

Miscellaneous.

MANURE.—A farmer who should think to grow profitable crops without a generous application of manure to his soil, would be as unwise as a person who should calculate to live in ease and luxury all his days without money.—Manure is the capital of the husbandman, which deposited in the Earth Bank will yield a high rate of interest. The supply ordinarily obtained from the stable, however well husbanded, is quite too small. A good farmer has throughout the year taken care to collect muck, turf, vegetable substances, lime, ashes, &c., and made a compost of them, either in heaps by themselves, or what is better, by mixing them with his stable and hog manures. The removing of manure to the field should be delayed till just as you are about to plough and turn it under. If carried out some days before, it loses by evaporation, or is washed away by the rains to fertilize some other person's land. New manure is the strongest, and should be buried pretty deep. Old manure is best for the garden, and as a deposit in corn hills. This gives the young plants a start, in time to command the benefits of the new manure ploughed in, which in due season becomes sufficiently decomposed to supply the proper food.

DISGRACEFUL INSTANCE OF SUPERSTITION.—The curate of Taltique was an intelligent man withal, and full of information and anecdote. His illustrations of the Indian character were highly interesting, and his remarks on the propensity of that people to idolatry, both sensible and amusing. With reference to this subject, he related to us the following, among other anecdotes. One of his predecessors in the curacy had detected his parishioners in the adoration of a god of their own. This was no other than an old Indian, whom they had dressed up in a particular way, and installed in a hut, where they went to worship him, offering him the fruits of their industry as a tribute, and performing in his presence certain religious rites, according to their ancient practice. His godship, who had no manner of work to do, and was regaled with all the good things that the village afforded, found this a sufficiently pleasant mode of life, and willingly sustained the character he had been made to assume. But such impious proceedings the curate was determined not to suffer. He remonstrated with his flock, and admonished them both in public and private, but all to no purpose: he was listened to by no one; he threatened, and was threatened in turn. He now adopted another course, and affecting to approve the conduct of his parishioners, humoured them in the mad whim they had been seized with. It was at that time of the year called Passion Week, when certain ceremonies are performed in commemoration of the sufferings of our Saviour on the cross. The curate proposed that the passion and death of Christ should be represented by the Indian deity in person; that he should have a crown of thorns put on his head, and be whipped and crucified. "After he is dead and buried," said the curate, "he, of course, will rise again, and then we will all believe in him." The Indians were delighted with the idea, and, in their simplicity, determined to proceed according to the suggestions of their pastor. The old Indian was brought forth, and, *nolens volens*, was decorated with the thorny crown; he then received an awful flagellation, and, finally, in spite of his entreaties to be exempted from so great and unmerited a distinction, was actually crucified. As soon as the poor Indian was fairly dead, they took him down, and carried him to the village church, where, having laid him out, they watched him, and waited with intense interest for the third day, when he was to return to life. But before that day arrived, the body exhibited such symptoms of dissolution, and began to be so offensive, that the Indians already entertained doubts of the legitimacy of their god. They held out, however, till the expiration of the third, when finding that there was to be no resurrection, they dragged the body out of the church and threw it on a dung-hill. From that time forward they submitted with exemplary docility to the directions of their spiritual guide.—*Montgomery's Journey to Guatemala.*

CURIOUS FAMILY REGISTER.—There is a family in Bolton, that have a Bible containing all their names entered by their father and grandfather, who used to dispense with dates by the following plan:—"Eawr Jem wur born i'th' American war. Eawr Meary wur born in the great frost. Eawr Bill wur born when Ostler wur killed i'th' delph. Eawr Sally wur born when Gorsley Meady wur mown. Eawr Peggy wur born i'th' great wind. Eawr John wur born when Holland wur hung. Eawr Rubbut wur born when the cow run at my mother i'th' Hedger Lone. Eawr Jenny wur born when Longworth wur gibbeted, un owd penny pieces wur made. Eawr Charlotte wur born when the short peace wur made. Un aw have as bonny a mark of a yerring on my ed ase ever you seed in your loife."

The prospect of penury in age is so gloomy and terrifying, that every man who looks before him must resolve to avoid it; and it must be avoided generally by the science of sparing. For, though in every age there are some, who by bold adventures, or by favourable accidents, rise suddenly to riches, yet it is dangerous to indulge hopes of such rare events; and the bulk of mankind must owe their affluence to small and gradual profits, below which their expenses must be resolutely reduced.

The house of Esterhazy is probably the most magnificent of the non-regnant houses in the world. That jacket of jackets, which is said to cost the Prince £100 in wear and tear every time it is put on, has already impressed the English public with the extent of his possessions; but the impression falls short of the reality. His estates contain 130 villages, 49 towns and 34 estates. He has four country houses as big as

Chatsworth, within an hour's ride of one another; one of them, Esterhazy, contains 360 rooms for visitors, and a theatre. The well known story of the Prince's reply to the Lord of Holkham, who, after exhibiting a flock of two thousand sheep, inquired if he could show as many—"My shepherds are more numerous than your sheep"—turns out to be literally true; there are 2500 shepherds on his estates. They have a regular grenadier guard in their pay, and the right of life and death on their estates.—*English paper.*

LOSS OF THE COLOURS OF THE 69TH AT QUATRE BRAS.—As we do not recollect any other instance of a British colour being captured on the field during the war, we shall explain under what circumstances this battalion was surprised. It formed part of General Halkett's brigade of the 3d, but had been attached to support General Pack's brigade of the 5th division. Perceiving that the cuirassiers were about to charge, Pack ordered the 69th to form square; but the manoeuvre was scarcely completed when the Prince of Orange rode up, and directed the battalion to reform line; before this could be effected, the cuirassiers were amongst its moving divisions, and in a few minutes cut down near 200 men; the rest of the regiment found refuge in the squares of the 42d and 92d Highlanders. The intrepidity shown on this occasion by a volunteer named Clark, merits notice: this young soldier, although bleeding from many wounds, was seen contending successfully against several of the French troops after the route of his battalion. His heroic conduct was rewarded with a commission in the 42d regiment. One of his wounds—of which he had 23, as was certified by Dr. James Bartlet, who dressed him—cost him the use of an arm.

THE SWORD OF BRUCE.—The Sword which King Robert Bruce wielded at Bannockburn has, with his helmet, survived the entire family. Mrs. Catherine Bruce, the last of the Royal house, died in 1791, at a very advanced age: only a short time before her death Burns called upon her, and, though she was almost speechless from paralysis, she entertained him nobly, and conferred the honor of knighthood on him with the Bruce's two-handed sword, saying she had a better right to grant the title than "some people." After dinner, the first toast she gave, was "Awa' uncus!" that is, away with the strangers, which shewed her Jacobite feelings to the house of Hanover. The old lady bequeathed the sword and helmet to the Earl of Elgin, whom she considered the next of kin.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MARCH 9.

ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

Mr. EWART, on Thursday, moved a resolution, "That it is expedient that the punishment of death be abolished." He contended that experience of the effects of mitigating severe punishments ought to induce the Legislature to affirm his resolution. By reference to criminal statistics, Mr. Ewart proved, that mitigation of penalties had been followed by a diminution of crime; that punishment was more certain, and the proportion of convictions to committals greater, since executions had become rare. In a given period previous to the abolition of the punishment of death for many offences, the executions were 85; during a similar period after the mitigation of punishments, the executions were 25, while convictions had increased from 1,536 to 1,788. The punishment was mitigated, but impunity for crime was diminished. He referred to France, Belgium, Bombay when Sir James Macintosh was Judge of the Supreme Court, and to Delhi under the government of Sir Charles Metcalfe, for evidence that the diminution of capital punishments in Europe, and their entire abolition in the parts of India referred to, had produced decrease of crime. Murder was virtually the only crime now punished in England with death. But the person who committed murder either acted from calculation or sudden impulse: if he acted from calculation, the fear of death did not restrain him; if from impulse, he overlooked the consequences of his deed: in either case the punishment was unavailing. Public opinion, he contended, was against executions even for murder; but at all events, it was the duty of the Legislature to humanize the people. It was most important to impress upon a people the inviolability of human life. He called upon the House to assent to his proposition, and to resign the awful attribute of dispensing with human life into the hands of God who gave it.

Mr. HAWES seconded the motion. Lord JOHN RUSSELL repeated Mr. Ewart's motives, and admired the ability his speech displayed; but he objected to the course he took. They ought to proceed by bill, if at all. It would be unwise to place on their journals a resolution which might be appealed to with great popular effect, but which would not make an alteration in the law, or authorize the Judges to infringe it. He disagreed with portions of Mr. Ewart's argument. A principal reason for abolishing death for horse stealing, larceny in a dwelling-house, and crimes of that description, was the reluctance of juries to subject offenders to punishments disproportioned to their crimes: but no such feelings prevailed in cases of murder. Popular sympathy was not excited for a murderer; he believed that few thought that Greenacre's life ought to have been spared. That, however, was an atrocious case, and Lord John certainly wished that there could be a distinction drawn between murders of the worst kind and those which approached more nearly to manslaughter. As to Mr. Ewart's argument, from the fact that a murderer acted from calculation or impulse, the same might be said of all other crimes. Though an enemy to capital punishments, and rejoicing in the good effects of mitigating them already experienced, Lord John was not prepared to go so far as Mr. Ewart. He thought there

was some danger that in cases of atrocious murder, for which the law forbade death to be inflicted, a revulsion of public feeling might occur, and a restoration of capital punishments might be rendered necessary.

Dr. LUSHINGTON agreed that in this matter the proceeding ought to be by bill and not by resolution, and he should move an amendment to that effect. He was opposed to the punishment of death, not because he believed it contrary to the law of God, (an opinion held by a considerable body of persons in this country,) but because capital punishment for murder did not prevent the offence; and he saw no reasons for any punishment, but prevention of crime and the reformation of the offender. It was painful to behold the readiness with which juries convicted men of atrocious crimes upon imperfect evidence; and it was a fact lately stated by Baron Gurney, that the facility of conviction was in proportion to the atrocity of the offence. But this remark did not apply to cases where the punishment was death. Then, the judges, knowing the fallaciousness of human testimony, used all their astuteness to suggest reasons to a jury for acquitting prisoners. Why?—because the law shut the door against further inquiry, and time was not allowed to remedy the consequences of false testimony. Witnesses gave their evidence with reluctance, and juries were slow to convict. Certainty of punishment was essential; but so long as human life was at stake, the ordinary feelings of humanity would operate with juries, and make them slow to inflict an irretrievable punishment. This must ever be the case; for he would ask any man in the House—he would ask any man of honour and feelings of religion—whether if he were sitting as a juror, and were asked to pronounce sentence upon his honour, and according to those feelings of religion, he would not require more stringent and complete evidence where the life of a fellow creature was at stake than when transportation was the punishment? He asked, then, whether, on this question of the certainty of punishment, he had not demonstrated that capital punishment was not *ex necessitate* from the nature of man less certain than any other, and whether so long as death was a punishment, judges would not exercise a commendable astuteness and rack their minds to discover some flaw on which to recommend an acquittal to the jury, with a view of providing against the possibility of error and mistake. Being, then, not less anxious for the prevention of crime than for the protection of innocence, he begged to move as an amendment to Mr. Ewart's motion "for leave to bring in a bill for the abolition of capital punishments."

Mr. EWART'S resolution was by leave withdrawn, and Dr. Lushington's motion read from the chair.

Mr. GOULBURN noticed an inconsistency in Dr. Lushington's argument. He had told the House that in proportion to the atrocity of the offence was the readiness to convict, yet he maintained that juries were unwilling to convict murderers. Mr. Goulburn thought Lord John Russell took the right view of the subject, and the public opinion was not adverse to punishing murder with death. By equalizing the penalty for housebreaking and for murder, you hold out a strong temptation to add the crime of murder to housebreaking, by which the only witness might be removed.

Mr. HOBHOUSE, Mr. MUNTZ, Mr. BROTHERTON, and Mr. O'CONNELL argued against the punishment of death under any circumstances. Mr. PLUMPTRE, Mr. FITZROY, and Sir ROBERT INGLES took the other side.

The House, on a division, refused leave to bring in a bill, by a majority of 161 to 90.

EXTRACTS FROM ENGLISH PAPERS.

Desertion of Soldiers from the Army in Canada.—We have, of late, noticed in the Canada papers several instances of the desertion of soldiers from our Provinces into the United States. The subject was alluded to in the House of Commons, in the Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates. On that occasion, Mr. Macaulay, Secretary at War, spoke as follows:—

The next vote to which he had to call the attention of the Committee, was £10,000 for the formation of a veteran battalion in Canada, where desertions had occurred to an extent unknown elsewhere. About six years ago, an inquiry had been made, and it was found—there being there at that time, 2500 rank and file—that desertions had taken place to the number of 663, while, during the same period, the desertions from the whole British army had been only 3240.

Those desertions in Canada had not been confined to bad and disreputable characters: non-commissioned officers and men of respectability and good conduct had deserted. Nor was this system of desertion to be ascribed to distress—for many had gone away, leaving behind them their necessaries and arrears of pay. Why desertion should take place more frequently in North America than in any other part of the empire, it was not difficult to explain.

In Britain, the situation of the soldier was as comfortable, he might say more so, than that of the labourers—to which class, generally, the soldier belonged. In many of the Colonies, physical difficulties opposed themselves to flight. When in Malta, the soldiers were surrounded by sea; when at the Cape, they could only escape from their quarters to fly to the haunts of savages; and as to India, he could imagine no situation more miserable than that of a deserter in that country—wandering amidst its vast regions, amongst a people of a strange race and colour, and his footsteps pursued by the power of the British law.

But, with respect to the American Colonies, the case was widely different. There the facilities of escape to the United States were many, and the temptations strong. The soil was flour-

ishing, and the labour of wages high. The consequence was, that these high wages, and, still more, the exaggerated representations that were put forth of the ease and luxury enjoyed by the labourer in America, had constantly drawn away our soldiers from Canada.

Several plans had been proposed for meeting this evil. It had been proposed, and he thought wisely, that Canada should be the last point in rotation to which the troops on Colonial service should be sent. There would then be a great number of men with additional and good conduct pay, and those higher advances would tend to keep the men faithful to their colours.

It had also been thought, that advantages would arise, and the temptations to which he had adverted be counteracted, if the Government were to hold out, to the troops in Canada, a sort of military retirement, which should serve as a reward to those who remained faithful to their colours.

Such had been the opinion of his late noble friend the late Secretary at War, and of Lord Seaton; and he (Mr. Macaulay) had reason to believe that opinion was generally entertained amongst those who possessed the best information on the subject.

The precise details of the plan had not yet been made out, and much correspondence must take place before it could be produced; but as it was not improbable, that, before the House again assembled, some Regiments would be removed from Canada, it would be desirable that some men of good character should be induced to remain there. On these grounds, he was induced to ask the House for the additional grant of £10,000 on account.

An extraordinary case of *crim. con.* was tried on Friday last in the Sheriffs' Court, Surrey, in which the defendant, a private in the Guards, suffered judgment to go by default, and the Jury gave damages against him of five hundred pounds. The injured plaintiff was a solicitor; and his wife was an educated and accomplished woman. In reference to this fact the *Times* says—and we hope the remark may sink deep into the minds of all who read it—"The lady appears to be one of those persons who, having been taught to read, has abused that power by the perusal of trashy novels and rhodomontade verses. An immense number of 'liberally educated' girls waste their time in the same manner. In fact, what is called an accomplished and liberal education in this country, is very frequently a mere loosener of the morals and corrupter of the principles, and a sure preparation for very 'liberal conduct.'" We are convinced that incalculable mischief is done by the excessive,—we had almost said exclusive care which is lavished upon the superficial education of too many females in the present day. They are taught elegant accomplishments; but solid acquirements are too frequently forgotten.

A Hindoo, named Gobin Chunder Gosian, an inhabitant of Balee, died lately, leaving no less than one hundred widows.—(*Asiatic Journal.*)

The Marquis of Waterford has brought three lions from Africa, and tamed them; they sleep with him in his bedroom, and they follow him tamely when he walks out. He has sold two to Batty, the circus rider.

The Queen has given John Lander's widow a pension.

The vaccination board state in their report, just published, that by vaccination as many as 4,000 lives are annually saved within the bills of mortality alone.

The celebrated Beau Brummel died at Caen, in Normandy, on the 30th ult. at the age of 62. He had been long in distressed circumstances, and latterly had been confined in a mad house.

EMIGRATION.—There are no less than twelve vessels of large burden now in port prepared to receive passengers for British North America, and the berths in nearly half that number are already engaged. We believe Limerick will furnish 6,000 emigrants to Canada this year.—*Limerick Chronicle.*

REV. MR. MATTHEW.—The following particulars are related of Mr. Matthew, whose labours have given such an impulse to the cause of Temperance in Ireland:

"Mr. Matthew is himself a remarkable man, and the most likely to lead or originate a movement of this kind. It is now three-and-twenty years since he joined a company of Capuchin friars in this city (Cork), and his career has ever since been marked by numerous acts of practical philanthropy. He is allied by kindred and by blood to one of the highest families in the kingdom, and has always been reputed the most sensible and useful man in this country. He has been much assisted in his endeavours by the Rev. Mr. Duncombe, a Protestant clergyman, and a liberal and enlightened man; and the Rev. Geo. Sheehan, a young Roman Catholic priest, has also co-operated with him in his exertions. Where this movement will stop, I know not. Some people have endeavoured to give a political aspect to these proceedings; but, so far as I can see, nothing can be farther from the truth.—Mr. Matthew is a man who never mixed in politics, nor ever interested himself in any thing of even a politico-religious tendency. Others say that he is realizing a large fortune by these means. If he is, he is not spending it on himself. The austere and primitive nature of his life is an ample refutation to that charge; nay, more, his acts militate strongly against the dearest interests of his family, for his brother is a distiller, his brother-in-law is a distiller, and the third brother is married to the sister of a distiller. So much then, for the charge of lucre and self-interest."

NEW YORK, MAY 14.
FROM MEXICO.—The New Orleans Bee of April 27, says, the schooner Alexander Washington, Captain Dearborn, arrived yesterday from