

POETRY.

THE NIAGARA AND ITS FALLS.

By J. S. BUCKINGHAM, Esq.

Hail! Sovereign of the World of Floods! whose majesty and might First dazzles—then enraptures—then o'erawes the aching sight;

The pomp of Kings and Emperors, in every clime and zone, Grows dim beneath the splendour of thy glorious watery throne.

No fleets can stop thy progress—no armies bid thee stay— But onward—onward—onward—thy march still holds its way;

The rising mist that veils thee, as thine herald, goes before, And the music that proclaims thee, is the thundering Cataract's roar.

Thy Diadem is an emerald green, of the clearest, purest hue, Set round with wave of snow-white foam, and spray of feathery dew.

While tresses of the brightest pearls float o'er thy ample sheet, And the Rainbow lays its gorgeous gems in tribute at thy feet.

Thy reign is of the ancient days—thy sceptre from on high— Thy birth was when the morning stars together sang with joy,

The Sun, the Moon, and all the orbs that shine upon thee now, Saw the first wreath of glory which twined thine infant brow.

And from that hour to this, in which I gaze upon thy stream, From age to age—in winter's frost, or summer's sultry beam—

By day, by night—without a pause—thy waves, with loud acclaim— In ceaseless sounds have still proclaimed, the Great Eternal's name!

For whether, on thy forest banks the Indian of the wood, Or since his days, the Red Man's foe on his father land has stood—

Whoe'er has seen thine incense rise, or heard thy torrent's roar, Must have bent before the God of All to worship and adore.

Accept, then, O! supremely Great! O! Infinite! O God! From this primeval Altar—the green and virgin sod—

The humble homage that my soul in gratitude would pay To thee! whose shield has guarded me through all my wandering way.

For, if the Ocean be as naught in the hollow of Thine hand, And the Stars of the bright firmament, in Thy balance, grains of sand,

If Niagara's rolling flood seem great—to us who lowly bow— O! Great Creator of the Whole! how passing great art Thou.

Yet tho' thy power is greater than the finite mind may span, Still greater is Thy mercy, shewn to weak dependant Man:

For him Thou cloth'st the fertile fields with herb, and fruit, and seed— For him, the woods, the lakes, the seas, supply his hourly need.

Around—on high—or far, or near—the Universal Whole Proclaims Thy glory, as the orbs in their fixed courses roll—

And from Creation's grateful voice—thy hymn ascends above, While Heaven re-echoes back to Earth, the chorus, "God is Love."

MR. BUCKINGHAM'S LECTURES.

(From the Montreal Courier, Aug. 31.)

In his last lecture (on Thursday evening,) Mr. Buckingham gave some interesting details respecting the present Ruler of Egypt, Mehemet, or Mohammed Ali, who by a perfidious massacre put an end to a race of Sovereigns who had reigned for four centuries, raising himself upon their extinction. The race in question was that of the Memlooks, or Mamelukes, as it is generally written. They were a foreign, self-perpetuating caste drawn originally from Georgian and Circassian slaves, who were formed into a military privileged class in Egypt, and annually recruited by selections of the most promising youths of the same nativity. The Mamelukes were admitted by Napoleon to be the best cavalry in the world, and Mr. Buckingham shewed that from their early training, and natural qualities, they could not fail to surpass the whole world in horsemanship, as they were themselves unsurpassed in bravery? Of this body, 24 were elected by the rest as Beys, and these upon the death of the ruling Bey elected another from among themselves.—The form of Government was, therefore, an elective military despotism. This Government acknowledged the Turkish Sultan as superior, and paid tribute. In 1811, Mohammed Ali, the present Ruler, who had risen from the ranks in the Turkish army to be a Colonel, invited the 24 Beys to a festival, in the midst of which his guards set upon them and slew all but four, who cut a way for themselves through their assassins, and escaped in the confusion. Mr. B. described this eastern butcher as a man of considerable sagacity and intelligence, who has brought all modern Arts and Sciences into the ancient land of their adoption, and who devoted all his energies to bring the white sail of commerce to his country. The lecturer traced the succession of Egyptian dynasties from the first King on record, Menes, 2,000 years B. C. down to the end of the Pharaohs,—which means not, as is vulgarly supposed, a proper name, but is simply a prefix, equivalent to the term King—to the accession of the Persian race after the conquest by Cambyse, 525 years B. C., thence to the conquest by Alexander of Macedon, two hundred years B. C., and through the reign of the Macedonian successors, the Ptolemies, to the much celebrated adventures of the beautiful Cleopatra, and the Roman succession under Augustus Cæsar, 30 years before the coming of the Saviour. Mr. Buckingham's description of Cleopatra's attractions, and the state in which she travelled, and of Marc Anthony's 'colossal' love—present to her of 200,000 manuscript volumes, as a commencement or nest-egg of a public library, which the lecturer contrasted with the biblical offering of a pigmy Annual or Album, by the suitors for female favour in the present day, was extremely amusing and animating, and seemed to afford much pleasure to the ladies. The Alexandrian library, of which this was the beginning, afterwards extended to 700,000 volumes, some say, to 1,200,000. Its extraordinary increase was accounted for by the decree of Cleopatra, which required all persons coming to Alexandria to take their books to the public library,

to be copied, and, as a bait, decreed a copy of each work to be returned to the owner with the original. This brought many speculators from all parts of the world with cargoes of books, for the sake of the extra copy. The Alexandrian library was burned upon the capture of the city by the Mahomedan Caliph Omar, in the year of our Lord 638. Omar forwarded the petition of the inhabitants, for mercy to their books, to the Sultan, his master; but the Sultan, having consulted his divan, learnedly replied, that if these volumes were opposed to the Koran, they were pernicious, and must be destroyed, and if they were in accordance with it, they were mere surplusage, for the Koran was enough for this life and the next. This was so perfectly satisfactory to the believers in the Koran that they set fire to the Library, and after many days burning, there yet remained stores of written wisdom sufficient to heat the baths of the City of Alexandria, 4000 in number, for six months. Thus ignobly perished this Colossal library, which had been upwards of six centuries in formation, and with regard to which, as the lecturer remarked, it was difficult to say whether its origin, progress, or end were the most singular.

Mr. Buckingham gave an interesting description of Alexandria, built by Alexander, as Capital of the wide spread dominions over which he ruled by the right of conquest, adverting with minutest details to its architecture and monuments, its street five miles in length, and 800 feet wide, with Colonnades on either side the whole length—to Cleopatra's needles, two Obelisks, 67 feet high, each composed of a single unbroken piece of granite, Pompey's pillar of the same, 90 feet in length, &c. So difficult was it to move these obelisks, that the French and English armies, after the battle of Alexandria and the peace of 1801 made them friends attempted to move one which lay prostrate, and found after seven days' labour that they had only succeeded in moving it a space of seven inches. Pompey's pillar is said to be 276 tons weight. Yet these obelisks which modern engineering with all its wondrous powers can scarcely move, the ancient Egyptians planted 1000 upon the banks of the Nile alone. Mr. Buckingham described modern Cairo and other Cities, and gave anecdotes and descriptions illustrative of the manners of the people, concluding by assuring the ladies of that which they seemed rather hard of believing, viz: that the Mahomedan fair were perfectly happy in the pogramic state of matrimony. He declared himself both by inclination and moral principle to be an advocate for the blessed state of single matrimony enjoined by Christianity and practised by all enlightened people; but he persisted in declaring that polygamy did not in those countries bring misery upon the female, and that the females would oppose a proposal to change the law as an insult upon their institutions and ancestry.—The Chapel was quite full.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

We understand that His Excellency Major General Sir John Harvey, our Lieutenant Governor, has been appointed to the command of the troops in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Dependencies, on the departure of His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir Colin Campbell, and that the head quarters of the divisions are to be transferred to New Brunswick—an arrangement which we feel to be a subject of just congratulation to this Province on every account. The removal to Frederick of the whole of the heads of departments may perhaps not take place before the Spring, as well on grounds connected with the personal convenience of several of the individuals (which Sir John Harvey is well known to be at all times ready to consider, as far as it can be done consistently with the interests of the public service,) as to afford time to make the necessary preparations with regard to accommodation, &c. &c.—Fredericton Gazette.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Rumour has been very busy since the arrival of the Britannia. It is confidently asserted, in every part of the town that 'Head Quarters' are to be removed to Fredericton.' And upon this text many a doleful comment has been made. There is no lack of prophets who tell us, 'all the heads of the military departments—the staff—the garrison—the troops—are all to be removed—holus bolus, and no mistake—to New Brunswick, and therefore Halifax will be utterly ruined as sure as eggs are eggs!' 'Them's my sentiments,' says a knowing one, whose credulity and nervousness make him the oracle of the street corners, and he adds, 'now you see what Joe Howe and Reform has done!' We, however, can discover no foundation for such horrid anticipations of evil, and aspersions upon Mr. Howe and Political Reform. They have grown out of an anticipation, received by the Britannia, that orders will be sent by the next packet which will invest Colonel Smelt with the rank of Major-General and the Command of the Garrison—Government considering the duties of a Legislator or Statesman and of a Military Commander too onerous, if not incompatible with each other, for one individual to discharge effectually.

There exists no authority for asserting that our garrison is to be diminished to a very small degree, however magisterially some augurs may impart the information; they have no authority for their reports but invention; no reason for their imputations against 'Joe Howe' and 'Reform' but mortification, at seeing Sir Colin Campbell unexpectedly apprised by his successor that Her Majesty's advisers have no intention of annoying the people of Nova Scotia, by allowing him to preside over another Legislative Session, notwithstanding their efforts to retain him. We would ask those wise individuals whose love of old times makes them shudder at the very name of change, where were 'Joe Howe' and 'Reform' when the Dockyard establishment was removed to Bermuda? Is it likely that the commodious North and South Barracks, with the buildings annexed to them, the Lumber Yard and Ordnance, Fort George, Point Pleasant, St. George's Island, the Eastern Battery, &c. all erected at a vast expense, will be abandoned by Government to neglect and ruin? Has Great Britain sufficient means to warrant the squandering of her resources upon the erection of such barracks, when no need of them exists in New Brunswick? True, New Brunswick immediately adjoins the United States, but the frontier of the States is fully as vulnerable as that of New Brunswick, and consequently the former has no advantage over the latter as far as regards attack or resistance. Besides, France is arming recruits, providing munitions of war, and increasing her navy. England is not backward in strengthening her land and sea forces, while the martial spirit of the States is dwindling and expiring from the general indifference of the nation to every thing calculated to affect their institutions, save the election of their public functionaries.

Halifax must continue an important military station so long as the parent state maintains an army in these Colonies. No other place in North America is so advantageously situated for a point of

communication between England and America, and being in the centre of the surrounding Provinces, it would be an extremely prodigal waste of treasure to provide accommodations for a garrison elsewhere similar to those which we possess; and experience has frequently shown, within the last three years, that any number of troops can be removed hence, at a moment's notice, to whatever quarter they may be required; no confirmation of this assertion beyond a reference to the whole regiments that have been conveyed voluntarily and gratuitously in the depth of winter through this province, without delay, when called to New Brunswick and Canada, is deemed needful.

The causes of removing our garrison are traced by those who pretend to know all about the matter, to a design on the part of the Home Government, to punish 'Joe Howe and the Reformers' for the clamour which they have raised against Sir Colin Campbell, and to Sir John Harvey holding a military rank higher than any officer now here. Sir John is certainly a distinguished, deserving officer, but he is one of the youngest Major Generals in the Army List—having been promoted from the rank of Lieut. Colonel only upon his appointment to the Government of New Brunswick. A well informed authority in London—the United Service Gazette—who must necessarily be better informed of the intentions of the Government than any person here, in a spirit of bitter hostility to the Ministry, rather coarsely hints that an officer senior to Sir John Harvey will be put into employment on the removal of Sir Colin Campbell.—Halifax Recorder.

RACE CUP.—We are informed that the Queen has been pleased to order that the sum of Fifty guineas shall be appropriated, from the Casual and Territorial Revenue, to the purchase of a Cup, to be run for at the Halifax races.

HALIFAX, Sept. 29th.—We are informed, but how correctly we cannot say, that an alteration in Her Majesty's Executive Council is about to take place, and that the following Honorable Gentlemen, T. N. Jeffrey, Enos Collins, Samuel Cunard, H. H. Cogswell, Michael Tobin, sen. and James McNab, have received intimation that after to-morrow they will not be resumed. These vacancies are to be supplied by Sir Rupert D. George, Bart., C. W. Wallace, J. B. Uniacke, Joseph Howe, and Herbert Huntington, Esqrs., the three last gentlemen being members of the House of Assembly, and the two former holding official situations. We are also informed, that the Attorney and Solicitor General are to be members by right of office. We sincerely hope that these changes, if actually to take place, may be productive of much good, that our country may no longer be disturbed by the severe brickings with which it has been for some time past agitated.—Times.

FROM PAPERS BY THE BRITANNIA.

RESTORATION OF THE JEWS.

(From a Correspondent of the Times.)

The proposition to plant the Jewish people in the land of their fathers, under the protection of the five powers, is no longer a mere matter of speculation, but of serious political consideration. In a ministerial paper of the 31st of July, an article appears bearing all the characteristics of a feeler on this deeply interesting subject. However, it has been reserved for a noble lord opposed to her Majesty's Ministers to take up the subject in a practical and statesman-like manner, and he is instituting inquiries, of which the following is a copy:—

QUERIES:

- 1. What are the feelings of the Jews you meet with respect to their return to the Holy Land?
2. Would the Jews of station and property be inclined to return to Palestine, carry with them their capital, and invest it in the cultivation of the land, if by the operation of law and justice life and property were rendered secure?
3. How soon would they be inclined and ready to go back?
4. Would they go back entirely at their own expense, requiring nothing further than the assurance of safety to person and estate?
5. Would they be content to live under the government of the country as they should find it, their rights and privileges being secured to them under the protection of the European powers?

Let the answers you procure be as distinct and decided and detailed as possible: in respect to the inquiries as to property, it will of course be sufficient that you should obtain fair proof of the fact from general report.

The noble lord who is instituting these inquiries has given deep attention to the matter, and is well known as the writer of an able article in the Quarterly on the subject, in December, 1838. In connection with this, a deeply interesting discovery has been made on the south-west shores of the Caspian, enclosed in a chain of mountains, of the remnant of the Ten Tribes, living in the exercise of their religious customs in a primitive manner, distinct from the customs of modern Judaism. The facts which distinguish them as the remnant of that branch of the Jewish family are striking and incontrovertible, and are about to be given to the world. An intrepid missionary, the Rev. Mr. Samuel, of Bombay, has made the discovery, and resided amongst this people several months, under permission from the Russian Government, who desired him to institute inquiry concerning them.

PERILOUS SITUATION OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF FRANCE.

CALAIS, AUG. 18.—The King, Madame Adelaide, their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Nemours, the Princess Clementine, the Dukes of Aumale and of Montpensier, accompanied by the Ministers of War, of the Marine, and of the Interior, embarked at Eu, the 16th instant, at 12 o'clock at night, their intention being to touch at Boulogne, which her Majesty the Queen was to reach by land. The weather having been very stormy, the Veloce, after trying to enter the harbour of their destination, was obliged to make for Calais. At 2 o'clock of the afternoon of the 17th, the Royal steamer was in sight of the latter port, and guns were fired to announce the arrival and to signal a pilot. At half past two, the vessel was threading the Channel, when the violence of waves and wind bore her bows on the works of the new jetty, where she grounded in a situation of imminent peril, after experiencing some damage in her hull. As soon as it was possible to effect a debarkation, the King ordered all on board to be landed, and determined to remain the last on deck. The inhabitants of the place, who thronged to the shore, received the august travellers with an enthusiasm of devotion proportioned to the imminence of the danger, and the intense anxiety which they had experienced on beholding it. The King declined entering his carriage, and traversed on foot, and without escort, the assembled crowd, amidst the most cordial acclamations. At half-past three, his Majesty, the Princes, and the Ministers passed the review of the National Guards and of the troops, and testified the pleasure he experienced at the loyal manifestation of the

National Guard. At five, the Queen was seen coming by land from Boulogne, in the anxious hope of beholding her family, which was known to be exposed to the dangers of the stormy elements. Her interview with her family, amidst thousands of spectators, was affecting in the extreme. An hour later the town parted with its august guests, who left for Boulogne.

The BRITISH QUEEN, Steamer, has been seized at Blackwall, by the Board of Customs, because the engineers, stokers, firemen, &c. had contrived to conceal a cask of tobacco among the coals, and other quantities in different places. The fellows had such facilities and hiding places among the extensive machinery, that they concealed as much tobacco as was liable to between £300 and £400 duty. Two of the men were detected in endeavouring to smuggle tobacco on shore by having it rolled round their legs. All the people in the engine room, (upwards of forty in number,) are supposed to be implicated. Captain Roberts and his officers, of course, had no suspicion of the goods being in the Queen. A gentleman, who attended on behalf of the British and American Steam Navigation Company, to whom the Queen belongs, informed the magistrate that the company did everything in their power to prevent smuggling amongst their servants, and their motive in not allowing them to draw more than a dollar upon account was that they might not invest their money in the purchase of excisable articles, with the view of smuggling. The engineers and firemen on board the British Queen were paid by the month. The negro head tobacco was about 1s. a pound in New York. The Magistrate enquired when the British Queen would sail for New York? The gentleman said she was appointed to leave Blackwall on the 27 or 28th inst, and would sail from Southampton for New York on the 1st of September. Under all these circumstances, it is supposed the Board of Customs will mulct the proprietors of the British Queen in a moderate penalty only.

MONUMENT TO SIR W. SCOTT.—The foundation stone of the intended monument, in Edinburgh, to the memory of one of the most distinguished men of modern times, was laid on Saturday, in Princes-street-gardens, opposite David Street. The most intense interest was excited on the occasion, and almost the whole of the population of the city poured forth to witness the solemn and imposing ceremony. The day was observed throughout the city as a general holiday. The shops in the principal streets were shut, and in those where the procession was to pass, all the situations from which a view could be obtained were occupied from an early hour.

LANCASHIRE.—We stated last week that the operative hatters at Oldham and its vicinity had been reduced upwards of ten per cent. in their wages. On Friday there was a general turn-out in consequence, and during the night the hat-shop of Mr. Samuel Marlot, of Magot Lane, was broken into, and a number of utensils were destroyed. A handsome reward has been offered for the apprehension of the offenders, but as yet without effect. The total number of operative hatters in Oldham is upwards of 2500, and when trade is brisk about twenty thousand dozen of hats are made weekly in that town, but lately not above half that number have been made. On Saturday last, all the operatives employed in cotton factories at Middleton had notice of a reduction of from ten to fifteen per cent. in their wages—in fact a reduction of wages amongst hands employed in the cotton mills in and about Manchester has become almost general, although trade is better than it was a few months ago. The turn-out at Stockport is at an end, and the operatives are working at the reduced prices. Upwards of two thousand pounds were collected and distributed among those who refused to take the reduced wages. A great number of them are, however, out of work, owing to hands from other places having got their situations. The silk trade at Manchester and the towns twelve miles around is rather dull. Plain gros de Naples and coarse reeds are rather flat, but fine satins, heavy goods, satin shawls, and striped and printed goods, are moderately brisk, and lately a very great number of hand-loom weavers have commenced weaving the heavy satin shawls. In 1832 the number of silk weavers in Manchester and the neighbouring towns was upwards of 13,000, exclusive of 3,600 hands employed in twelve throwing mills. The value of raw silk consumed in Manchester then was £800,000, which was one-fifth part of the national consumption. The silk mills, if fully worked, were calculated to turn off goods to the value of £350,000 per annum. In 1839 the number of silk weavers was 18,500, and the total number of hands then in the silk trade was 48,600. The number of silk weavers at present is 27,000, and the number of hands employed in the silk trade in the district 70,900, and there is every appearance of a further increase, as a great number of those employed in other trades are weekly changing to the silk business. Printing on silk warp is becoming very prevalent at Manchester, Middleton, and other towns.

In Liverpool there are more than 7800 cellars occupied by upwards of 39,000 persons, being one-fifth of all the working classes in that town. In Manchester nearly 15,000 live in cellars, being about 12 in every 100 of the working classes.

TRAVELLING TO PAISLEY.—The number of persons who passed along the Joint Railway from Glasgow to Paisley on the first day of the races, (Thursday,) was 6500; and on Friday 8200; when there were twenty-five trains up and twenty-five down. On the line from Ayr there were from 3000 to 4000. By the railway from Renfrew, where there were thirty-six trains, there travelled on Thursday, 2800, and on Friday, nearly 6000. The canal boats were also crowded with passengers; but notwithstanding the increased facility for travelling which is now afforded betwixt Glasgow and Paisley, the greatest difficulty was experienced in getting either out or in, in consequence of the pressure, particularly at the railway stations. The scene at both ends frequently baffled description; and not a few might be seen who had with difficulty emerged from the crowd minus the skirts of their coats, while others sustained injuries of a more serious description. One woman had her leg broken at Paisley, while struggling to get across to the train; and many more were dreadfully squeezed.

The Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodists was held on the 28th July, in Newcastle, the Rev. Thomas Jackson presiding, in consequence of the absence of the Rev. Theophilus Lessey, President, owing to severe indisposition. The Rev. Robert Newton was elected President for the ensuing year, and the Rev. Dr. Hammar, Secretary, the former by a majority of 183, the latter by a majority of 25. The supposed increase of members during the past year is as follows:—In Great Britain, 16,110; Ireland, 650; Missionary Stations, 5,000; total, 21,760.

NEW ZEALAND.—The new appointments are the following:—George Cooper, Esq. formerly Comptroller at Sydney, to be Collector of Customs at New