

THE BURIAL QUESTION.—The Vicar of Bassingbourn, for some time past, has been emulating the enviable distinction of the Vicar of Gedney. It is now more than fifteen months since he refused to bury the corpse of a child which had been baptized by the Rev. C. Moase, the Independent minister of Bassingbourn, alleging that all baptism, except that administered by an Episcopalian minister, is invalid, and wholly useless. Mr. Moase felt very indifferently as to the Vicar's opinion of his ministrations, and offered to the father of the child to bury the corpse with the usual service of the Dissenters on such occasions. The poor man, however, having a deceased wife and eleven children interred in the church-yard, wished the body to be deposited there, and understanding the Vicar's conduct to be unlawful, preferred keeping the body above ground till it could be buried with the usual service. The numerous respectable Dissenters in the neighbourhood, feeling themselves to be insulted by this unlawful denial to a poor man of his unquestionable right, resolved on bringing the case before the courts. Legal proceedings were consequently instituted in the Court of Arches, but suspended when it became known that similar proceedings were pending in that court against the Vicar of Gedney. Judgment having been lately given in that case, and the Vicar of Gedney being sentenced to three months' suspension, and payment of costs, the corpse of the child at Bassingbourn, so long denied a grave, except such as is allotted to a suicide, or an excommunicated person, was, after due notice given, taken a second time to the church-yard for burial, on Wednesday last. As the Vicar must have been aware of the recent decision of the Court, as well as that of Sir J. Nicholl, in a precisely similar case, thirty years ago, it was reasonable to suppose that he would not again offend against the law. But as a proficient in the Newmanian-schools of Oxford, he not only refused to bury the corpse, but declared he never would bury it, unless compelled to do so. The body was consequently taken home again by the friends.—Cambridge Independent Press.

WHY DO WE LOVE THE BLIND?—Why is it that the hearts of men are drawn with so fine and exquisite a sympathy towards that class of our fellow-creatures who are deprived of sight? Why is it that our darker and fiercer passions fall not upon them as they do upon those to whose vision God has uncurtained the mysterious grandeur of the heavens, the varied magnificence of the earth about them, or the more affecting beauty of the human countenance? It is not simply, as many are disposed to think, because we are conscious of those exalted enjoyments from which they are shut out. Our compassion alone is not what they win from us by their great privation. Were it otherwise, we could yield it to them only in a slight degree; for a feeling so delicate as pity would be lost in the selfish exultation resulting from the glory of our own situation, as contrasted with theirs. No, it is the beauty of their moral character, whether it be created by their sense of dependence upon us, or bestowed by God as a compensation for their loss, that affects the heart so strongly in their favour. How sweet, how placid, how amiable is the gentle blind! Though dark to external nature, how obvious are the evidences of a serene spirit within them! Who ever knew their passions to flow in any other current than that which was smooth, and calm, and peaceful? On the countenances of those who have been early blind, or blind from birth, are depicted none of the deep or startling traces of crime—few even of the haggard furrows of care or suffering. God seems in pity to have almost removed them from the contagion of human depravity; and if the glories of nature and the beauties of the human form, are withheld from their hearts, so also are the numerous temptations which come in along with them. God, in depriving them of the good, has mercifully removed the corresponding evil; and as those temptations of life which would render sight necessary are wisely kept back, so will it be found that a querulous perception of their loss, and an impatience under their condition, are not among the number of their afflictions. There is, to a man who can feel the philosophy of a human heart, much that is not only touching, but dignified in the veiled grandeur of their character as a class. Affliction, whether they feel it or not, elevates them in our eyes; and the unassuming simplicity that distinguishes beings so utterly helpless, presents them to us in an aspect so meek and affecting, that they cannot fail in gaining an immediate passport to the better part of our nature. In their patience they teach both humility and fortitude; in their cheerfulness we may learn how easy is the task of being satisfied with our own condition; and in their blameless lives, how much depends upon the secret of controlling our passions, upon the necessity of looking less to the external actions of men and more into our hearts. The human face only is theirs; but though the light which stamps it with the glory of the divine breaks not from the whole countenance. Why otherwise is it that the smile of a blind man is so ineffably radiant and serene? and why is it that it is habitual? Because the lustre of a pure mind, and the meekness of an inoffensive heart, communicate at all times to the features an expression of more touching grace than could the beauty of the most lustrous eye without them.—Carleton.

WELLINGTON.—Seventy-one winters have shed their snows upon his honoured head, and those iron nerves which war and climate could not shake, have felt the hand of Time, and owned his power—but though the frame has yielded, the mind retains its vigour, and the heart beats firmly as it did once upon the battle-field. Like the oak of that proud ship which bore the flag of Nelson, decay is traced upon the surface, but the core remains intact. True to his country, that voice which turned "the heady fight" to victory, still gives its fearless counsels in the senate—uninfluenced by party predilection, and reckless whether its honest sentiments accord with popular opinion, or provoke the clamour of the crowd. When a century shall have passed away; when beauty fades into kindred dust, statesmen are forgotten, the rottenness of demagogues is exposed, and a new generation wonders only how a passed one could be fooled—in the page of England's history one name will stand out in bold relief—and one consenting voice pronounce—that the greatest soldier Britain had produced was ARTHUR, DUKE OF WELLINGTON.—Maxwell's Life.

COST OF WAR.—There was slain by sea and land, during the last war between England and France, 2,100,000 men. The cost to England was £1,058,000,000—the greater part of which is still unpaid, in the national debt!

THE OLDEST REPUBLIC ON EARTH.—The American Quarterly Review contains a letter from G. W. Irving, Esq., giving a sketch of his visit to San Marino, a small republic in Italy, between the Apennines, the Po, and the Adriatic. The Territory of this State is only 40 miles in circumference, and its population about

7000. The Republic was founded more than 1400 years ago, on moral principles, industry, and equality, and has preserved its liberty and independence amidst all the wars and discords which have raged around it. Bonaparte respected it, and sent an embassy to express his sentiments of friendship and fraternity! It is governed by a Captain Regent, chosen every six months by the representatives of the people, 66 in number, who are chosen every six months by the people.

HOW TO COOK GREEN PEAS.—The common method of cooking this delicious vegetable, by boiling in water, is nearly destructive to its flavour, at least so says a lady who has sent us the following method of preparing them for the table, which, after experience, we must add, is a great improvement: "Place in the bottom of your saucepan or boiler several of the outside leaves of head salad—put your peas in the dish with two ounces of butter, in proportion to half a peck of peas—cover the pan or boiler close, and place it over the fire—in thirty minutes they are ready for the table. They can either be seasoned in the pan or after taken out. Water extracts nearly all the delicious quality of the green pea, and it is as fatal to their flavour as it is destructive to a mad dog."

MIDSUMMER IN THE FIELDS.—But see! there are the mowers at work! there are the hay makers! green swaths of mown grass: hay-cocks, and wagons ready to bear them away: it is summer indeed! What a fragrance comes floating on the gale, from the clover in the standing grass, from the new mown hay; and from those sycamore trees, with all their pendant flowers. It is delicious; and yet one cannot help regretting that the year has advanced so far.—There, the wild rose is putting out; the elder is already in flower; they are all beautiful, but saddening signs of the swift winged time. Let us sit down by this little stream, and enjoy the pleasantness that it presents, without a thought of the future. Ah! this sweet place is just in its pride. The flags have sprung thickly in the bed of the brook, and their yellow flowers are beginning to show themselves. The green locks of the water ranunculus are lifted by the stream, and their flowers form snowy islands on the surface; the water lilies spread out their leaves upon it, like the pallets of fairy painters; and that opposite bank, what a prodigious scene of vigorous and abundant vegetation it is. There are the blue geraniums, as lovely as ever: the meadow sweet is hastening to put on its foam-like flowers, that species of golden flowered mustard occupies the connecting space between land and water; and here bells, the jagged pink lychnis and flowering grass of various kinds, make the whole bank beautiful. Every plant that is wont to show itself at this season, is in its place, to give its quota of the accustomed character to the spot: every insect to beautify it with its hues, and enliven it with its peculiar sound.—William Howitt.

"To send an uneducated child into the world," says Paley, "is little better than to turn out a mad dog or a wild beast into the street."

Letters from Corfu, of the 9th June, announce the arrival there of Mr. Stewart Mackenzie, the new Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands; who had come direct to that island from Alexandria, in the yacht of Lord Dysart. On the 8th, Sir Howard Douglas and the Senators received him at the entrance of the palace; and shortly afterwards formally invested him with the government of the Seven Islands.

FASHIONS FOR JULY.—(From the "London and Paris Ladies' Magazine of Fashion.") The prevailing style is a petticoat coulissee, and deep tucks edged with fringe. Black taffetas scarf with ruche. Bonnet of crape, tulle, or violet of lace and flowers, corresponding with the dress; handkerchief with inlets of Valenciennes, manchettes and collar trimmed with Valenciennes. The corsages continue to be made tight, and with points; corsages grand'mère à l'Amazonne, with gimp trimmings, and those a chale or revers, are also worn; for young ladies, they are generally square, or with folds; and in thin materials they are made a coulissee. Tight sleeves still maintain their ground, but they are variously ornamented, and the small gigot of moderate fullness at the shoulder, and tight on the lower part of the arm, is fashionable. Generally speaking, tucks have replaced flounces, though they are sometimes used for tall figures; tucks are frequently edged either with fringe or lace, or folds rise on tablier, en echelle, or in a wave; for silk, pink ruches are used, and on muslins, inlets of Valenciennes and embroidery. Scarfs continue to be worn in every variety. The newest and most fashionable style of pocket handkerchiefs is with inlets of Valenciennes all round. Bonnets are now much ornamented, lace and flowers intermixed; the form continues small, partaking very much of the capote. Straw bonnets, trimmed with velvet of two colours, with ruche inside, are pretty.

THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY.—The following account of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and their steamers, which in the course of a few months are to touch at this city, twice every month outwards, and as often inwards, has been communicated to us from an authentic source, and cannot fail to prove interesting to our readers.

The capital of the Company is £1,500,000, in 15,000 shares, of £100 each. The direction of the Company is placed in the hands of the most eminent merchants in London. The Company is incorporated under a Royal charter from the Crown, and for the express purpose of performing the public service of carrying the mails between England and a large portion of the Western World. By their charter the Company cannot own any vessel but such as are engaged under contract with the Government, nor can they go to any port or place save those to which under such contract they may be directed to proceed. The present contract extends to a period of ten years from the time of starting, and the remuneration is £240,000 per annum, during peace, to be increased 25 per cent. should war arise. The mails on board of every steamer will be under the immediate charge of an officer of the Royal Navy, appointed by the Admiralty, and acting under their express authority. To distinguish them from men of war, and at the same time to keep them under the denomination of national vessels, they will carry a particular British post office flag.

The steamers appropriated for this gigantic service are 14 in number, about 450 horse power, and 1500 tons burthen each. Of these, twelve will be constantly in active service, with a spare steamer in England, and one in this quarter of the world. They are all constructed of equal power and size, in order that each may be able to take in its turn the long voyage to England, by which means each will return to that country twice every year, and thus whatever repairs may become necessary may be readily and easily made. They are intended chiefly to carry passengers. Each cabin passenger will have a separate berth, six feet and a half in length, by seven and eight feet in height, and neatly fitted up and furnished. There will be a separate state room and cabin for ladies, and the berths are so constructed that two can be thrown into one for the convenience of families. Each vessel will contain about one hundred such berths; the whole properly aired and ventilated. Each vessel will carry one large gun on the stern, and perhaps two upon deck. The vessels and machinery are built and constructed by the most skillful and experienced architects and engineers of Great Britain. They are a little larger than the vessels in Cunard's line, and may consequently be expected to perform their voyages with equal if not greater celerity, especially when it is considered that by far the

greater portion of their work will be done in a milder and more settled climate than the North. The combination under which these steamers are to work, embraces a regular conveyance backwards and forwards, twice every month, with every port and place, insular and continental, from Surinam on the East, to the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico on the West, and from Halifax by New York on the North, to Chagres on the South—the whole work on the given points; so that there is no delay whatever in the transmission of the mails either outwards or inwards, for as one steamer arrives at any given point, one or more are ready to start on other lines of the combination.

In the transmission of the mails no more time is occupied at any place than is sufficient to exchange mails and passengers. The course outwards from Europe to this port, is by Madeira, (probably also Corunna), Barbadoes, St. Thome, Porto Rico, and Havana. The time calculated to accomplish it, including stoppages, is 25½ days. The course from New Orleans to London will be 22 days; but should the steamers perform their work at the average rates of Cunard's line, the time between New Orleans and London, both outwards and inwards, will be nearly two days less either way. At Nassau the great line is connected with North America, and it also connects all North America with the whole of the West Indies, including the coast of South America and the Gulf of Mexico. A sailing vessel connects Madeira with Fayal. From New Orleans to New York, by Havana and Nassau, will occupy from 8 to 9 days each way; from New Orleans to St. Thomas will require 8 days; from St. Thomas to New Orleans, 7 days;—from New Orleans to Barbadoes, 10 days; and from Barbadoes to New Orleans, 9 to 9½ days; from New Orleans to Laguayra, the same period, and so on, in equal proportions, throughout the wide extended combination.

The course of the steamers throughout the different lines is so timed that answers to letters can be received with perfect regularity, and with the utmost possible despatch. On the arrival of the European steamer at Havana, all the mails which had come up from North America are there received. Two steamers immediately start from the Havana; one proceeds to New Orleans with the outward mail. Thence she goes to Tampico and Vera Cruz, and taking in the return mails, proceeds back to Havana. The other leaves Havana for Vera Cruz and Tampico with the outward mail, and from the latter place to New Orleans, where she takes up all the return mails, and carries them to Havana, where she arrives at the same time with the other steamer, and where a steamer is ready to start to bear the whole to the connecting point of Nassau, when the mails proceed Northward to North America, Eastward to Europe, and Southward to the West Indies. It will be readily perceived that by this arrangement abundance of time is afforded in every place for replies to letters.

We have conversed with the commissioner who has been appointed by the company and the government to make the necessary preparations for commencing this extended service. He informs us that every government and the authorities of every colony, British and foreign, from Surinam to the Mississippi, have most readily and cheerfully acquiesced in the views and wishes of the British Government and Company, by agreeing to consider the steamers as National vessels, to be consequently exempt from all port charges and custom-house dues and regulations; and in permitting them to arrive and deposit, land and receive mails, passengers and specie at their pleasure.—New Orleans Bee.

(From the New Yorker.)

RUINS IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

We have already announced that the new work of our townsman, John H. Stephens, on the remarkable and interesting Ruins of Ancient Cities in Central America was in press, and would shortly be published. This graphic and profoundly interesting work is at length before the public. We propose here only to introduce the following extracts, which, in connection with the engraving above, will afford some idea of the vast and wondrous Ruins of six Ancient Cities visited and described by our author. The column or monument, of which a representation is given above, is thus described by Mr. Stephens:

probably once connected with the main building, are the "idols" which give the distinctive characters to the ruins of Copan. Near as they are, the forest was so dense that one could not be seen from the other. In order to ascertain their juxtaposition, we cut vistas through the trees, and took the bearings and the distances; and I introduce them in the order in which they stand. The first is on the left of the pathway. This statue is fallen and the face destroyed. It is twelve feet high, three feet three inches on one side, and four feet on the other. The altar is sunk in the earth.

Toward the south, at a distance of fifty feet, is a mass of fallen sculpture, with an altar; and at ninety feet distance is a statue, standing with his front to the east, twelve feet high and three feet square, on an oblong pedestal seven feet in front and six feet two inches on the sides. Before it, at a distance of eight feet three inches, is an altar five feet eight inches long, three feet eight inches broad, and four feet high.

The face of this idol is decidedly that of a man. The beard is of a curious fashion, and joined to the moustache and hair. The ears are large, though not resembling nature; the expression is grand, the mouth partly open, and the eyeballs seem starting from the sockets; the intention of the sculptor seems to have been to excite terror. The feet are ornamented with sandals, probably of the skins of some wild animals, in the fashion of that day.

The back of this monument contrasts remarkably with the horrible portrait in front. It has nothing grotesque or pertaining to the rude conceits of Indians, but is noticeable for its extreme grace and beauty. In our daily walks we often stopped to gaze at it, and the more we gazed the more it grew upon us. Others seemed intended to inspire terror, and with their altars before them, sometimes suggested the idea of a blind, bigoted, and superstitious people, and sacrifices of human victims. This always left a pleasing impression; and there was a higher interest, for we considered that in its medallion tablets the people who reared it had published a record of themselves, through which we might one day hold conference with a perished race, and unveil the mystery that hung over the city.

On the general subject of the Ruins of Copan, Mr. Stephens remarks as follows:

"The wall was of cut stone, well laid, and in a good state of preservation. We ascended by large stone steps, in some places perfect, and in others thrown down by trees which had grown up between the crevices, and reached a terrace, the form of which it was impossible to make out, from the density of the forest in which it was enveloped. Our guide cleared a way with his machete, and we passed, as it lay half buried in the earth, a large fragment of stone, elaborately sculptured, and came to the angle of a structure with steps on the sides, in form and appearance, so far as the trees would enable us to make it out, like the sides of a pyramid. Diverging from the base, and working our way through the thick woods, we came upon a square stone column, about fourteen feet high and three feet on each side, sculptured in very bold relief and on all four of the sides, from the base to the top. The front was the evidently a portrait, solemn, stern, and well fitted to excite terror. The back was of a different design, unlike any thing we had ever seen before, and the sides were covered with hieroglyphics. This our guide called an "Idol;" and before sculptured with figures and emblematical devices, which he put at rest at once and forever, in our minds, all uncertainty in regard to the character of American antiquities, gave us the assurance that the objects we were in search of were but as works of art proving, like newly discovered people, records, that the people who once occupied the Continent of America were not savages. With an interest perhaps stronger than we had ever felt in wandering among the ruins of Egypt, we followed our guide, who sometimes

missing his way, with a constant and vigorous use of his machete, conducted us through the thick forest, among half-buried fragments, to fourteen monuments of the same character and appearance, some with more elegant designs, and some in workmanship equal to the finest monuments of the Egyptians; one displaced from its pedestal by enormous roots; another locked in the close embrace of branches of trees, and almost lifted out of the earth; another hurled to the ground, and bound down by huge vines and creepers; and one standing, with its altar before it, in a grove of trees which grew around it, seemingly to shade and shield it as a sacred thing; in the solemn stillness of the woods, it seemed a divinity mourning over a fallen people. The only sounds that disturbed the quiet of this buried city were the noise of monkeys moving among the tops of the trees, and the cracking of dry branches broken by their weight. They moved over our heads in long and swift processions, forty or fifty at a time, some with lithe ones wound in their long arms, walking out to the end of boughs, and holding on with their hind feet or a curl of the tail, sprang to a branch of the next tree, and with a noise like a current of wind, passed on into the depths of the forest. It was the first time we had seen these mockeries of humanity, and with the strange monuments around us, they seemed like wandering spirits of the departed race, guarding the ruins of their former habitations.

"We returned to the base of the pyramidal structure, and ascended by regular stone steps, in some places forced apart by bushes and saplings, and in others thrown down by the growth of large trees, while some remained entire. In some places they were ornamented with sculptural figures, and rows of deaths' heads. Climbing over the ruined top, we reached a terrace overgrown with trees, and crossing it, descended by stone steps into an area so covered with trees that at first we could not make out its form, but which, on clearing the way with the machete, we ascertained to be a square, and with steps on all the sides almost as perfect as those of the Roman amphitheatre. The steps were ornamented with sculpture, and on the south side, about half way up, forced out of its place by roots, was a colossal head, evidently a portrait. We ascended these steps, and reached a broad terrace a hundred feet high, overlooking the river, and supported by the wall which we had seen from the opposite bank. The whole terrace was covered with trees, and even at this height from the ground were two gigantic Ceibas or wild cotton trees of India, about twenty feet in circumference, extending their half naked roots fifty to a hundred feet around, binding down the ruins, and shading them with their wide spreading branches. We sat down on the very edge of the wall, and strove in vain to penetrate the mystery by which we were surrounded. Who were the people that built this city? In the ruined cities of Egypt, even in the long lost Petra, the stranger knows the story of the people by whose vestiges he is surrounded. America, say historians, was peopled by savages; but savages never reared these structures, savages never carved these stones. We asked the Indians who made them, and their dull answer was "Quien sabe? who knows?"

"There were no associations connected with the place; none of those stirring recollections which hallow Rome, Athens, and

"The world's great mistress on the Egyptian plain; but architecture, and painting, all the arts which embellish life, had flourished in this overgrown forest; orators, statesmen and warriors; beauty, ambition and glory had lived and passed away, and none knew that such things had been or could tell of their past existence. No remnant of this race hangs round the ruins, with traditions handed down from father to son and from generation to generation. It lay before us like a shattered bark in the midst of the ocean, her masts gone, her name effaced, her crew perished—and none to tell whence she came—to whom she belonged—how long on her voyage—or what caused her destruction; her lost people only to be traced by some fancied resemblance in the construction of the vessel, and perhaps never to be known at all. All was mystery—dark, impenetrable mystery—and every circumstance increased it. In Egypt the colossal skeletons of gigantic temples stand in the watered sands in all the nakedness of desolation; here an immense forest shrouded the ruins, hiding them from sight, heightening the impression and moral effect, and giving an intensity and almost wildness to the interest."

BOSTON, July 14.—LONG SPEECHES.—The House of Representatives has been driven to the necessity of adopting a rule restricting the length of speeches of its members.—This resolution passed without debate by a vote of 108 to 78. This seems an extreme remedy, but the house must be allowed to be the best Judges of the urgency of the case. Such a resolution, passed by a majority of thirty, may operate favourably upon the self esteem of those members who have been accustomed to bestow their tediousness upon the House, in speeches measured by days instead of hours. The necessity for this regulation appears to have arisen in part from a want of strictness in enforcing an adherence to order, in confining speakers to the question under debate; and in part from the practice of members pursuing their own investigations, composing speeches for future use, and writing their letters in their seats, without much regard to the member who has possession of the floor. The Pennsylvania complains of this resolution as "an abridgement of the liberty of speech," and would make it appear that the first article of the constitution is violated by it. But we think it must be admitted that an abridgement of the length of speeches is one thing, and an abridgement of regulating the length is one which is left to the discretion and good sense of the House, and we hope that the rule may have a salutary effect in aiding the despatch of business.

DEATH OF DR. M'NEVEN.—Dr. William James M'Neven, the Irish patriot and companion of Emmet, died in this city yesterday, in the 79th year of his age. Mr. Thomas Treanor is now the only survivor of the little band who accompanied Emmet to our shores, after the failure of their attempt to revolutionize Ireland.—New York Paper.

ERIE CANAL ENLARGEMENT.—The Buffalo Commercial says, speaking of the necessity of the enlargement.—Of the 295,131 bushels of wheat shipped from Cleveland alone in one-third reached the sea board through the Erie Canal, while the remainder, 186,096 bushels, went through Canada. Of the 242,104, shipped in 1841, 67,663 bushels went through Canada.

QUEBEC, June 10.—We observe that a meeting was held on Wednesday evening last, at the residence of Mr. Glacke, when a petition to the Provincial Legislature was adopted, praying it to intercede with Her Majesty in favour of the whole of the individuals exiled from the Province for the part they took in the late iniquitous attempted rebellions in Lower Canada. Many of these people are, no doubt, to be considered in no other light than as mere tools, led away by wicked and designing men. But there are others whose crimes are of the darkest character, and whilst we would willingly see the return of a large proportion of the exiles to their friends and homes, some exceptions ought in justice to be made, and we therefore hope the Provincial Legislature will not entertain the petition in its present form; for we cannot believe that by extending the Royal Mercy to the whole of these individuals, the peace and tranquillity of the Province would be strengthened, or any beneficial result be produced. The exceptions would not be difficult to make, and might be confined to the individuals who took a prominent lead in promoting the disturbances, or who, from their previous situations in life, added to their guilt by participating in them. To their petition as regards minor offenders, few, we believe, will offer any serious opposition.—Mercury.

MONTREAL, July 14.—THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.—We refer our readers to the debate which appears in another column, on Mr. Christie's motion for a Committee to enquire into the administration of justice in Gaspe. A more irregular and injudicious motion could scarcely have been