

had been replied to by other reporters—ill nature had intruded, and, as it always happens, he who remained first without an answer, was first to get angry. The sneer with which Alfred repulsed the attack of his adversary, caused the latter to lose all patience, and some words escaped from him; the consequences of which I easily foresaw. I availed myself of the authority of my age, and my former profession, to interfere as a mediator in this quarrel. I insisted on the extremely trivial nature of the cause. I extenuated as much as possible the meaning, and especially the intent of the offensive words, which one of the adversaries had used, and it is most interesting to see how I should have succeeded in reconciling them. I should have succeeded in reconciling them, had I not been present, and had I not been present, without having had any other duels on their hands, than those in which they had acted as seconds, find the means of acquiring a cheap reputation for bravery. I still know some bravos of that kind, on the watch for every dispute, and ready to carry every challenge; not a single pistol shot has been fired not a single sword-thrust made in Paris for these last twenty years, of which they cannot give an account. No one knows better than these the laws and the formalities of duels; they spend their lives in the fencing-rooms of Le Sage and Peignet, on the way to and in the alleys of the woods of Boulogne and Vincennes; and firmly believe, they have fought as often as they have seen others fight.

Desponding at the fruitlessness of my efforts, and the small success of my meditation, I saw, with real grief, those young men, who, an hour before were inseparable friends, depart, after having appointed a meeting at noon at the Barrier of the *Champs Elysees*. I conceived for the one who was called Alfred, and who was not better known to me than the rest, that sympathetic interest to which we often surrendered ourselves without inquiring into the cause; loving and beloved;—his life seemed to belong, as it were, to two families.—But there still perhaps remained some means of preventing the misfortune, of which I had a sad presentiment. I walked pensively towards the place of the meeting, and chanced to encounter in the great alley of the *Champs-Elysees*, an officer of the Chasseurs of the guard, whom I am in the habit of seeing at his relations, Madame de R****, and who is not more distinguished for the nobleness of his disposition, than for the renown of his valor. As I concluded my relation of the circumstances attending the approaching duel to the captain, we saw two carriages, in which the adversaries and their seconds were seated, arrive one after the other. The captain was on horseback; at my request he followed the carriages, which took the road to the wood of Boulogne, having promised to give me an account of all that should happen. I had not much time to make long reflections on the strength of a tyrannical prejudice, which silences humanity, justice and reason—which compels two friends to murder each other, and which allows judges (when an appeal is made to the authority of the laws,) to condemn a criminal, whose conduct they approve, and would imitate in a similar case. At the moment when I reached the gate of the wood of Boulogne, I saw captain S**** hastily approaching, and read in his countenance the fatal news which he had to communicate. He gave his horse to the care of a boy on the green, and leading me into a neighbouring alley, related to me in a few words the cruel catastrophe, of which he had been a spectator. "The carriages," said he, "having stopped near *la Muette*, the four persons which they contained, alighted, and glided precipitately into the wood. I followed them, and, having given my name, begged permission to interfere in a quarrel, with some of the particulars of which, I was already acquainted.—"You are welcome captain," answered the younger of the two adversaries, "but are us humiliating explanations at this moment, which could, have no other result in any case, than to delay an encounter which is unavoidable." Despairing of ultimate success, I endeavoured in my quality of witness, to alter something in the forms of the duel; we settled that only one shot should be fired on each side; that they should be placed at a distance of twenty paces, and that they should fire together on a given signal: I myself loaded Alfred's pistol, and made him take the lower part of the ground, which is of advantage in a pistol fight: I also advised him to moderate his impetuosity, which gave his adversary a decided superiority over him. All the arrangements being made, the antagonists on their ground, the pistols in their hands and cocked, the signal was given,—they fired,—and the unfortunate young man, for whom you and I had so much interested ourselves, fell mortally wounded." The grief which this fatal event excited in my heart, was the deepest which I have experienced for a long while, and I could not check my tears when the carriage passed me, which contained the remains of that unhappy youth, now to be carried back to his father, who at that very moment was employed in preparing for the celebration of his nuptials.

LONDON. HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, May 21.

EDUCATION FOR THE POOR.

Mr. BROUGHAM, in moving for a Select Committee to inquire into the state of education amongst the poor, said, many observations would not be required to show the importance of the subject, as he understood there would be no opposition to the motion. There were a few facts, however, which he felt desirous to lay before

the House. In consequence of the recent exertions of a considerable number of respectable and charitable individuals, very accurate accounts had been obtained of the extent of education amongst the poor, or rather of the want of it, and those individuals, by forming associations, and establishing schools, had done much to remedy the evil. They had divided the metropolis into districts, to facilitate their inquiries, and they found ignorance prevailing to an enormous extent, accompanied, as might naturally be expected, with vice and poverty. He should not detail all the results, of the whole of these inquiries. In three districts, first, St. Giles's, which might be deemed the worst; second, Covent-garden, and along Catherine-street, which might be considered of the middling character; and third, the Strand to Northumberland House, a neighbourhood of a superior stamp; the result was arrived at (the Committee of Gentlemen inquiring from house to house) that there were 3,318 children who were educated, and 4,865 children without education or the means of getting it. It would be seen from this statement, how great was the extent of ignorance that existed amongst the children of the poor, notwithstanding all the astonishing exertions of private individuals. He was happy to add, however, that the parents of those uneducated children almost unanimously expressed the desire they felt to have their children educated. Some schools had been already established in those districts, but by no means equal to give education to all. The fact was, the task of establishing and maintaining schools to meet the whole of the evil was not within the power of individuals, voluntary contributions constituting the whole of their funds. At the East end of London, about Shadwell, Limehouse, &c. the want of education was found to be still more extensive, as well as the means of contributing to it. In one neighbourhood at that end of the metropolis, amongst the poor and ignorant were 14,000 Irish Catholic inhabitants; they were chiefly labourers engaged on the River, amongst 4000 of their children only eighty-nine were found to possess any education, or the means of obtaining it. (Hear.) He had only noticed particular districts, but the result of the investigation throughout the metropolis, which consisted of about on million souls, was, that there were ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY THOUSAND children in it wholly destitute of education and the means of obtaining any.—(Hear.)—Much had been done to meet the evil by the Associations, recently established, the National Institutions, British and Foreign School Society, &c. but their funds were inadequate to supply the remedy so much to be desired. Private individuals had also done much. Mr. Joseph Fox, now, unfortunately, no more, advanced as much as £3,600 towards promoting general education, and at a time too when the prospect of getting any return was very distant. Others had since advanced, and many Gentlemen were greatly in arrears. To extend his plan to the country would be aiming at too much at the present moment—but to shew the want of education in the country, it was only necessary to state that at Manchester, in the course of a few years, there were 9756 marriages, and the parties were unable to subscribe their own names! In all that was done, he trusted that as much care as possible would be taken not to disturb the good understanding that existed between the different religious persuasions, and to avoid trenching upon the privileges of the established Church. He concluded with moving for a select Committee, not only to enquire into the state of education amongst the poor, but also the condition of charitable foundations, the causes of their not meeting the wants of the times, &c.

Mr. WROTTESELEY and Mr. Alderman ATKINS expressed their approbation of the motion, and their conviction that the funds of existing charitable foundations, if properly managed, would be nearly if not wholly sufficient, without any aid from Parliament, to educate all the poor children. (Hear.)

General THORNTON said he hoped religious education would not be neglected.

Motion agreed to, and Committee appointed.

Letters from Dublin, dated the 28th ult. are strongly expressive of apprehensions as to the state of the lower orders of the people throughout Ireland, in consequence of the general want of employment.

EMIGRANTS.

Numbers of the labouring poor who have applied at the different Sessions for certificates to enable them to go to America, have been wickered enough to leave behind them their wives and children, to be supported by the parishes, from which they have fled.

SUICIDE.

An old bachelor of 79, having an income of from 12 to £15,000, lately committed suicide at Paris. In a paper which he left behind him, he assigned as his reason that he was tired of life.

The great inundation which happened lately near Szegedin, in Hungary, has caused extraordinary damage; above 1500 houses in the town have been undermined by the water.

There is a report, of the accuracy of which we do not pretend to judge, that measures have been taken to induce many of our artisans to go to Russia. Certainly the Russians have recently had extraordinary opportunities of obtaining information respecting every thing particular, both in the machinery and management of British manufactures.

JULY 5.

It appears that the late massacre, perpetrated at Bourges was a retaliation of the horrors committed on the return of the Bourbons at Marseilles, upon all the Mamelukes and other people of the East, who happened to be in that city.

A mock embassy has lately taken place here, similar to the embassy of Siam, in the reign of Louis XV. An Armenian came to Paris some time since upon commercial business; he was recommended for that purpose to the Ottoman Minister, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Suddenly it was reported at Court, that the Persian Envoy was here incognito. The Armenian availing himself of the credulous disposition of the Court, confessed that he had a secret mission, which he did not think it necessary to disclose. Accordingly, he was received with great distinction, and on the 21st inst. by the Princes in particular, and his expences agreeable to the custom of treating eastern Ambassadors defrayed by Government, and that too, in a most profuse manner. M. de Richelieu however, suggested some doubts concerning this eastern Envoy and the Duchess d'Angouleme in consequence made inquiry the other day of the Ottoman Charge d'Affaires, to whom he originally came recommended. The answers of the latter tended to confirm the suspicion of the Minister; but the Duchess having once given into this deception, and flattered perhaps with appearing to receive Ambassadors from distant nations, persists in her first belief, in consequence of which, the Armenian continues to partake of the honour and amusement of the Court: and he really acts his part extremely well.

The interrogations of the twenty-eight conspirators were finished yesterday.

COPENHAGEN.—A meeting was yesterday convened at the New-London Tavern, Cheapside, to take into consideration the propriety of opening a subscription for the purpose of rebuilding the German Protestant Church of St. Peter at Codenhagen, the parsonage, the school, and alms-houses which were all destroyed during the bombardment, in 1807, of the British fleet.

The expence of erecting the church and the buildings connected with it, according to a statement made by a gentleman from the Danish capital, would be about £6,500 of which £2,500 had already been raised in Denmark, and more than £3000 therefore remained to be collected in this country. It was recommended by Mr. Babington and Mr. Butterworth, that as the people of England were themselves in much distress, the contributions should be small.—Resolutions were subsequently agreed to form a committee to receive subscriptions; books accordingly were opened, and the name of Lord Gambier was put down for the sum of 10 guineas.

The whole of the Barbary powers seem to have declared war against the christians. Every day brings fresh accounts of their atrocities. They are provoking their fate, and the vengeance to be inflicted on them will we trust, be speedy and effectual.

Yesterday, at half past four, o'clock an Address from the country of Kent was presented to the Princess Charlotte and Prince Leopold, at Camelford House, upon their marriage. It is written on twenty-nine skins of parchment, and measured about twenty yards.

A considerable expedition is preparing at Constantinople, either to aid or chastise the Dey of Algiers, which is quite problematical.

Civilization of South Africa.

While Christianity is spreading rapidly in South Africa, civilization, its constant companion, is making equal progress. From a Report just received of the settlement at Betheldorp, for the year 1815, it appears that the number of inhabitants, including the present residents the people engaged in cutting and sawing timber, and the Hottentots now serving the farmers, amount to 1170; the number of cattle and sheep 2672; and the number of waggons 24. More than thirty men are constantly employed in hewing and sawing timber, which is sold to a Mr. K. who transports it by sea to Cape Town, and for which return is made in various articles of utility. Much timber is also carried to Wittenhagen and Graaff Reinet. From twelve to twenty men are employed in getting bark; others in burning lime and others in carrying salt into the interior. There are also two wheel wrights, six carpenters, two shoemakers, two bricklayers, several brickmakers, one butcher, one tanner, and three thatchers. Many of the women assist their husbands in gardening, making, mats, baskets, blankets of sheep skins, &c. Thirty girls are taught to knit; and there are eighteen girls in the sewing school, and who make shirts for sale. About forty-seven children read in the Bible, write, and make some progress in arithmetic. Since the commencement of the Institution there have been baptised 442 adults, and 289 children.

BOSTON, Aug. 8.

A letter from Liverpool, June 9, says—"Every species of goods are very low here; and vessels can be had for a mere song. I have engaged a ship of 300 tons at 60s. for bale goods, 40 for hardware, and 30 for crates. British bottoms, of about same burthen, can be had at from 5 to £700 for a voyage to Savannah and New-York. The American ships here are loading principally on owner's account."

On the 16th of June, at the Opera House, London