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MISCELLANEOUS.

An English gentleman, recently arrived from Genoa, states what he personally witnessed. A Crimean soldier, native of Parma, got his furlough to visit his family, but on application to the Parmesan policee for leave to enter the town, the Austrian commandant made it a condition, that during the six days of his stay in Parma he should not attempt to wear the Crimean meddal!

His Royal Highness the General Commanding-in-Chief has appointed Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. James Macdonald, C. B. to be his Private Secretary.

MRS. WEBB'S READING FROM "UNCLE TOM," AT STAFFORD-HOUSE.—A mulatto young lady, of considerable accomplishments and pleasing appearance, made a debut as a reader in the United States last year, and in despite of the prejudice against the race from which she is derived obtained much success and became a kind of rage at Boston and other cities of the Northren States. Her history is an interesting one. Her mother, a negress of full African blood, was a woman of remarkable energy and escaped from slavery just time enough to free the object of the present notice. Her father is said to be a Spaniard of high rank, who very lately swayed the Government of Spain. The father is far more predominant than the mother in the young lady, for she has European features, great grace of carriage and a very fine countanance. Such however is the execrable state of the slave law in Virginia, that though born free, she could be reclaimed, as her mother was an escaped slave. All these matters have cast around Mrs. Webb a feeling beyond that of a mere public reader; but even considered in that made alone, she is entitled to attention. Circumstances have compelled Mrs. Webb to resort to professional reading, and Mrs. Beecher Stowe started her popular novel of Uncle Tom's Cabin, as a drama. This Mrs. Webb read on Monday at Stafford-House, her Grace the Duchess of Sutherland having, with her well-known kindness and sympathy with the cause patronized her on her arriving in England with letters from Mrs. Stowe. The reading showed great self-possession, a considerable power of characterization a fine and extensive voice, capable of varied modulation and altogether much talent for the vocation chosen. Under other circumstances, doubtless more colour and vigor would be thrown away into the reading. The exceedingly quiet attention of the audience, the sense of being in a private house and under such recognition, would all naturally tend to subdue the toue and character of the exhibition.

The Sultan has remitted through the Ottoman Bank the sum of a £1000 as a contribution to the Nightingale Fund.

The 80th Regiment has received orders to hold itself in readiness to embark in the steam transport Imperador and England, probably from Liverpool for the Cape of Good Hope.

We are informed, on what we have reason to regard as good authority, that the Queen Mother of Oude has resolved to proceed to England by the next mail steamer, for the purpose of pleading her son's cause.

General Sir P. Grant assumed command of the Madras army on the 10th ultimo, the first company's officers ever posted to the rank of commander-in-chief in these armies, in which he had risen. His allowance are reduced by one-half under the new charter. Great excitement has prevailed within the last ten days at the presidency owing to four Parsee students from the Elphinstone institution having applied to the missionaries of the free church of Scotland for Christain instruction and baptism three of them have returned to their friends. Lord Canning is at Calcutta, and the governor of Madras and Bombay are at the seats of their respective governments.

The difference between the two leading candidates for the Presidency is very well marked. Colonel Fremont is young Mr. Buchanan is old. Col. Fremont is for liberty: Mr. Buchanan is for slavery. Col. Fremont began poor and made his pathway in life; Mr. Buchanan began rich and floated on the popular current. Col. Fremont has spent his life in out-door researches and mountain explorations; Mr. Buchanan has vegetated on the slavery of a statesman. And, finally, Col. Fremont ran away with the daughter of Col. Benton and married her: Mr. Buchanan ranaway from every persons daughters, and at the age of 70 is a fussy old Bachelor.

THE LATE STORM.—During the late thunder storm a barn owned by Mr. Alden, near Hammond River, was struck, but not seriously injured. A great number of the telegraph posts near this spot, are seored and seamed with the lightening. The cause of the non destruction of the barn, arose from the fact that the telegraph wires pass through the roof and served as a conducter for the destructive fluid.—A new house built owned by Mr. W. P. Fleweling, at Kingston, was also struck, and so injured as to render the whole works unavailable. The house was nearly completed; the lightening struck by the sides of the window frames, tearing them, and passing down through the floor, demolishing every thing in its course. We understand that the house must be entirely rebuilt, as it is literally cut in pieces.—*Visitor.*

WEDDED LOVE.—On Monday last, a female named Middleton, who was at least eighty years of age, and had resided in the village of Chesterton during that long period, died whilst her partner in her worldly pilgrimage, whose years also numbered fourscore, was at work in the fields in the exercise of his vocation as a labourer. Some indiscreet friend abruptly intimated to him the fact of his wife's decease, and the poor old man also fell and immediately expired. A *post-mortem* examination evidenced that the poor old man had been suffering from disease of the heart, and the suddenness of the shock had doubtless been to much for him. The aged couple had often expressed a desire to be buried together and at the same time.