

AFFAIRS OF THE EAST.

BEYROUT, May 29.—Mont Liban, the Druses, the Maronites, and the Naplousians are in a state of insurrection. A convoy, which was destined for Alep, has fallen into the power of the insurgents. Some soldiers have been killed in defending it. This convoy was conveying ammunition. The Governor of Beyrout is having all the forts armed, and the garrison is kept within doors. An attack is feared. All the roads are intercepted in the interior. The insurrection was brought on thus:—Ibrahim Pacha demanded of the Emir Beehir that the mountaineers should be disarmed. The latter refused to comply, as well as the Druses; they stated that the Government ought to have confidence in them, since it was to them that it owed the repression of the insurrection of Haoran. They affirmed that they were only to be disarmed in order that fresh levies might be made amongst them; and they stoutly declared that they would rise up with all the adjoining population rather than give up their arms. This had actually taken place. Yesterday evening, at nine o'clock, the Governor of Beyrout had a meeting of every person of distinction; news had been received that a descent of the mountaineers was going to take place for the purpose of disarming the troops which formed the boundary line required on account of the plague, which was raging at Damascus, and the resolution was immediately taken to suppress the same and send back the troops that composed it to the town, inasmuch as being very few in number there was too much risk to run. Last night and this morning we saw them enter. The plague has, therefore, no obstacle to encounter. At Seida, Soliman Pacha had a meeting of all his people last night, and the result of the deliberation was to send all the troops to be encamped round Seida. Convoys of powder have been stopped and seized by the mountaineers, and some persons (eight) have been assassinated in offering resistance. The affair took place near a village called El-Haddet. At another place two Egyptian officers were taken, but one of them managed to escape, being still near Seida.

CURIOUS ADVENTURES OF A PRETENDED LORD.

The *Liverpool Albion* gives some curious particulars respecting a most impudent polygamist and impostor, named Robert Taylor. The offender is a mere youth, between nineteen and twenty years of age, but his numerous matrimonial adventures and devices to obtain money, mark him as a person of singular cunning and dexterity. His plan seems to have been in all cases to practise first on the cupidity of his own sex, by holding out a pecuniary reward to any one who would procure him a suitable alliance, and then, by representing himself to be of aristocratic birth and heir to extensive possessions, to dazzle and win over the victim and her friends. To aid his views he represented himself as a son of Lord Kennedy, of Ashby Hall, Leicestershire. He was furnished with numerous documents framed to corroborate his misrepresentations. These, which he carried in a tin case, were found on his person when he was apprehended. Amongst them was a parchment, on which was written in a fine clerk hand, what purported to be "The last will and testament of Lord Kennedy, &c. By this document Taylor appeared to be the heir to £1,015,000, three per cent. Consols, besides immense wealth in coal mines, salt factories, woollen factories, quarries, machinery, houses, plate, jewellery, and even ships." "John Nicholson, Thomas Johnson, and Mrs. Robinson" appeared to have been constituted "guardians of the said Robert Taylor." The documents bore date the 22d of September, 1829, and exhibited the signatures, first, of the supposed testator, "Kennedy," and then of the attesting witnesses, "Samuel Robinson, clerk to James Lee, and John Turner," and "William Cowley, barrister." The bequest was in these words:—"I give and bequeath to Robert Taylor, son of Elizabeth Taylor, single woman, £1,015,000 Three per Cent. Consols, and no more." He had also an indenture, certifying the correctness of the will, and describing his person by certain marks on his right arm, &c. He had sundry other papers ingeniously enough contrived for the purpose of aiding his deception, but, as he is a youth of coarse and vulgar manners; the success which attended his impostures can only be accounted for by the blind avarice of his dupes. Up to the present time six of his marriages in several parts of the north of England have come to the knowledge of the police, and there is reason to believe that the number is much larger. It is supposed that he married one or two young women in Lancashire. Like many who have pursued a career of base and unprincipled deception, this scoundrel affected great sanctity, and connected himself at different times with both the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists. Indeed, one of his principal dupes was a Mr. Fryer, a preacher in the last named connection, who, Taylor having promised a reward of ten pounds to any one who would procure him a young and religious wife, offered him the choice of his two sisters-in-law. Taylor chose the younger, a girl about 18 years of age, and was married to her. This preacher not only failed to receive the expected reward, but was swindled out of £12 which he lent to the roguish adventurer! This, however, proved the last of his exploits; for, having made several fruitless attempts to run away from his wife, as he had done from the others, he was at length compelled to take her with him, and on his way through the county of Durham he was apprehended.

The budget of papers found in the prisoner's possession contained a multitude of curiosities beside those above alluded to. It appeared from one of them, an indenture of apprenticeship (he seems to have treasured all written documents most carefully), that he had at the age of thirteen been apprenticed to a sweep and collier in Staffordshire till he would be twenty-one years old.

The indenture described him as a poor child from Fatfield, in the county of Durham.

There were several licenses and documents relating to his marriages. One of these was a memorandum of an agreement between Robert Taylor and Mary Wilson, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, to marry in three months from October 16, 1839; Taylor to forfeit £20,000 if he married any other woman, and Mary Ann to forfeit one-third per annum of her yearly salary if she proved faithless. Annexed to this was a memorandum of a loan of £4 from Mary Ann's father, with an engagement, on the part of Taylor, to pay £1 per annum interest. Many of the papers related to the prisoner's connection with the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists, and with the Teetotallers, of which latter society he appears to have been a staunch adherent. The most curious paper was "a memorandum of agreement between Robert Taylor, Esq. son of the late Lord Kennedy, of Ashley Hall, in the parish of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and those he may engage as servants." It bears what purports to be the prisoner's signature, and from it he appears to have engaged an establishment of stewards, butlers, footmen, grooms, coachmen, gamekeepers, helpers, &c. at salaries of from £20 to £60 per annum, sufficient for half a dozen Princes. The stipulation of the agreement is, that the servants, butlers included, are to observe the Teetotal pledge.

This impostor was tried at the Liverpool Sessions, a day or two ago, on two cases, and found guilty in both. The first charge was, for marrying Mary Ann Davidson, the sister-in-law of Mr. Fryer, the Methodist Preacher. The next indictment was for having in October last, married Mary Ann Wilson, daughter of G. Wilson, a tobacco-merchant of Newcastle. The prisoner was sentenced, for the first case of bigamy, to be imprisoned one year to hard labour; and for the second, to be imprisoned eighteen months to hard labour, making altogether two years and a half.

Prisoner—Gentlemen, when I come out again, will any of my wives have a claim upon me?—(Laughter.)

The Court declined to answer the question. The prisoner is a shabby, repulsive looking individual, and very illiterate.

THE REGENCY BILL.—This is not, what a Ministerial journal of last week described it—a measure to provide the country with an acting Sovereign during the Queen's lying-in; but to appoint a Regent in the event of a motherless infant becoming heir to the Throne. The Chancellor's speech, on presenting the bill to the House of Lords, contains no reference to the "temporary suspension of the duties and cares of sovereignty, which the accouchement of her Majesty will necessarily impose on her;" but, on the contrary, enforces the necessity of providing for the full exercise of the power of the Crown during the long minority which might ensue on the Queen's death. Lord Cottenham justified the all but unlimited regal authority which the bill would confer on the Regent, by the constitutional argument, that, although restricted powers might suffice in cases where the Sovereign's infancy would soon terminate, or where only a brief absence had to be provided for, it was necessary to the balance of the three estates of the realm that the Crown should not be shorn of any essential portion of its dignity and powers for a period of long duration. On this principle, the Regent would only be restrained from assenting to bills for altering the succession to the Throne, or interfering with the rights and privileges of the Established Churches of England and Scotland. In all other respects his authority would be the same as the Sovereign's.—*London Spectator.*

WELSH BISHOPS.—A vacancy having occurred in the diocese of St. David's, by the demise of Dr. Jenkinson, the late Bishop, the natives of Wales are stirring, both in the Principality and elsewhere, with the view of urging on her Majesty's Government the necessity of elevating to the vacant see a clergyman fully conversant with the Welsh language, and not unacquainted with the predilections and habits of the natives. With the exception of a small part of Pembrokeshire, the diocese of St. David's extends over a great extent of country in which the Welsh language is vernacular, and most of the livings of it are in the gift of the Bishop. It is, therefore, a matter of the highest importance, both to the Church and to the inhabitants, that an efficient Bishop be appointed. It has been the custom for the last 130 years to sacrifice the spiritual interests of the Principality to political partizanship, and to force upon the Welsh people an English supporter of the existing ministry, utterly regardless of the injustice thereby inflicted on the national religion.—*Morning Herald.*

[The Reverend Canon Thirwall is the new Bishop.]

UPPER CANADA CLERGY SOCIETY.—Wednesday, the annual general meeting of the subscribers and friends of this institution took place at the Hanover-square rooms; the Marquis of Cholmondeley occupied the chair, supported by the Earl of Galloway, the Right Hon. Lord Bexley, W. E. Gladstone, Esq., M. P., Sir Walter Farquhar, Bart., the Hon. Captain Maude, the Hon. W. Kinnaird, the Rev. H. Beamish, the Rev. S. Ramsay, &c., &c. The noble chairman having briefly opened the meeting, the Rev. S. Ramsay, the secretary of the society, read the report, which showed that vast benefits were accruing to not only the white but the Indian population of Upper Canada, by the exertions of the missionaries sent out by the society. They still, however, required further aid, as in some of the districts one missionary had to extend his labours over a surface of two thousand square miles. The society had received the most important aid in their labours from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and it was deemed by the committee that a more efficient plan of co-operation might be established by the incorporation of the society with the

above mentioned, under the title of "The Upper Canada Committee of the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts." The report proceeded to show the great amount of spiritual destitution which still existed, and urged the most strenuous exertions in the society's support.

ATTEMPT AT SELF CRUCIFIXION IN CORK.—The medical officers at the dispensary in Cork were lately presented with one of the most extraordinary cases that had ever come before them. Upon a car, brought to the door of the institution, was laid a stout hale man about 30 years of age; he was tied down, and it was with difficulty the persons in charge could restrain him. Upon being brought into the consulting room it was found that his feet and hands had been perforated, apparently with large nails. It appeared from the statement of those by whom he was brought to the dispensary that his name is Bartholomew Donovan; that he is a labouring man, has resided several years at Carrignavar, had frequently betrayed symptoms of insanity, and was found in an outhouse contiguous to his own dwelling bleeding profusely at the feet and hands, having in each a large nail, with a view, he stated, of "crucifying" himself! His wounds being dressed, the unhappy creature was sent to the Lunatic Asylum.

SINGULAR CIRCUMSTANCE.—On Sunday last, no less than six sermons were preached by six different clergymen, at six different places of worship, in these towns, from the same text:—"Remember Lot's Wife!"—*Cornwall Gazette.*

THE REV. MR. WILLIAMS, &c.—H.M.S. Favourite, on her departure from this port, intends to pay a visit to the Eastern Isles, particularly those of Eremangoe and Tupia; on the former was the unfortunate missionary, Mr. Williams, and another gentleman, most wantonly and treacherously murdered by the natives. These murderers will meet with a due meed of punishment, as a warning for them to behave themselves with more respect and forbearance to Europeans who may hereafter visit that island; at the same time, it is the intention of Captain Croker to procure the remains, or any portion thereof, of the two unfortunate gentlemen, to bring to Sydney for interment in consecrated ground. On the latter named island (Tupia) it is expected that some part, if not the whole of the twelve men belonging to the whaler Achilles may be rescued from the natives, who seized them while they were ashore trading, as in all probability the Favourite will call to ascertain what was their fate and, if living, to ransom them from their bondage.—*Sydney Gazette and Commercial Journal of 8th February.*

DISCOVERY AND SETTLEMENT OF VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.—Van Diemen's Land is an island of the South Pacific, lying between the 41st and 44th deg. of South latitude, and 144th and 148th deg. of east longitude. It is not quite so large as Ireland. It was discovered by a Dutch navigator named Tasman, in 1642, and by him obtained its present inharmonious appellation, in compliment of Van Diemen, the then Governor of the Dutch East Indies. For a length of time it was erroneously conjectured to form a portion of the main land of New Holland. Indeed, even yet there are many, otherwise well-informed persons, who conceive Hobart Town and Sydney (although 800 miles apart) to be towns of one colony, and perfectly contiguous to each other. Bass, a surgeon of the Navy, was the first to discover the narrow strait that separates the island from the Continent, which strait has ever since borne the discoverer's name. Upon the original formation of a British penal settlement, at the spot which has obtained so much Old Bailey celebrity as Botany Bay, the embryo colonists struggled with difficulty and privation through many a tedious year. Crops failed—sheep and cattle were driven or strayed away—provisions grew scarce—supplies were rare—and few or no trading vessels hastened to their relief; in a word, starvation frequently stared them in the face. Norfolk Island was colonised in the hope that it might become a granary for the infant-mother settlement. The attempt, to a certain extent, prospered; however, it afterwards was deemed prudent to extend the plan, and in a different direction. With this view, Colonel David Collins, of the Royal Marines, was despatched to form an establishment on the south coast of New Holland. The spot selected by that officer was the present rapidly increasing dependency of Port Phillip—so called in honour of the Governor. After a short stay, Colonel Collins, apprehending a scarcity of water, struck his tents, re-embarked his staff, and made sail for the Derwent (the principal river of Van Diemen's Land); arrived there, he first broke ground on the 9th of August, 1803, at a spot called Restdown; but subsequently changed his position, and established his camp five or six miles lower down, and on the opposite bank of the river, at Sullivan's Cove, the present magnificent port of Hobart Town, which was founded on the 19th of February, 1804—a little more than thirty-six years back.—*Colonial Magazine.*

INTERVIEW BETWEEN GEORGE THE THIRD AND JOSEPH LANCASTER.—On entering the Royal presence, the King said, "Lancaster, I have sent for you to give me an account of your system of education, which, I hear, has met with opposition. One master teach five hundred children at the same time! How do you keep them in order, Lancaster?" Lancaster replied, "Please thy Majesty, by the same principle thy Majesty's army is kept in order—by the word of command." His Majesty replied, "Good, good; it does not require an aged general to give the command—one of younger years can do it." Lancaster observed, that, in his schools, the teaching branch was performed by youths who acted as young monitors. The King assented, and said, "Good." Lancaster then described his system; and he informed me, that they all paid great attention, and were highly delighted, and as soon as he had

finished, his Majesty said, "Lancaster, I highly approve of your system, and it is my wish that every poor child in my dominions should be taught to read the Bible; I will do anything you wish to promote this object." "Please thy Majesty," said Lancaster, "if the system meets thy Majesty's approbation, I can go through the country and lecture on the system, and have no doubt, but in a few months I shall be able to give thy Majesty an account where ten thousand poor children are being educated, and some of my youths instructing them." His Majesty immediately replied, "Lancaster, I will subscribe 100l. annually; and," addressing the Queen, "you shall subscribe 50l., Charlotte, and the Princesses 25l. each; and then added, "Lancaster, you may have the money directly." Lancaster observed, "Please thy Majesty, that will be setting thy nobles a good example." The Royal party appeared to smile at this observation; but the Queen observed to his Majesty, "How cruel it is that enemies should be found who endeavour to hinder his progress in so good a work." To which the King replied, "Charlotte, a good man seeks his reward in the world to come." Joseph then withdrew. It may here be stated, that every succeeding monarch of England, including her present Majesty, has followed his example.—*Corston's Sketch of Joseph Lancaster's Life.*

SCOTCH GREYS.—2d. DRAGOONS.—The services of the Royal North British dragoons have been of a character calculated to call forth the admiration of every reader of their regimental record. Deriving their origin as a corps of cavalry from the comotions in Scotland during the reign of Charles II., their first duties were of a painful and perilous nature. Habituated to fatigue, privation, danger, and the observance of strict discipline, they became a valuable body of men to the Government. After the Revolution in 1688, their services against the Jacobites in Scotland were of an important character; and while serving under King William III. in Belgium, they were admired for their warlike appearance and gallant bearing in the field, and for their orderly demeanour in cantonments. During the war in the reign of Queen Anne, their splendid career under the renowned Marlborough exalted the reputation of the corps, and procured it a celebrity which has since been preserved untarnished. In Scotland during the rebellion in 1715 and 1716; in various parts of the Continent from 1742 to 1748; in Germany, under the Marquis of Granby, during the seven years' war; in Flanders, under his Royal Highness the Duke of York, at the commencement of the French revolutionary war, and on all other occasions, the Greys have been distinguished as a hardy, patient, obedient, and valiant body of men, inferior to no troops in Europe in the qualities which constitute good soldiers, and thereby verifying their motto—"Second to none." Their gallantry at the glorious battle of Waterloo, on the 18th of June, 1815, rivalled the deeds of the renowned warriors whose achievements have been recorded by Ossian and other ancient bards of Caledonia. The Scots Greys had the proud distinction of capturing the colours of the French *regiment du roi* at Ramillies—the white standard of the French household troops at Dettingen—and the colour and eagle of a French infantry corps at Waterloo. Their patience and forbearance when employed in supporting the laws, and preserving tranquillity at home, form a striking contrast to their valour when opposed to a foreign enemy in the field. Their reputation having become established, their title has long been associated with ideas of valour, loyalty, good conduct, and usefulness to the Crown and kingdom.—*Cannon's Historical Record.*

GRENADEER GUARDS.—The following is the origin of Grenadiers, transcribed from Evelyn's Diary:—"In 1678 were brought into service a new sort of soldiers called grenadiers, who were dexterous in throwing granadoes, every one having a pouch full; they had furr'd caps with coped crowns, like Janizaries, which make them look very fierce, and some had long hoods hanging down behind. Their clothing is pybald, yellow, and red."

AN APT REPLY.—In one of the latest days of Fox, the conversation turned on the comparative wisdom of the French and English character. "The Frenchman," it was observed, "delights him with the present; the Englishman makes him anxious about the future; is not the Frenchman wiser?" "He may be the merrier," said Fox, "but did you ever hear of a savage who did not buy a mirror in preference to a telescope?"

LETTING OUT.—An Irish tailor, having made a gentleman's coat and vest too small, was ordered to take them home and let them out. Some days after, the gentleman, inquiring for his garments, was told by the ninth part of an Irishman, that the clothes happening to fit a countryman of his, he had let them out at a shilling per week.

Fashion is a poor vocation. Its creed, that idleness is a privilege, and work a disgrace, is among the deadliest of errors. Without depth of thought, or earnestness of feeling, or strength of purpose, living an unreal life, sacrificing substance to show, substituting the fictitious for the natural, mistaking a crowd for society, finding its chief pleasure in ridicule, and exhausting its ingenuity in expedients for killing time, fashion is among the last influences under which a human being, who respects himself, or who comprehends the great end of life, would desire to be placed.

Weeds may be prevented from growing on gravel walks by watering the walks with salt and water; the salt will likewise kill the weeds already there, and if these are large, they should, of course, be hoed up and raked off.