Punchinello at Naples. Among the calm crowd of spectators were the proprietors of the burning houses, smoking like their neighbors, and well assured that their loss had been determined by Allah long before the prophet was born.—*De Verey's Sketches.*

IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY.—The inventor of improved implements not only renders labour more effective, and increases productiveness, but he indirectly advances the intelligence, the social enjoyment, and the moral worth of a whole people. We have long been of opinion that the individual who promotes improvement in agriculture, about as effectively as the preacher, the educator, or any other, advances the best and the highest interests of a nation. Our climate, though on the whole a desirable one, is peculiar. We have short summers and long winters. It is so, at least in the Northern and Eastern States. Unlike what happens in Western Europe, most of our farm work is to be done in a short time. England, though some twelve degrees north of New England, has twice as long summers. The growth of crops is there slow and long-continued; here it is rapid, and the growing season is soon over; consequently the farm work, which there can be spread over nearly the whole year, must here be done in a few months.

THE JEWISH WIFE.—The wife was "to grind the meal, to bake, to wash, to cook, to nurse her children, to make her husband's bed, and to work in wool." These regulations were modified if she was wealthy. "If she had brought with her one slave, she was not required to grind the meal, to bake, or to wash; if two slaves, she was also freed from cooking and nursing her children; if three, she was not required to make the bed, or work in wool; if four slaves (it is added) she might sit in her easy chair." However, this indulgence was limited, and, under all circumstances, the wife is expected at least, to work in wool. If, by a rash vow, a husband had forsworn himself not to allow his wife to work, he was bound immediately to divorce her, as it was thought that idleness induced insanity.—*History of the Jewish Nation, by Dr. Edersheim.*

SUICIDE.—"Suppose, Sir, (said Boswell to Dr. Johnson, after having put the case of one who was accused of forging a will, and who had sunk himself into the Thames before the trial of its authenticity came on,) that a man is absolutely sure, that if he lives a few days longer, he shall be detected in a fraud, the consequence of which will be utter disgrace and expulsion from society." Johnson replied, "Then, sir, let him go abroad to a distant country; let him go to some place where he is not known; don't let him go to the devil, where he *is* known."

BOOKS IN TURKEY.—Mr. Schauffler who has long laboured for the Jews, has now turned his attention to the Turks. He will prepare books and tracts in the Arabic character. There are two colporteurs now engaged in selling books in this character to Moslems. One of these has sold in a month seventy copies of the Scriptures and New Testament in Arabic. He lately sold three copies of the New Testament *in the Court of St. Sophia.* Shall not the "Word of Life" yet re-enter that wonderful monument of architectural skill?

A considerable part of Jewett's "Christian Visitor" has been translated into Armeno-Turkish, by the labourers connected with the Church Missionary Society, at Smyrna; also, that valuable tract, "The Sinner's Friend." The fifth part of Venn's "Complete duty of Man," namely, "On Faith," has been printed at the same place, in Modern Greek. The missionary bookshop and colportage have been the means of circulating the Word of God, and Christian books and tracts, in various languages, to the amount of—Holy Scriptures, either whole or in part, 675; religious tracts, and books of a larger size, 3347. This bookshop is a very useful addition to the missionary establishment, as also the colportage, which, during the year has been carried on by one of the native Protestants. The books and tracts thus circulated amongst the people of a great and populous town and neighbourhood, may be considered as so many messengers of peace proclaiming the truth where the living voice does not reach.

AN IMPRACTICABLE OLD LADY.—"It is stated," says the *Union*, "that Baron James de Rothschild is at present much in the same predicament as Frederick the Great of Prussia was, when he could not get a miller, whose tenement stood in the way of an improvement the King was making at Sans-Souci, to give up his property for love or money. The Baron, it seems, has set his heart upon a piece of land belonging to an old lady, a neighbour of his at Boulogne-sur-Seine, and which is most inconveniently wedged in between his own domains. The land is hardly worth 50,000 francs, and yet the Baron has successively offered from 100,000 francs to 1,000,000 francs for it without success. The old lady, not content with this, has brought an action against him to prevent his breaking up a road which he has bought from the commune, and which cuts his private park in two. She insists upon its being preserved, as a necessary communication with her own property."

AGED SAVAN.—Baron Humboldt attained his eighty-seventh birthday on Sunday week, which he passed in strict retirement. It will be gratifying to the many admirers of this "Nestor of Science" in England to hear, that though he finds it expedient to withdraw samewhat from the more noisy exhibitions of society, he remains intellectually fresh and vigorous in the enjoyment of his honoured green old age.

Dr. Tait, the proximate bishop of London, dean of Carlisle, is the first Scotchman who has reached the episcopal bench since the death of the celebrated Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury.

HORRIBLE INCIDENT.—Six children were consumed in the flames of the residence of Mr. Dawson, in West Union, Virginia, on the 25th ult. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dawson narrowly escaped with their lives, having been awakened barely in time to avoid the fate of their little ones. Mr. Dawson seized one of the smaller children, and made his way to the door, when, becoming confused, he rushed back into the house, was stifled by the smoke, lost the child, and was himself so badly burned that his life is despaired of—so that Mrs. D. is perhaps the only survivor of this truly terrible calamity. One incident in this cruel drama was almost awful in character. We are told that during the progress of the flames the upper floor gave way, and a bed, on which were two or three persons, fell through to the lower floor, in plain view of the bystanders. Appalling spectacle! The wretched children were still alive, but were engirt by the fiery element and writhing in the agonies of death.—*Richmond Inquirer*.

ST. LAWRENCE NAVIGATION.—The Commissioners of Public Works at home have reported in favor, says the *Shipping Gazette*, of the advisability of erecting a lighthouse on the Bird Rocks, near the Magdalen Islands. The erection of a light on these rocks has long been required. The situation of the Bird Rocks, in connection with the other points where lights are exhibited in the Gulf, admirably adapts them as a single point for the mariner. There is a new lighthouse erecting on Cape Rozier. Another ought to be built on Point Aguille, on the coast of Newfoundland, before this part of the coast can be regarded as sufficiently protected. With these new lights, the navigation of the St. Lawrence from Cape Ray to Point de Monts, would in a great measure be freed from those risks which at present imperil that active emigration by way of the Gulf. Besides, as the Montreal Board of Trade well observe, every Lighthouse and every improvement of the coast has a direct tendency to lessen the cost of insurance and to facilitate and cheapen the cost of transport.

ELECTIONEERING.—We have lately heard of a little sharp practice that happened in Maine at the late election, which is literally true. One of the "unterrified" Democracy in a certain town had $1500 sent him for electioneering purposes, previous to the State election, with instructions to *use it to the best advantage.*

He accordingly spent $1000 of it in taking up a mortgage on his farm, rode round town one day and called that $10, and pocketed the balance, probably to use at the Presidential election. Who will say that he did not use it to the best advantage? —*Boston Journal.*

ACCIDENT ON THE RAILROAD.—We read in the Westmorland *Times* that on Thursday last an inquest was held before Jacob Wortman, Esq., Coroner, and a Jury, on view of the body of Hannah Taylor, who was killed under the following circumstances:—On Wednesday evening, deceased in company with a young man, (an acquaintance,) left one of the shanties immediately above Harris' mill stream, for the purpose of visiting some of their friends who lived a short distance below, and while crossing by the bridge one of the Railway cars (called a Lorrie) was being driven by some of the workmen, and came down so rapidly that Miss Taylor was knocked down, and the wheel passing over her head she was killed on the spot; the young man was knocked off the bridge, a height of about 15 feet, and severely injured, but hopes are entertained of his recovery.

In justice to all parties we are bound to say, that no blame whatever can be attached to any one connected with the works. The occurrence was purly accidental, and the jury therefore returned a verdict accordingly.

WHITFIELD'S PREACHING.—Whitfield preached in thirty-five years eighteen thousand sermons. He once put himself on what he called short allowance, namely, three sermons on the Sabbath, and one on every week day.

CHINESE SURNAMES.—The weather with which we had started had changed into a pouring rain, which did not disconcert us much, as we had determined to go and call on a friend of mine, who lived about six miles off, and spend a day with him. His name was U, and in his village there was no second surname. In the place itself there were but a thousand families of this name, but in the immediate neighborhood three thousand more; while at a place half a day's journey from Ningpo, called Si-u, there were about five thousand more. What should we do to distinguish a colony of Browns, or Joneses, or Smiths, of this extent? Only think of twenty thousand Smiths all living in the same town, with hardly another surname among them. I found this singular circumstance at another place besides Si-u, where twenty thousand persons of the name of Dzing resided. The various branches of the family are distinguished by some patrenymic, which gives at once the part of the clan to which they belong. Just as if the father of surname Smith, should have chosen Wellesley then all his children would be Wellesleys—George Wellesley Smith, John Wellesley Smith, &c. Another would be Harvey; and so there would be James Harvey Smith, Philip Harvey Smith, and so on. Names in China being illimitable in number, as a rule no two names of any Chinamen being alike, the distinctions are still more easily made than they would be in England. There are probably at least a hundred million different names in China, while the surnames amount to but a hundred. The head member of the family we visited was not at home, but his two sons readily did the honours of the house in their father's absence. He was gone to the neighboring city of Nyinghai to call upon the che-heen, or chief magistrate, who was an old schoolmate. The continuance of the rain confined us within, and we had a succession of visitors, who came from various parts of the village to see us. I was pretty well known there; for in the spring U teh-kwong sin sang, or "U virtue bright Mr."—so do the Chinese and we delight in contraries—had taken me all over the place, to show me, as the first specimen of the kind who had paid them a visit, to all the inhabitants. —*From Narrative of a Tour in China, by Rev. R. H. Cobbold.*

THE UTILITY OF FAT MEAT.—When fat meat is judiciously used, it is said on high authority to be among the best kinds of food which can be used. It is economical, and it is healthful, especially in cold weather, as it furnishes fuel for lhe system. It is said that those who use fat meat are rarely consumptive. Perhnps the use of cod-liver oil, by consumptive persons, may be explained on a similar principle.

The Sydney, C. B., *News* of Saturday last says that the telegraph is now completed from St. John, N. F., to Port Hood, C. B., and that the line from the latter place was expected to be in working order on Monday, which will bring Newfonudland into telegragh communication with the other Provinces, and the United States.

Until the last ten days the present autumn has been one of unprecedented mildness, and up to the present time there has not been any frost to speak of, although on some of the hills in this county there have been several falls of snow. We have been informed that Dr. Creed, of Pugwash, gathered ripe strawberries in his garden about the same date we observed a snowball bush in Mr. Primrose's garden, in this place, in bloom for the second time since last spring.—*Pictou Courier.*

Subscriptions in New York, for One Hundred Cannons for Sardinia.—The Italians in New York, as well as those who sympathise for Sardinia, in her present struggle against Austria, have opened a voluntary subscription to contribute towards defraying the expenses of one hundred cannons; to be presented to the Sardinian people for arming the new fortress on the point of erection at Alexandria, in Piedmont.

FREE SPEECH IN VERGINIA.—Another case has just occurred, which shows that even white men are Slaves at the South. The Rev. Charles Howard Malcolm, has been dismmissed from the partoral office of the Baptist Church, in Wheeling, Va., upon a written charge brought against him, "in consequence of certain remarks in your report to the Board leading to the belief that you intend to teach abolition sentiments in connection with the pastorate of said Church," and for refusing "to promote the cause of Christ in harmony with Southern intitutions,"