

der and applause arose from the crowded courtiers; and the monarch's satisfaction now filled to overflowing, 'God will reward you,' he exclaimed, 'for I cannot.'

But a more serious and a more striking display was still to follow. The artillery were to exhibit their powers; and the crowd rushed out, and scattered over the hills to see its practice. A sheet was attached to the opposite face of the ravine, the valley rang to the roar of the guns; and as the white cloth flew in shreds to the wind, under a rapid discharge of round shot, cannon and grape, amid the crumbling of the rock, and the rush of falling stones, shouts of admiration rang from hill to hill. This eventful evening was closed by testimonies of the king's satisfaction, in the shape of a huge pepper pie from the royal kitchen, with his commands that his children might feast; and a visit from the royal confessor, a dwarf enveloped in robes and turbans, and armed with silver cross and crosier. Seating himself in a chair, he delivered a speech, which affords as good a specimen of court oratory as any thing that we remember; and also shows the powerful effect of the presents on the courtly sensibilities. The speech was as follows:—

"Forty years have rolled away since Asfa Woosen, on whose memory be peace! grandire to our beloved monarch, saw in a dream, that the red men were bringing into his kingdom curious and beautiful commodities from countries beyond the great sea. The astrologers, on being commanded to give an interpretation thereof, predicted with one accord, that foreigners from the land of Egypt would come into Abyssinia during his majesty's not illustrious reign; and that yet more and wealthier would follow in that of his son, and of his son's son, who should sit next upon the throne. Praise be unto God, that the dream and its interpretation have now been fulfilled! Our eyes, though they be old, have never beheld wonders until this day; and during the reign over Shoa of seven successive kings, no such miracles as these have been wrought in Ethiopia!"

The march, and the foray into the country of one of the Galla tribes, are admirably told, and perhaps are among the best descriptions in the volumes—exact without being tedious, and deeply coloured without exaggeration. But we must hasten to other things. This was the monarch's eighty-fourth foray, and from this we may conceive something of the horrors of barbarian life, and of the tremendous evils which nations have escaped whose laws and principles tame down the original evil of man.

We are glad to find that the embassy refused to take any share in this horrible work, though they fell into some disrepute with the troops, and even with the monarch, for their remissness. The king had even reserved an unlucky Galla in a tree, to be shot by his guests. But this they declined, first, on the pretext of its being the Sabbath, and next, more distinctly, on the ground that—"no public body was authorised by the law of nations to draw a sword offensively in any country not at war with its own." They then offered the compromise, "that an elephant was esteemed equivalent to forty Gallas, and a wild buffalo to five, and that they were ready to shoot as many of both as his majesty pleased." But the embassy did more effectual things; the sick and wounded received relief from them to the extent of their means, and they even prevailed on the king to liberate all his prisoners. The troops in the foray amounted to about 20,000.

On the return of this destroying expedition, which seems to have turned a very fine country into a desert, the king made a kind of triumphal entry into his capital. His costume was splendidly savage. A lion's skin over his shoulders, richly ornamented, and half concealing beneath its folds an embroidered green mantle of Indian manufacture; on his right shoulder were three chains of gold, as emblems of the Holy Trinity, (1), and the fresh plucked bough of asparagus, which denoted his recent exploit, rose from the centre of an embossed coronet of silver on his brow. His dappled war-horse, in housings of blue and yellow, was led beside him; and in front his "champion" rode a coal-black charger, bearing the royal shield of massive silver, with the cross upon it, and dressed in a panther's hide. The two chief officers of his army rode on either side of the crimson umbrella; at the palace gates, a deputation of priests in white robes received the conqueror with a benediction, and a volley of musketry announced his arrival. The leader of the royal matchlock men performed a war dance before the Ark, as it was borne along, and in the inner court the principal warriors, each carrying some human fragment on his lance, flung them on the ground before the royal footstool, and shouted their war praise.

The embassy at length attained personal distinction by the death of an elephant, which one of the party brought to the ground by a two-ounce ball. The "warriors" were all in astonishment at this feat, to which all had predicted the most disastrous termination; and "Boroo, the brave chief of the Soopa," exclaimed in his delight, "the world was made for you, and no one else has any business in it!"

Weaving excepted, the people manufactured nothing; but British commerce has long been known, though evidently of the coarsest kind. At length, on his majesty's being told that five thousand looms would bring him more wealth than ten thousand soldiers, he gradually consented to form a commercial treaty. The crown had hitherto appropriated the property of strangers dying in the country. The purchase or display of costly goods by the subject had been interdicted, and a maxim exhibiting the whole jealousy of savage life had been established, that the stranger who once entered was never to depart from Abyssinia. By the articles of the commercial treaty, all those barbarous prohibitions have been abolished.

We recommend the enquirers into the truth of Herodotus, to examine the curious illustrations stated in these volumes; and, among the rest, the kingdom of pigmies. The geographer will find ample interest in tracing the course of the Gochob, a sort of central Nile; and the naturalist, botanist, and entomologist, will find abundant information in the very interesting and complete appendices on those subjects. The history of the Christian missions of early ages is an excellent chapter, and the general statistics of religion.

The practical religion of the Abyssinian Christian is of the very lowest degree of formality. Fasts, penances, and excommunications, form the chief discipline; and the penitent can always provide a substitute for the two former, and the latter is always to be averted by money. Spiritual offences, however, are rare; for murder and sacrilege alone give umbrage to the easy consciences of the natives of Shoa. Abstinence and largesses of money are equivalent to wiping away every sin. Their creed advises the invocation of saints, confession to the priest, and faith in charms and amulets. Prayers for the dead, and absolution, are indispensable; and, as a more summary mode of relieving the burdens of the flesh, it is pronounced, that all sins are forgiven from the moment

that the kiss of the pilgrim is imprinted on the stones of Jerusalem, and that even kissing the hand of a priest purifies the body from all sin. A creed of this order, which makes spiritual safety dependent, not upon personal purification of mind and the divine mercy, but upon forms which are unconnected with either, and which even can be executed by a substitute, of course excludes the necessity for morals of any kind. All is corruption—Born amid falsehood and deceit, cradled in bloodshed, and nursed in the arms of idleness and debauchery, the national character almost defies the missionary."

There are some strange remnants of Judaism still lingering amongst the tribes of these highland regions. The Galla have a tradition, that their whole nation will one day be called on to march, *en masse*, and reconquer Palestine for the return of the Jews. The king of Shoa regards himself as a direct descendant of the house of Solomon, calls himself king of Israel, and the national standard bears the motto, "The Lion of the tribe of Judah hath prevailed." They believe the 45th Psalm to be a prophecy of Queen Magueda's visit to Jerusalem; whether she was attended by a daughter of Hiram, king of Tyre. The Jewish prohibitions against the flesh of unclean animals are observed by the Abyssinians. The sinew which shrank, and the eating of which was prohibited by the Israelites, were also prohibited in Shoa. The Jewish Sabbath is strictly observed. The Abyssinians are said, by Ludolf, to be the greatest fasters in the world.—The Wednesdays and Fridays are fasts; the forty days before Easter are rigidly observed as a fast; and from the Thursday preceding Easter till the Sunday, no morsel of meat is to enter the lips, and the prohibition against drink is equally rigorous. St. Michael and the Virgin Mary are venerated in the highest degree; St. Michael as the leader of the hosts of heaven, and the latter as the chief of all saints, the queen of heaven and earth, and both as the great intercessors of mankind.

Like the Jews of old, the Abyssinians weep and lament on all occasions of death; and the shriek ascends to the sky, as if the soul could be recalled from the world of spirits. As with the Jews, the most inferior garments are employed as the weeds of woe; and the skin torn from the temples, and scarified on the cheek and breast, proclaims the last extremity of grief. As the Rabbins believe that angels were the governors of all sublunary things, the Abyssinians adopt this belief; carrying it even further, they confidently implore their assistance in all concerns, and invoke and adore them in a higher degree than the Creator. The clergy enjoy the price of death-bed confession; and the churchyard is sternly denied to all who die without the rite, or whose relations refuse the fee and the funeral feast. Eight pieces of salt are the price of waiving a poor man's soul to the place of rest, and the feast for the dead places him in a state of happiness, according to the cost of the entertainment. For the rich, money procures the attendance of priests, who absolve, and pray continually day and night. The anniversaries of the deaths of the six kings of Shoa are held with great ceremony in the capital; and once every twelvemonth, before a splendid feast, their souls are absolved from all sin.

Major Harris expresses himself ardently and eloquently on the hopes of commerce which might be maintained by Great Britain with this little-known but productive part of the world. It is notorious that gold and gold dust, ivory, ostrich feathers, peltries, spices, wax, and precious gums, form a part of the lading of every slave caravan; notwithstanding that the tediousness of the transport, and the penuriousness of the Indian and Arab merchant, offer but a small compensation for their labour. No quarter of the globe abounds to a greater extent in vegetable and mineral productions than tropical Africa; and in the populous, fertile, and salubrious portions lying immediately north of the equator, the very highest capabilities are presented for the employment of British capital. Coal has already been found; cotton, of a quality unrivalled in the whole world, is everywhere a weed, and might be cultivated to any extent. The coffee which is sold in Arabia as the produce of Mocha, is chiefly of wild African growth; and that species of the tea plant which is used by the lower orders of the Chinese, flourishes so widely, and with so little care, that the climate would doubtless be found well adapted for the higher-favoured and more delicate species. If, at a very moderate calculation, a sum falling very short of a hundred thousand pounds sterling can be annually invested in European goods, to supply the wants of some of the poorer tribes adjacent to Abyssinia, what important results might not be anticipated from well-directed efforts, adopting the natural means of communication in Africa?

Before the mission took its departure, it did honor to the character of its country, by one act which alone would have been worth its time and trouble. The horrid policy of African despotism, condemns all the members of the throne to the dungeon, from the moment of the royal accession. The king had exhibited qualities of a very unexpected order in an African despot, and, under the guidance of the mission, had made some advances to justice, and even to clemency. At this period, he was suddenly seized with an alarming spasmodic disorder, and he apprehended that his constitution, enfeebled by the habits of his life, was likely to give way. On his recovery being despaired of by both priests and physicians, he suddenly sent for the British mission.

"My children," said his majesty in a sepulchral voice, as he extended his burning hand towards them, "behold I am sore stricken. Last night they believed me to be dead, and the voice of mourning had arisen within the palace walls; but God hath spared me until now."

It seems to be the custom for the king's physicians to taste the draught prescribed for him, and an attempt being made to do this by the British, the sick monarch generously forbade it.

"What need is there now of this?" he exclaimed, reproachfully. "Do I not know that you would administer to Sahela Selsa nothing that could do him mischief?"

The reader will probably remember an almost similar act of confidence of Alexander the Great in his physician. An opportunity was now taken of urging him to an act of humanity, however strongly opposed to the habits of the country, and to the interests of the man. It was represented to him that his uncles and brothers had been immured in a dungeon during the thirty years of his reign, and that no act could be more honourable to himself, or acceptable to Heaven, than the extinction of this barbarous custom.

"And I will release them," returned the monarch, after a moment's debate within himself. "By the Holy Eucharist I swear, and by the Church of the Holy Trinity in Koorá Gadel, that if Sahela Selsa arises from this bed of sickness, all of whom you speak shall be restored to the enjoyment of liberty."

Fortunately he did arise from that bed of sickness, and he honourably determined to keep his promise. The royal captives were seven, and the British mission were summoned to see their introduction into the presence. They had been so exhausted by long captivity, that at first they seemed scarcely to comprehend freedom. They had been manacled, and spent their time in the fabrication of harps and combs, of which they brought specimens to lay at the feet of their monarch. This touching interview concluded with a speech of the king to the embassy—

"My children, you will write all that you have seen to your country, and will say to the British Queen, that, though far behind the nations of the White Men, from whom Ethiopia first received her religion, there yet remains a spark of Christian love in the breast of the King of Shoa."

We have thus given a rapid and bird's-eye view of a work which we regard as rivaling in interest and importance any "book of travels" of this century. The name of Abyssinia was scarcely more than a recollection, connected with the adventurous ramblings of a Bruce, for the romantic purpose of discovering the source of the Nile. His narrative had also been wholly profitless— attracting public curiosity in a remarkable degree at the time, but no foundation of European intercourse was laid, and no movement of European traffic followed. But giving Bruce all the credit, which was so long denied him, for fidelity to fact, and for the spirit of bold adventure which he exhibited in penetrating a land of violence and barbarism, the mission of Major Harris at once establishes its object on more substantial grounds. It is not a private adventure, but a public act, rendered natural by the circumstances of British neighbourhood, and important for the opening of Abyssinia and central Africa to the greatest civilization which the world has ever seen—the commerce of England. There are still obvious difficulties of transit between the coast and the capital, by the ordinary route. But if the navigation of the Gochob, or the route from Tajura, should once be secured, the trade will have commenced which, in the course of a few years, will change the face of Abyssinia; limit, if not extinguish, that disgrace of human nature—the slave trade; and, if not reform, at least enlighten, the clouded Christianity of the people.

We have a kind of impression, that some general improvement is about to take place in the more neglected portions of the world, and that England is honoured to be the chief agent in the great work. Africa, which has been under a ban for so many thousand years, may be on the eve of relief from the misery, lawlessness, and impurity of barbarism; and we are strongly inclined to look upon this establishment of British feeling and intercourse in Abyssinia as the commencement of that proud and fortunate change. All attempts to enter Africa by the western coast have failed. The heat, the swamps, the rank vegetation, and the unhealthy atmosphere, have proved insurmountable barriers. The north is fenced by a line of burning wilderness. But the east is open, free, fertile, and beautiful. A British factory in Abyssinia would be not merely a source of infinite comfort to the people, by the communication of European conveniences and manufactures, but a source of light. British example would teach obedience and loyalty to the laws, subordination on the part of the people, and mercy on that of the sovereign.

UNITED STATES.

It is considered beyond a doubt that the Senate will ratify the Treaty for the annexation of Texas to the United States. The vote will stand, it is said, at 38 for annexation, 13 against it—one Senator being absent, 51 being the whole number of senators. A Washington paper says—So far as the President of the United States and the President of Texas are concerned, the Treaty is all but made.

Texas is still at war with Mexico. The Republic has never acknowledged her independence. She looks upon Texas as a part of her Territory, and it is quite clear that the ratification of a Treaty of Annexation by the United States will involve the Republic in a war with Mexico. The New York merchants seem to be well aware of this, and have become alarmed. A panic has seized the Stock Market, and much excitement prevails.

The New York Express says:—"The panic in the Stock Market to day is greater than it was on Saturday. It has become a fright. All State Stocks are lower, from two to three per cent, and Federal Government Stocks from one and a half to two per cent. Fancy Stocks are also effected more or less, from one to four per cent. Nor are merchants engaged in commerce, and interested in shipping, without serious alarm. A war with Mexico necessarily consequent upon the annexation of Texas, (if not a war with Great Britain) is looked upon as throwing open our navigation, unprotected, to the privateering of all nations; for in case of such a war, no doubt, our vessels would be a tempting prey to adventurers from all parts of Europe and of South America, under the Mexican flag. The agitation of the Texas matter in Washington threatens seriously to affect, more or less, all our trading interests."

PIRACY IN THE CHINESE SEAS.—A letter in the Boston Transcript, from Manila, states the loss of the schooners Zephyr, and Angelona, both late of Boston.—The Zephyr was bound to Bombay from Canton, for a cargo of opium, and had on board six hundred thousand dollars in specie. The letter says:—

"She was taken in the China Sea by pirates, and all on board murdered. I have not heard the particulars about the Angelona, but I understand that all her crew were murdered. The Zephyr was sold to an American in Canton, and the Angelona to a foreigner."

SLAVE TRADE.—A letter from Havana, of 24th ult., published in the New Orleans Bee, says:—

"A ship arrived on the coast last week with upwards of one thousand negroes, and it is said that \$13,000 were paid to the Captain General so as to allow the landing of them."

LATER FROM HAVANA.—The Journal of Commerce learns from the passengers in the bark Hualco, which left Havana March 8th, that some of the slaves who had participated in the late insurrection had implicated several of the planters at that place, who were arrested by the authorities and thrown into prison.

CANADA.

Party politics at Montreal grow more exciting daily. Bands of men—partizans of both Candidates—parade the streets nightly, and continued interruptions of Meetings take place. We fear there will be rough work at the Hustings. The result of the Election is looked to with great interest throughout Canada. The triumph of the four Ministerial Candidates is considered certain, although the opposition is powerful and zealous.

OUR COMMERCIAL PROSPECTS.—We see and hear of signs in almost every quarter of improvement in commercial matters, and have no doubt that when the spring business fairly opens a marked improvement will be exhibited in the state of the Country generally. In Canada great activity is manifested this spring in every department of trade. Extensive preparations are now in progress at the port of Toronto for the opening of the spring navigation. The Colonist states, upon good authority, that there are upwards of three hundred men at present employed in erecting piers, wharves, and warehouses in Kingston Harbor. The prospects are considered to be favourable for an extensive spring business.

QUEBEC, March 22.—Great preparations are being made throughout the French country for wheat sowing this spring;

and if the result be favourable this year, the next will see Lower Canada once more exporting her superfluous produce. In the Parish of Berthier alone, from last year's crop, over and above seed, there are 10,000 bushels of wheat in store.—Montreal Times.

The Toronto Colonist of the 15th inst., says—"We learn, on authority on which we can rely, that Mr. Harrison is now assisting Messrs. Viger and Draper, in the formation of a new Ministry."

MILITARY ROAD.—A party, consisting of an officer of the engineers, two officers of the 14th, two civil assistants, and twelve men, will start in a few days to explore the ground between Quebec and Halifax, for the purpose of making out a line for the formation of a grand military road of communication between these places. The Imperial Government has granted £1000 sterling, for the purpose of this survey. The work is intended to be carried into execution as soon as practicable. This measure will be highly beneficial in opening out that portion of the Provinces, and facilitating the carriage of the mails, and the transport of produce.—Montreal Times.

NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX, April 8.—Our Legislature is now getting through the business for which it was called together, and it is generally supposed the Session will close early in the next week.

A Bill was introduced into the Legislative Council on Thursday by the hon. Mr. Morton, giving to absent Councilors the privilege of voting by proxy.—Journal.

SUGAR STICKS.—Mr. John McDougall, Grocer, of this City, upon opening a hoghead of sugar, last week, discovered in the centre 65 lbs. of cord wood, evidently of Nova Scotia growth. The mystery is—how did it get there, and for what purpose? We know that mackerel sent to the United States from hence have turned to stone on the passage, the petrefaction assuming all the mineralogical quality of the granite or pebbles of the port at which they were packed—but that a hoghead filled with sugar in the West Indies should, upon being opened here, present in its centre a wood indigenous to this Province, is one of those freaks of Nature for which we can account on no principles of sympathy or mutual affinity. Query.—May the master of the vessel, under the supposition that the sticks would turn to sugar barley or black rock on the passage, and not with any intention of defrauding the purchaser, have placed them in the position in which they were found? If the supposition does not prognosticate much for his knowledge of the transmutation of cord wood—may it not be excused as a highly laudable experiment to increase the price of a native production? We are afraid, however, that nothing will come of it but suspicion.—Halifax Times, April 9.

MOTION FOR WANT OF CONFIDENCE.—ANOTHER FOURTEEN DAYS' DEBATE.—Yesterday, Mr. Howe moved that the House resolve itself into a committee on the general state of the Province, for the purpose of considering the structure and position of the Executive Council. This was made the order of the day for this day, Tuesday.—Jb.

MELANCHOLY CASUALTIES AND LOSS OF LIFE AT WALLACE.—On the evening of the 21st inst., James, second son of Patrick McKay, of the North Shore of Wallace, a promising youth, 19 years of age, left his father's on skates, on an errand to a neighbour's, a few miles distant, fell in the ice near Horton's Point, at the entrance of the harbour, and notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of Mr. Solomon Horton, who with several other persons hurried to the spot, and used every possible exertion to save him, at the imminent danger of his own life, was unfortunately drowned. The body was found the following day near the spot where he sank, and conveyed to his sorrow-stricken relatives. While the community around deeply sympathized with the sufferers for the untimely death of this young man, cut off in the bud of manhood, scarcely had four days elapsed, ere an accident of (if possible) a still more melancholy nature took place.—Capt. John O'Brien, formerly of Halifax, left his family on the morning of the 26th inst., on a shooting excursion a few miles distant, and was killed by his gun accidentally going off—the gun was heavily loaded for geese. It is supposed he must have fallen on the ice, the force of the fall ignited the percussion cap, discharging the whole load into his left thigh, causing a ghastly wound, shattering the leg in a fearful manner, and the unfortunate man in a few minutes bled to death. On the arrival of his son, who hastened to the spot, he found his parent lying weltering in his blood, with life nearly extinct. The shattered remains of the poor fellow, covered with blood, were carried to his home, presenting to his disconsolate widow a truly melancholy and awful contrast to the loved partner who left her, in buoyant spirits, but a few hours previous, to enjoy the sport of goose hunting, of which he was a keen and successful follower. These unfortunate accidents have thrown quite a gloom over the community, and as they prove the "uncertainty of life," will, it is to be hoped, cause people to be more cautious in future.—Communicated to the Times.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

DISEASE IN THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.—Yesterday, the House went into Committee on the Message of the Lieut. Governor, relative to a disease which at present exists in the above County, of a most disgusting and fatal character, and which in the opinion of medical persons, in that quarter, resembles the Leprosy of the 17th century.

It appeared from documents which were read, that the disease made its appearance in 1821, since which seven persons have died of this loathsome malady, having lingered from three to five or six years in a most miserable condition; one of whom, who had been enclosed in a log hut, and who was led thro' a hole in the same, having died, as was supposed, insane; and such was the dread of persons, in consequence of the supposed infectious nature of the disease, that in some cases the Overseers of the poor had to carry the unhappy creatures, the supply of food which was necessary to support existence, and for the consumption of which they retained their natural desire and appetite.

That the disease is infectious, would appear from the fact of persons having been attacked with it who had slept with each other; and in one instance a young man who had assisted in carrying a coffin containing the corpse of a person who had died with the disorder, and upon whose clothes some of the contents had oozed, subsequently caught the infection and died.

It appears farther, that there are at present 12 persons labouring under this disease, in the county of Gloucester, and there are about the same number of cases on the other side of the line, which separates it from Northumberland. Altho' there are probably other cases which are concealed, as a knowledge that a person has it, excludes its victim from society.

Among the cases enumerated, is that of a female who was shipwrecked at Caraquet, on her way to Quebec; and who afterwards returned to Chatham, where the disorder developed itself, and extended to two others of the family in which she resided, and to a child who was intimate there; all of whom died. In fact the disorder invariably terminates fatally.

The reading the several documents connected with this subject, created a strong sympathy in the House and compassion for the unhappy sufferers. Dr. Thomson and Dr. Earle, both gave it as their opinion that the disorder is not the leprosy. The former gave a very lucid account of the effects of the mode of living and the habits of the French people among whom this disorder has appeared, which are filthy in the extreme, and which not only predisposes their systems for the reception of this or any other scrofulous disorder, but renders it more difficult to cure; and he recommended that their habits of life and the food by which nature is sustained should be changed, and that by education and amusements the minds of those poor people might become elevated, and brought, with their bodies, into more healthy and vigorous action.

The House passed a Resolution unanimously, placing £500 at the disposal of the Executive government; for the purpose of procuring medical treatment, and separating those who are labouring under the disease from the rest of the inhabitants; and for alleviating as much as possible the few remaining days of their miserable existence.

PRIVILEGE.—The New Brunswick Assembly which had directed a Special Committee to enquire into the circumstances of the release of Messrs. Doak & Hill, publishers of the Loyalist, who were imprisoned under the Speaker's warrant for breach of privilege, have been enlightened by listening to a report, the reading of which was commenced by Mr. End. The report considered that the House was bound to defend its privileges and transmit them to posterity—and closed with some restrictions upon his Honor Judge Carter, for his decision against the right of the House to assume a