CAROLINE CHISHOLM:

HER LAST SEVEN YEARS' WORK.

The story of the early life of Caroline Chisholm, her adventures, her trials, triumphs over ignorance, prejudice, and tyranny, during the seven years she passed in Australia, we have already related.* Before the close of this year, she will have again quitted England, after a career of seven more years, passed not less usefully to her country and gloriously to her own reputation for wisdom, foresight, energy, and philanthroy, than those she spent in colonising Australia. She is about to depart, to renew under strange yet favourable auspices her old labours, in colonising and cultivating the earth, and in civilising and humanising the and protect the poorest labourers, exposed to all the oppression that falls to the lot of the people. On her first sojourn, she had to aid helpless ignorant; now, she will have to guide and even govern the wealthiest labouring-men the world has ever seen. A movement has been made, and met with enthusiasm by all conditions and ranks of society, for presenting Caroline Chisholm with a testimonial of national gratitude.

The time is appropriate for relating in what manner, and by what means, she has acquired in this country a reputation and an influence even exceeding that she earned in Australia. Plain words will suffice for this purpose. In 1846, Caroline Chisholm, with her husband, Captain Chisholm, and family of children, landed in England from Australia. She came the unpaid agent and representative of many hundred humble colonists, some who hoped through her means to obtain justice from the home government, others to discover long lost relatives. One of her last and most important labours had been to collect from word of mouth 'statements of the condition of settlers in New South Wales.' These statements were valuable in two points of view: in the first place, they afforded evidence—not now, but at that time much needed—of the advantageous prospects afforded by the colony for hard-working families; in the next place, as each person gave the particulars of the parish, county, and country from which he or she came, and the names of the relations left behind, it followed naturally that many entreated Mrs. Chisholm to find out parents, brothers, sisters, children, and either to convey to them the means of proceeding to Australia, or to induce them to take advantage of government facilities for proceeding to New South Wales.

In addition to these communications from the authors of the voluntary statements, two other important commissions were placed in Mrs Chisholm's hands. During the time that emigration was carried on by private contractors, who received a certain sum, or bounty per head, for each of a certain quality delivered alive in Sydney harbour, parents who could not reduce their families to the number and age required by the bounty standard, were induced by the contractors to leave young children behind them to the care of work-houses. These deserted infants amounted to some hundreds. Those reclaimed filled two ships. There were also convicts who, under a public regulation, had been promised that, in case they conducted themselves with propriety in the colony for a certain period, they should, on obtaining their liberty—according to colonial phrase, ticket-of-leave—have their wives and families sent to them at the cost of the government. The promise was performed as regarded a few, but in those days the great sheep-owners, not having been chastened by the gold-digging dearth of labour, considered women and children rather a nuisance on their sheep-stations; so, in consequence of their representations, the promises made reformed prisoners were not performed, and there remained due on this account a considerable number of families.

Charged with these heavy commissions, to contest with the Colonial Office and the Home Office—in addition to the task of corresponding with some five thousand souls of the humblest class of society, spread over the breadth of England, Scotland, and Ireland—Caroline Chisholm commenced her work in 1846, without rank, without influence, with an income barely equal to English notions of a decent competence. She had all her way to make: Australia was so little known and so little esteemed seven years ago, that the reputation she had gained there availed her little.

She began by arranging in regular order, dated and docketed, the documents on which she based her claims for free passages for the wives and children, who were in this instance her clients, suing *in forma pauperis*. It is one of the characteristics of Caroline Chisholm, that she never makes a claim or a charge—whether it be against a government department or a commercial system—which she is not prepared to establish with the strongest judicial proof. Met in the case of the deserted children, by the Park Street Emigration Commissioners, first with delay, and then with evasion—for a whole winter, when the snow lay ankle-deep in streets, and walking was no pleasant task for one who had spent ten years in India and Australia—backwards and forwards, again and again, day after day, she passed with her neatly-tied evidence, between her lodgingsin King Street, Covent Garden, and Downing Street, Park Street, and Whitehall. Unwearied, undaunted, with written as well as personal applications, she urged the cause of the poor creatures who, trusting in her, were never likely to be able to thank her. At length, worn out by so much pertinacity, the emigration commissioners condescended to discuss one or two cases. They began, as is the custom with officials in such cases, by doubting the facts; but when as each doubt was hinted, a bundle of papers was produced, untied, and such particulars as the following were detailed:—'John Brown, and Mary his wife, sailed from Liverpool May—th 1836. Ship's name,——. Emigration agent, ——,' &c. The third time was enough; the production of further evidence was waived. 'That will do, Mrs Chisholm; we are quite satisfied,' said the bland commissioner, and the order was made that transferred two shiploads of children from workhouses to their parents.

Like difficulties and like success attended her exertions in the cause of convicts' wives. It was on behalf of this class that she one day refused an invitation to spend a quiet Sunday in the country, saying: 'Many prisoners' wives are in service, and that is the only day they can come to see me.'

Of a different character, yet wonderfully wearying to any one less steadily determined to fulfil a self-imposed duty, was the task of hunting out the relatives of the bond and free settlers in New South Wales, whom she had met in her bush-journeys. From Ireland alone came 5000 letters—and such letters, such writing, such spelling, as required art almost equal to that of a Champollion or a Rawlinson to decipher!—while the postage of unpaid letters received, not to mention the cost of replies, amounted to no mean sum. From morning until evening the pen-hands of the Chisholms seemed never to cease moving, except when relieved in order to shake hands with their numerous unknown friends. Callers came, asked their questions, and departed; the door was always on the swing; no one was asked to give name or address.

By degrees it became known among the working-classes, that honest, useful information might be had from 'one Mrs Chisholm.' It was the beginning of the terrible years of famine and commercial distress. The Chisholm pen, no longer confined to private correspondence, was translated into print. Homely penny tracts, or pamphlets, told in plain words of 'meat three times a day;' and true stories of paupers becoming owners of land and livestock, by the profits of their own work, in distant Australia, were thus circulated. Up to this period—between 1847 and 1848—Mrs Chisholm had contemplated a scheme of emigration, or rather colonisation, for the relief of home distress on a large scale, under the auspices of government. Great schemes of colonisation were in favour in those days. Societies were formed under the most aristocratic and highest financial auspices, for doing wonderful things at the antipodes. All these have since died out, more or less ignominiously: some killed by jobbing; some by extravagance; others by their impractical folly. None asked the assistance or advice of so humble a person as Mrs Chisholm. But Caroline Chisholm soon appreciated the character of the people of this country, and saw that the only useful colonisation must be at once domestic, popular, and self-supporting.

She began with a Chartist carpenter, who, with irregular work and irregular habits, which kept him always in debt, had a mother he wanted to 'clutch out of the workhouse.' When his hopes of revolution and a political millennium fortunately failed on the great 10th of April, he flew in despair for peaceful counsels to Caroline Chisholm. She persuaded him to begin by dropping beer and tobacco, and saving a shilling a week. The shilling, as steady habits grew and work improved, soon increased to five shillings. Within a few months, assisted by a loan from Captain Chisholm and some friends of his own, the chartist carpenter emigrated with his wife; in less than twelve months, he sent for his mother. This was the beginning of the Family Colonisation Loan Society.

In 1850, having prepared the full details of the working of the society, and obtained the names of a number of decent working-people of both sexes, who had paid for a considerable period weekly and monthly instalments toward a passage to Australia, she laid her scheme before her fellow-townsman, the member for Northampton, the Right Hon. Verner Smith; the Earl of Shaftesbury, at that time Lord Ashyle; the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert; the Countess of Pembroke; and a few other friends. By their aid, a sufficient sum was raised to try the experiment of loans instead of gifts to emigrants. The society started where many societies finish. A committee was formed to take up the work which had been privately carried on up to working point by the Chisholms, and the whole machinery was set in motion before a single advertisement had appeared, or a single paid officer had been employed. Captain Chisholm acted as honorary secretary, and his office was no sinecure; Mr. Windham Harding, whose time was already fully occupied in the duties of secretary to a great railway, under which his health has since entirely failed, undertook the troublesome office of treasurer: Mr. Samuel Sidney, author of several popular works on Australia, volunteered to take from Mrs. Chisholm part of the labour of explaining the objects of the society at public and weekly meetings.

For a considerable period, the proceedings of the society occupied very little public attention. Newspapers and orators of parliamentary standing were monopolised by the Canterbury Colonisation Scheme, for erecting an empire at the antipodes. Mrs Chisholm's ideas were less magnificent, although destined to leave more permanent traces. The Family Colonisation Loan Society was devised to promote, as its name implies, colonisation by families instead of by units. The government and public companies had been previously only anxious that labouring emigrants should be ablebodied and of equal numbers in sexes—domestic and social ties were forgotten in the desire to obtain as much labour-power as possible in return for the passage-money. Grandfathers, grandmothers, and infants, were counted as so much ship space and money lost; nay, some shipowners called for men only as they would have asked for slaves. Mrs Chisholm said; 'Always arrange, if possible, for the emigration of a whole family; carry complete families, if you cannot carry complete institutions, to the other side of the world.' The grandfather and grandmother may be as useful to the colony by the influence they will exercise over their grandchildren and children as if they were model-government emigrants, agricultural labourers under thirty years of age, able to dig and plough, and not able to write or read. Then government officers and colonial employers objected to infants; but care for the comforts of mothers and young infants formed an especial part of all Mrs Chisholm's plans. 'More space, better food on shipboard, cost money, I know; but then,' she added, 'I save mothers and infants born on the sea.' Next she set her face against gratuitous emigration—against the pauper-making machine of government free-passages. Candidates for assistance from the Family Colonisation Loan Society were expected to shew that they could help themselves, by saving steadily toward their passage-money, by realising all they could from their property, by borrowing from relations and friends, and only in the last extremity coming to the society for a loan to be repaid in the colony by instalments fixed in reference to the current rates of wages.

In order to create the *esprit de corps* necessary for success, and to diffuse sound information in an unexpensive manner, Mrs. Chisholm established her group-meetings. These were a kind of colonising 'at homes' without refreshment, which took place at her own small house in Islington. The whole expense was confined to the candles, and an old woman who opened the door.

On these evenings, to which each person was invited who came privately for advice in the course of the week, the room devoted to the purpose was crowded with persons of very different conditions in life. Horny-handed mechanics, with their wives and one or two children, often an infant in arms, governesses and frugal servant-girls, dock-labourers and unsuccessful surgeons and lawyers, young lads just from school, and not fond of office-work, gray-headed hodsmen, anxious to provide for large families. In one corner of the room was an exact representation, in size and fitting, of a berth in one of the model-ships. A desk and table were formed by a sea-chest, on which were arranged various articles, or new contrivances likely to be of use on a voyage. At the desk Mrs. Chisholm took her seat, often supported by some of the subscribers to her society. Sometimes a patent-safety cab, dashing up at full speed, brought Mr. Sidney Herbert, or Lord Shaftesbury. Sometimes the dowdy neighbourhood was astonished by the blazing lamps and gorgeous footmen of Mr. Verner Smith's carriage, on his way to the Opera. At times, ladies even of the highest aristocracy came to assist at these colonising reunions. But no matter who came, the simple order of the day was the same: the practical was never forgotten.

Mrs. Chisholm generally began with a short address on a subject of practical importance to hearers. She generally tried to answer the more pressing questions that had been put to her in the course of the week. On one occasion, she began her discourse straight off with: 'The best shoes for wearing on board ship have moderately stout soles, and no heels.' There were no fine phrases: it was plain, advice addressed to plain earnest people. When, as not unfrequently happened, persons who had emigrated as labourers, and returned when successful to take back poor relations, were present, they were invited to give the result of their experience. Letters were read from emigrants to their friends in England, often containing, in simple language, matters of great interest. Occasionally, friends to the plan of the society said a few words of advice, encouragement, or explanation; but all fine language and high-flown premises were considered out of place. Then the intending emigrants were invited to put any questions; and these questions brought out very useful information: the whole tone was conversational. These group-meetings had not only the effect of saving the repetition of the same information to many different parties, but of making those about to sail in the same ship acquainted with each other. Mutual confidence and mutual assistance were thus cultivated. To these group-meetings, assembled without parade or expense in advertisements or placards, the spread of sound information, and the creation of a more healthy public opinion on the subject of emigration, may be traced.

At the same time that these group-meetings were being held, Mrs. Chisholm did not relax her labours in correspondence and private interviews with inquirers among intending emigrants. Very soon the books of the society contained more than enough paying-subscribers to fill a ship. After the discovery of the gold regions had rendered it unnecessary to stimulate emigration, the society gave up chartering ships.

In the enterprise of chartering ships, Mrs. Chisholm found herself embarked in a new sphere of duties. The government, in its supervision of shipowners, had acted on the principle, that so long as ordinary precautions were taken for the preservation of the health of third-class passengers in food and air, enough was done. Modesty and comfort beyond necessaries were not regarded, and health was sought to be preserved in inadequate space, only by limiting the families of young children. Under this system, or want of system, the sacrifice of infant life was frightful, the deterioration of female morals, awful.

Mrs. Chisholm determined to set the example of ships, in which men and women would not have to dress and undress before each other; in which married couples should not sleep in open shelves or bunks in sight of each other; in which ventilation should be secured by a fixed apparatus, instead of a canvas pipe; in which the closets should be sufficient in number, retired in situation, and so firmly constructed, as not to be liable to destruction from a rough sea. She insisted on having light in all the berths, even if it were needful to cut the deck for the purpose; an ample supply of water by pumps the emigrants could work; conveniences for washing clothes on the voyage; a more ample and regular supply of food of a better quality. In fact, she for the first time, drew out a charter-party in the interest of the emigrant.

These matters, which to the uninitiated would seem of course, exposed Mrs. Chisholm to the vehement and virulent opposition of shipowners, who had been in the habit of making handsome profits by the packing system, which she made it her business to expose by word and by deed. One great shipowner, of the highest mercantile respectability, declared, with strong adjectives, that he considered himself robbed of a certain ten per cent. of air and room which the charter-party he had signed, without close examination, gave to the family-colonisation emigrants. Because, in favour of the health and comfort and morals of the emigrating-classes, she touched the pockets of a most thriving class—the woman who devoted her time, her health, and all of comfort or luxury that her narrow means would afford, to the relief of her suffering countrymen, was calumniated as a corrupt jobber, and accused by those who ought to have known better, of making profits by emigration, when she was living more barely than any mechanic's wife.

Mrs. Chisholm knew that, without setting an example, it would be declared by practical men that the reforms in shipping she claimed were impracticable. Therefore, she sent off ship after ship, improving on the arrangement of each—on the occasion of the departure of each, holding great public meetings, at which the true principles of self-supporting emigration were explained, and the public were initiated in the details needful for making emigrant-ships safe, decent, and economical. She knew, too, that any system, to be permanent, must be self-supporting. Therefore, when the family-colonisation plan of fitting out ships had become well known, and had been adopted by private shipowners, she ceased to send out vessels at the risk of the society. So, too, when the discovery of the gold-fields entirely altered the position of the labourer, then she deemed it unnecessary to stimulate emigration here by loans, but confined her efforts to removing destitute women to a land where they were much needed, and to promoting the reunion of families. To assist in such reunions, she laid such facts before the bank of Messrs Coutts & Co., as led that eminent firm, rather in a philanthropic than commercial spirit, to undertake the receipt, by their colonial agents, of small remittances. The example of so great a firm soon led other bauks to follow the same course. Before Mrs. Chisholm took the matter in hand, the charge for the remittance of £10 was the same as for £100; indeed, small remittances were treated with so much contempt, that the kind feelings of successful emigrants towards relatives in England were often frustrated or crushed in the bud by an insolent banker's clerk.

Thus it will be seen that the seven years which Mrs. Chisholm has passed in England, during which she has advanced by the power of active wise philanthropy from obscurity to a position of influence which no other woman in this age has enjoyed, have been years of hard continuous work—years during which she has first slowly matured principles of action, and then laboriously worked out the details In her task, her patience, her industry, her self-devotion, her courage, have always been found equal to the occasion. At the latest and the earliest hours, her house has been besieged by humble inquirers, and she has been most kind and encouraging to the feeblest. Sometimes, indeed, it was complained, that 'she did not know how to treat a gentleman.' But no working-man ever had reason to accuse her of being proud or impatient.

When it was necessary for the success of the Family Colonisation Loan Society, that some one should proceed to Australia to receive the instalments of loans advanced to emigrants, the society at that time having no funds wherewith to pay an agent, Captain Chisholm, one of the most devoted of husbands and fathers, volunteered, with the consent of Mrs. Chisholm, to proceed at his own expense to perform the ungrateful task.

When the time had arrived for exposing the abominable cruelties practised on emigrants in Liverpool ships, Caroline Chisholm, at a sacrifice of personal feelings it is difficult to appreciate, undertook and performed the task effectively, and yet with nothing offensive or aggressive, in two speeches, which were reprinted verbatim by the proprietors of the *Liverpool Mercury*. Though warned that she stood in danger of personal violence from touts and crimps, she proved that a system of robbery and oppression was practised in that great port, in defiance of law, and disgraceful to a civilised, not to say a Christian state.

Mrs. Chisholm has been compared to O'Connell, to whom she bears a decided personal resemblance in the massive character of the upper part of her head, her forehead and firm chin; but her small finely-cut nose and sweet feminine truthful mouth, are the opposite of that eloquent and mendacious agitator.

The eloquence of Caroline Chisholm is the eloquence of earnestness, seriously expressed in flowing Saxon English, without ornament or metaphor. Her illustrations of argument are all from real life, whether humorous or pathetic. Her strength lies in her practical common-sense and undeviating truthfulness. She never allows herself to be carried away by the temptation of saying something fine or something witty, although she has powers of pathos, and of humour, and sarcasm in a high degree. It is these qualities—enthusiastic yet practical, earnest yet always truthful, far-sighted and sanguine, yet patient and laborious—that have united all parties and sects in her favour, and enabled her to live down calumny.

She is about to leave us now. She is to proceed to the midst of the wild life of the gold-diggings of Australia; and, as the apostle of social virtues, and the ambassador of wives and children abandoned if not forgotten, to call together the rude gold-gatherers, and in those soft, clear, feminine, yet thrilling tones to which thousands have listened here in rapt attention—by turns moved to laughter and to tears—recall them to a sense of their duties as men, as patriots, as fathers, as husbands, as Christians.

The work before her is heavy, but she is equal to the work. All who wish well to their country and our triple dependencies at the antipodes, will, in full confidence, wish her God-speed.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

The California steamers have arrived at New York, with San Francisco dates to the 1st Oct.—They also bring late news from the Sandwich Islands, South America, and Australia.

The Magnetic telegraph between Point Lobos and San Francisco, the first in California, had been put in operation.

Intelligence from the mining districts represent the miners asdoing well. Crops were in a flourishing condition. Trade throughout the state was dull, owing to the scarcity of money; and the markets were being glutted by the constant arrival of goods.

Dates from Utah to August 25, had been received at San Francisco. The Indians were very troublesome among the Mormoms, committing many depredations and murders.

Salt Lake was to be enclosed by a mud wall.

From the Isthmus.—An accident happened on the Panama Railroad on the 1st inst. While the train which contained the pagsengers and mails of the Illinois was passing over it, the locomotive came in collision with a bull while crossing the bridge near Tarbenilla, and was thrown off the track, tearing up the bridge, and precipating the cars into a ravine nineteen feet deep. The locomotive and five cars were smashed, and the bridge completely destroyed. An Irisman and a native were the only persons killed. Patrick Howard, passenger, had both his legs broken. Several others, chiefly attached to the railroad, were more or less bruised.

Erom Sandwich Islands.—The political excitement at Honolulu continued.

The King had refused to dismiss his ministers, Messrs. Judd and Armstrong.

A large number of Russian emigrants had arrived at Honolulu. The whaling season had thus far proved very bad. The whaling fleet had agreed to rendezvous at the Islands about the middle of Cctober.

The small pox continued its ravages in the Islands.

Peru—A government gold escort had been attacked by a gang of bushrangers and robbed of nearly $50,000 of gold. Several oi the guards and four of the robbers were killed, and all comprising the escort but two men were more or less wounded.

AUSTRALIA.

Dates from Melbourn to the 18th Aug. have been received. There was a great want of labourers in Australia. Some were receiving as high wages as £10 per week.

Melbourn markets on the 18th August showed but little if any improvement; holders were firm in expectation of improved prices. The supply of flour was very great; 60s. per barrel had been refused, though small lots had been sold at lower prices. Provisions, groceries, bacon and hams continued very dull, the latter difficult of sale at any prices. Boots and shoes were declining, with large arrivals. Building materials were rather lower, but still in great demand. Hardware difficult of sale, and accumulating largely. A great decline had been experienced in the price of liquors.

A British Expedition to Japan.—It is said that the British government intend to follow the examples of tha American and Russian governments in sending a squadron to Japan.

Sunday in San Francisco—An incident peculiarly characteristic of San Francisco occurred in the vicinity of the Plaza. In no other city in the United States could so striking a contrast between castes, the feelings and the education of the inhabitants, be exhibited. Between two and three o'clock, some Chinamen had erected a kind of show box on Brenham Place for the exhibition of Punch and Judy, and had attracted a crowd, by means of gongs and other outrageous instruments. To this crowd the exhibition was made, at so much a sight. Returning to the same place two hours after, a crowd might still have been seen—but how striking the contrast! Instead of a display of puppets, a minister of the gospel was addressing his fellow-men upon the truths of the Bible, and invoking, from the same spot which he had occupied almost weekly for four years, the blessings of heaven upon his fellowmen. This is one of the contrasts our city is constantly furnishing.—*San Francisco Herald*.

Revolution in Journalism.—The New York *Tribune*, under the head of "a revolution in journalism," notices two new inventions. First, the manufacture of fine paper from *straw* instead of rags, by Mr. Mellier, a French chemist; and second, an improvement in presses by a citizen of New York. It says:—"It is a printing press, which, at a moderate rate of speed, will deliver 'thirty thousand' sheets printed on both sides in a single hour! Its movement combines the original principles of Napier, which are applied by Hoe in his great press, with some new and beautifully simple arrangements and devices of the inventor."

Sawing Wood by Steam.—Two young men of our city, have constructed a boiler and steam-engine of the same principle of the steam fire engine, which they can wheel about from one part of the city to the other, and when they get a job to saw wood can raise steam in about *ten minutes*, adjust their circular saw in the meantime, aud in half an hour cut a cord of wood in one or two pieces, as may desired. The whole machinery does not weigh over five hundred pounds, and may be regarded as a neat improvement, and a saving of much manual labour.—*Cincinnati Gazette*.

UNION OF THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.

It would appear by the following remarks from the London *Spectator*, that the rumour of Lord Elgin's journey having connection with the Union of the British North American Provinces has reached England:—"An intimation has been thrown out, that the return of Lord Elgin to this country, whether he resumes the Government in Canada or not, is likely to lead to an important modification of the British Provinces in North America; and the union having proved so successful between the two Provinces of Canada, it is to be extended by a Union of all the Provinces—not a federative, but a legislative union. The idea was distinctly developed in Lord Durham's famous Report; it was advocated long ago by Mr. Roebuck; it is popular among many of the more intelligent colonists, and is likely enough to have certain conveniences in practice. So much, however, would depend upon the nature of the union that, we must see the plan before we can pronounce it desirable or otherwise. Of one thing we are sure, that if it be framed with any special object of "giving a practical denial to the Republican boast that Monarchy cannot exist on the continent of North America," it will not answer. Monarchy has perhaps better chances on the St. Lawrance than in some other parts of the world where it now seems to ride triumphant; but every public measure must be designated for its practical and beneficial working, and not to deny or embody "boasts." Nor could this union properly originate with England; if the Colonies wish it, England can sanction and aid this accomplishment; but if it were to be an official edict, it might share the fate of an edict not dissimilar, and not unwelcomed in Australia.

There are sad accounts from Portugal regarding the disease in the fruit trees—chestnut, pear, fig, peach, especially orange trees and vines, having died without number. The disease is represented as beginning at the root, which rots, sending forth an insupportable fetor. The neighbourhood of Coimbra has partially suffered.

Flight of a Nun.—Great sensation has been caused in Galicia in Spain, by the flight of a nun from a convent at Compostella. A nun in the Carmelite convent at that place, let herself down, recently, from her cell, by means of towels and napkins sewed together, and formed into a cord. The moment the escape was known, a search was made after her, both by the police and the gendarmerie, but no trace of her could be discovered, and it is supposed that she succeeded in reaching Corunna, and in embarking on board a foreign vessel. She is only twenty-two years of age, belongs to one of the most distinguished families of Galicia, and is remarkable for beauty and talents.

Visitors at Niagara.—During the present season, 47,000 persons have crossed the bridge leading to Goat Island, aad paid their tribute of 25 cents each. The number is about 20,000 larger than last year.

Alimentary Elements—Dr. Prout has shown that all our principal alimentary matters may be reducd to three classes; the saccharine, the oleaginous, and the albuminous, represented by butter, sugar, and white of egg. Now, milk consists of all three— the curd, which is chiefly albumen; the butter, chiefly oil; and a portion of sugar. Milk is the only substance prepared by nature so completely perfect as to be a compound of these three principles, and therefore its perfection, mixed with bread, as a food for children.

Admiral Russell's Punch-Bowl.—Admiral Russell was the officer who in the reign of William III. defeated the French off La Hogue; and for his service on that occasion was created Earl of Oxford He was a hearty lover of punch, and it is said to have made the largest bowl of his favourite liquor that was ever made. He constructed a bowl or cistern in his pleasure ground at Chippenham, in Cambridgeshire, and threw into it—Four hogsheads of brandy; eight hogsheads of water; twenty-five thousand lemons; twenty gallons of lime juice; thirteen hundred weight of sugar; five pounds of grated nutmeg; three hundred toasted biscuits; and one pipe of dry mountain Malaga wine. In this lake of liquor floated a small boat, manned with a steady boat's crew. These he filled for all comers, and more than six thousand persons partook of the Admiral's mixture. The cistern, or bowl, was empty long before morning.