

without money. My character suffers, Mr. B. is vexed; and it would not be strange if I should receive a harsh letter, or writ! The lax manner by which sundry persons transact business has a very bad tendency, and is often followed by serious consequences,

The little regard they have for their word causes grievous disappointments, destroys confidence and corrupts society. As a small leak in the ship may sink the whole cargo, so one man who is not punctual, may seriously injure the reputation, or even cause the entire failure of others. The most distinguished farmers, mechanics, merchants, civilians, divines, and statesmen, have generally been systematic, punctual men. My brethren, if we would be successful in business, and respectable in our calling, let punctuality, or be punctual, be written in capitals upon our doors, and upon our hearts.

MARK SUFFERER.

Level of the Sea.—There is, perhaps, nothing which illustrates in a more striking manner the exact accordance of nature's phenomena with the few general expressions or laws which describe them all, than the perfect level of the ocean as a liquid surface. The sea never rises or falls in any place, even one inch, but in obedience to fixed laws, and therefore, changes may be generally foreseen and allowed for. For instance, the eastern trade winds, and other causes force the water of the ocean towards the African coast, so as to keep the Red Sea about twenty feet above the general ocean level; and the Mediterranean Sea is a little below the level; because the evaporation from it is greater than the supply of its rivers; causing it to receive an additional supply by the Strait of Gibraltar; but in all such cases the effect is as constant as the disturbing cause, and, therefore, can be calculated upon with confidence. Were it not for this perfect exactness, in what a precarious state would the inhabitants exist on the sea shore, and on the banks of low rivers!

Few of the inhabitants of London, perhaps, reflect, when standing close by the side of their noble river, and gazing on the rapid flood tide pouring inland through the bridges, that, although sixty miles from the sea, they are placed as low as persons sailing upon its face, where, perhaps, there may be tossing waves covered with wrecks and the drowning. In Holland, which is a low flat, formed chiefly by the mud and sand brought down by the Rhine and neighbouring rivers, much of the country is really below the level of the common spring tides, and is only protected from daily inundation by artificial dykes or ramparts, of great strength.

What awful uncertainty would hang over the Dutch, if the level of the sea were subject to changes; for while we know the water of the ocean to be 17 miles higher at the equator than at the poles, owing to the centrifugal

force of the earth's rotation, were the level already established, from any cause to be suddenly changed but ten feet, millions of human beings would be the victims.—*Scotsman.*

Mighty Effects of Steam.—It was mentioned by Professor Renwick, in one of his lectures, that, during the great European struggle, England employed about 400,000 persons in and about steam engines, and that these engines turned out finished work, equal in quantity to what the labor of two hundred millions of human beings could have effected; that is, equal to the sum of the industry of all the active population of the whole globe.

It was through the mighty agency and miraculous effects of the steam engine that England was enabled to sustain herself triumphantly in that long and terrible struggle against the power of Napoleon—and that she found the means of stirring up and subsidizing other nations, until, in the language of the lecturer, "the greatest captain the world ever saw, discomfited and overthrown, was obliged to bow before the genius of Watt."

Captain Ross.—Arctic Land Expedition.—It will be gratifying to the public to learn that an expedition to the shores of the Polar Seas, for the purpose, if possible, of ascertaining the fate of Capt. John Ross, and Commander James Clark Ross, R. N., who, with a crew of nineteen men, sailed about three years ago, on a voyage of discovery to the Arctic Region, is at last finally determined upon, to proceed, without delay, under the command of Captain Back, by way of Canada, so as early in the spring to move towards the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company, who take a warm interest in the success of the enterprise. It is intended that Capt. Back, without deviating from the main object of his mission, shall avail himself of every opportunity that may occur, so enrich the scientific world, and that before his return he will have explored these unknown regions between Point Turnagain, where Captain Franklin finished his journey, and the furthest most point to the west reached by Captain Parry, and thus wind up the main objects of these two expeditions.

Government have agreed to contribute £2000 towards the expense, upon three conditions two of which, (that Captain Back should command the expedition, and that the Hudson's Bay Company should furnish the supplies and canoes free of charge,) are already complied with; and the third (that of raising £3000 amongst the friends of Capt. Ross,) there is little doubt will be speedily accomplished.

Instructions were forwarded by the Hudson Bay company's ships, which sailed from England in June last, to the respective factors in their territory, to prepare and forward the necessary stores and provisions to the different stations through which the intended expedition might be expected to pass, and also to provide canoes and other conveniences for its use.

It is stated to be the opinion of the projectors of the undertaking (from a detailed report of whose proceedings we have abridged this account,) that a confident hope may still reasonably be entertained of the Captains Ross and their adventurous companions; and that, although very probably exposed to great hardships and dangers, still, that the beneficial effect of this expedition may in all likelihood afford the means of granting them timely relief. This expectation appears to be strongly encouraged from the circumstance that they did not calculate on being able to return to England sooner than three years from the time they sailed which is now but little more than expired. They were amply supplied with provisions and stores for three years, and if they reached the wreck of the *Fury*, which was the first object they had in view, there they would find supplies which would last for a considerably longer period, independent of what they might expect to derive from reindeer, musk oxen, and various other sorts of fresh provisions, supposed to be found in those regions; it being a well known fact that the crews of two vessels (the *Albion* and *Discovery*) existed for nearly three years on Marble Island, solely on whale blubber, seal fish, and train oil, occasionally supplied by the native Esquimaux.—*Boston paper.*

Marshal Soult, the present Premier of France was born in 1769, and is now sixty-four years old. On Bonaparte's return from Elba, Soult was made a peer, and fought for him at Fleurus and Waterloo. On the second restoration, he was among the proscribed, and retired to the Duchy of Berg, where he is said to have employed himself in writing his memoirs. He received permission to return to France in 1819, and was made a marshal again. In 1830, he joined with Louis Philippe, and his subsequent course to his appointment to the post of Prime minister, are familiarly known.

Paris at this moment abounds with professional men. There are 1,523 painters, draftsmen, and lithographers; 151 sculptors; 310 engravers, (copper-plate, aqua-tinta, wood, &c.); 80 architects; 315 distinguished composers and professors of music, 1525 instrumental musicians; 1500 ditto, of inferior rank. Total, 5,984.

It is said that the libraries in Germany exceed in number and value those in every other country, for instance, that of Vienna contains 300,000 volumes, Dresden, 200,000; Munich, 100,000; (chiefly supplied from the libraries of the suppressed monasteries;) Breslaw, 100,000; and Gottingen, 300,000. According to one calculation it is stated, that 150 public libraries contain 3,182,000 printed books, independently of manuscripts, pamphlets, prints, &c.

The Ec-King of France.—Hollywood is no longer the scene of animation which it has been for the last two years. The royal family and their suite took their departure in the course of the week. Their absence will be deeply felt by the tradesmen, and especially by the poor of Edinburgh. We know it to be a positive fact,