

not; but in the afternoon the Queen and Prince Albert went for a cruise with him in the Royal yacht. His visit was strictly a private one—soon over; and, without looking in at our dockyards, arsenals, or depots—without gazing at Cockneys or going to the Manchester Art-Treasures, he steamed back to Calais and left us to speculate hopelessly on what he might, could, would, or should have thought. Perhaps it is just as well, and his absence speaks more forcibly than all he would have said. Is it too much to imagine that Sebastopol yet rankles in the Russian breast; and that, unforgiving, he cannot forget "the British grenadiers"!

#### THE RACES, AND THE HOLIDAYS.

The readers of *The Messenger* care not to know, nor care I, or can I tell the secret of that excitement which annually causes thousands, who know not a race-horse from a hack, to stake, and generally lose, various sums on the issue of what Lord Palmerston called our Isthmian games? Suffice it, that gambling on the event was as prolific as of yore, and that, in this national dissipation, perhaps millions changed hands. Certainly, the recent crusade against abominable betting-houses lessened the evil openly, and doubtless saved many apprentices and fast journeymen from dishonesty; but the higher evil, as regards the aristocracy, cannot be touched, being beyond present legislative control. The *Times* says, more money changes hands in London, in one week, than at the notorious German gambling watering places in a year. Our little boys stake half-pence, and our nobility a prince's ransom, on the events of chance. Alas! how often, does the poisonous, the pistol, steel, or "dark-flowing river," prove the finale to a gambler's Epsom career! The Derby was run: let those who delight in the mysteries and oft-repeated iniquities of "the turf" say more about it.

Whitsuntide is essentially a Cockney's holiday. The poorer classes have a penchant for being married then, in shoals; and well did they follow out their predilections. Happily, Greenwich fair is abolished; and, instead, the noble glades and hills of that far-famed park resounded on Monday with the strain of military bands, echoed by the innocent revelry of artizans, their wives and children, escaped for one day from the toil, din, and smoke of London labour. The Brighton line alone carried 57,000 visitors to the sea side, Crystal Palace, and country: the Waterloo Terminus was besieged from 8 till 2 in the day; and, though marred by that sad drunkenness, which is still the characteristic of an English holiday, the season of relaxation was a blessing to those who toil as do no others on the earth's surface.

*Apròpos* of the Crystal Palace must be mentioned a grand Handelian musical festival which will be celebrated there this month. 2,000 performers are to assemble, (the very best of their profession), from London and the provinces. Three of the most noted oratorios of that most noted composer are to be performed—the *Messiah*, *Israel in Egypt*, and *Judas Maccabeus*. Extraordinary preparations are being made, by the Sacred Harmonic Society, which is the first choral association of England. Tickets at a high price are being bought up, and the Festival will be such as has never before been achieved. Fancy a body of 2,000 instrumentalists and singers pouring forth in true time and harmony those glorious notes which have made the fame of Handel world-renowned!

#### DR. LIVINGSTONE AND THE CITY MAGNATES.

In my report of the London Missionary Meeting, I noticed that Dr. Livingstone, the eminent African Missionary—geologist and traveller, had received the freedom of the city. After all the abuse poured on our ancient City Corporation it singles out some good men for its honours; and those who read the Chamberlain's address to the Doctor must agree that the sentiments honoured alike giver and recipient. For the first commercial city in the world to cheer its officer in saying that the work of the missionary outweighed all the considerations of science, was indeed much: what would good old Wilberforce have given, in his earlier days, to hear such truths?

Dr. Livingstone was introduced into the Court of Common Council to receive a dignity whose chief value arises from its public presentation, and its honourable selection. Louis Napoleon, Kossuth, and other notabilities, are not likely to do so implies little: but when the document is (as in the Doctor's case) presented in a casket worth 50 guineas—when fashionable ladies throng the Court, and the chief magistrate himself sinks for the time into minor importance—then is it to be as Mordecai exalted, with a

generous instead of jealous Haman at the rein.

Sir James Key, after alluding at length to the services which the Doctor had conferred on science and commerce, by his discoveries—and which, it was hoped, would ultimately lead to extinction of the slave trade—concluded by saying, in eloquent periods, that he was glad to be recalled from such considerations, to a higher one—that he stood "in the presence of a man of God, a Christian Missionary." "Sir, let me, in presence of this Court, and in their name, do honour to your sentiment, that 'the end of the geographical feat is but the beginning of the missionary enterprise.' O Sir, what heart is there so cold as not to respond to that touching aspiration in one of your letters. 'May God grant me life to do good to this poor Africa!' In this assembly, I am sure, not one." Take back with you (the Chamberlain in effect continued) the expression of our thanks for all your services to commerce; but, more especially, our heartfelt prayer that your missionary work may produce all the blessings which it strives to impart.

Noble words, these, for the way-worn traveller: noble, too, as recognizing that a "Christian is the highest style of man," and the self-denying heroism of the persevering missionary educible alone from his creed. Would that "the City" recognized elsewhere its Chamberlain's verdict, with greater promptitude and accordant practice!

The casket was then presented. It is made of African oak, with silver plates (inscribed) on the sides, and frosted silver palm-tree ornaments at the corners. At the top, in gold, Europe is represented as holding out the hand of friendship to Africa, beneath the shade of an over-spreading palm-tree.

The Doctor, in a plain manly speech, (just such as one might expect from him) returned thanks for the honour, so unexpected by him. Amongst other curious matters regarding the newly discovered interior, and its productions, he said, "I brought with me a fibrous tissue—on which I have the opinion of one of the foremost mercantile firms in the city, that, when prepared, it would be worth £50 or £60 a ton. It is quite unknown in Europe, and will be a most excellent flax. I found upwards of a dozen fruits entirely unknown in England; and although I could not always be a good judge of what they were exactly, because I was sometimes very hungry when I got them, I knew they were much better than the crab-apples of England, from which our other apples have come; and our sloes, from which we have got our plums; and if cultivated, we should, I have no doubt, have a very acceptable addition to our fruits. The natives of Central Africa, are always anxious to have intercourse with white men, of whom they know little; and if they see our printed cotton, it seems to them such a wonderful thing that they suppose it to have been produced in some supernatural way. They imagine, that as they are told these things come from the sea—and as "from" and "of," in their language, form the same word—they imagine that the white man, who has made them, came from beneath the water. When I went into a village, and the natives asked questions about me, the answer used often to be, "Why he comes out of the sea; don't you see his hair is straight!" Their hair is always curly; and because mine was straight, they imagined I must have come out of the water. They are anxious to get our goods, and would be glad to cultivate what they have to give us in exchange; if taught that it is their interest to do so. They have a little cotton growing in small portions all over the country, and the soil is exceedingly fertile; and if one of you were to go over to that country, and find the grass growing over the head of his horse, as he rode along, he would come to the conclusion, as I have done, that almost anything could be produced there. We must remember, that we have to deal with those who have been in the habit of selling their children. I have seen them sold for twelve shillings; nay, I have seen them sold for two shillings, which in the currency of that country are as valuable as the Lord Mayor's badge. As a proof of their value, I shall tell you that one of their chiefs, in a village where I was, being anxious to show his gratitude to me, came in the night to my tent, the door of which he closed carefully after him, in order that his people might not see his extravagance, and hung round my neck one of these shells, and said, "There, now you have a proof of my gratitude!" and then he added, "When you make your path across Africa, let the path come through my town."

#### THE SLAVE TRADE.

That hereditary curse of the sons of Ham, whom the Doctor befriends, again awakens concern.

Recent advices from Cuba describe increasing activity in the slave trade, and state that the large profits of the planters during the past year have led to an extraordinary state of inflation, every one being engaged in bank, railroad, or other joint-stock affairs.

We maintain, at immense cost, a squadron on the African coast, to slack this diabolic traffic; but the numerous creeks and bays of those shores afford secure hiding places for slave crafts, which, watching their opportunity, and built for speed, too often elude our cruisers, among whom the service is unpopular and unhealthy. The profits are also so enormous, that if but one cargo out of three be landed, even with the fearful diminution which invariable mortality causes, sufficient profit is left to continue the trade. It has been well said, that if, instead of watching the African coast, our cruisers were to encircle Cuba, the chief landing place, the traffic would die. Perhaps, however, the chief measure of prevention is Dr. Livingstone's suggestion of leading the native chiefs, who kidnap slaves to sell to traders, to a more profitable employment, in improving the resources of the country. The subject is one of great difficulty. How fearfully has the curse of Noah descended on his posterity!

#### FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

*The Persian Ambassador, Feruk Khan*, had a medal struck to commemorate his reception of despatches from Teheran announcing the ratification of the treaty of peace.

This settlement of the Persian war will place at liberty 10,000 troops to aid our operations in China. The last advices state, that our Admiral's delay in further proceedings, till reinforcements shall arrive, is fomenting more widely-spread energy among the Chinese, it having been reported in the country that we have been beaten away from "the city of Rams" (Canton); and this encourages them to renew those courses which were for a time checked. 10,000 troops can alone settle the matter; and the sooner it is done, the better for life, property, and civilization.

*The Brazilian Government* is said to have sent a brig of war to China in support of the Europeans; French co-operation we are already assured of.

*From the Cape of Good Hope* we have news which threaten another Caffre war. The German Legion, recently sent there as military colonists to defend the outskirts, have suffered both robbery and murder. The guerilla mode of warfare adopted by the Caffres, aided by the character of the country, presents especial difficulties to European troops; but, as we have of old subdued them, so can we again, though with fearful loss of life and property.

*Marshal Radetzky*, who played so prominent a part in the subjugation of Hungary by Austria and whose name and deeds are execrated by the Magyars, has recently broke his thigh. His advanced age (90 years) leaves recovery doubtful, and a report of his death was currently believed, till contradicted.

*The young Emperor of Austria* is doing all he can to woo the Hungarians to his will, and took the young Empress (then en route) to Pesth, that there she might be delivered of a son, who, being born in their own country, the Hungarians would acknowledge cheerfully. But the infant died; and, if what Kossuth says, and the records of that chivalrous people reveal, be true, the "perjured House of Hapsburg" will not succeed in making an hitherto free people content with their chains.

#### NEW EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENT.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert has consented to preside at the inauguration of a new educational movement, which will take place in London on the 25th of June, and in which he will have the support of many noblemen and gentlemen, well-known for their exertions in the cause of education. The first meeting will take place on June 22nd, the question which will be submitted for consideration is, "The early age at which children of the working classes are taken from school." On the following day the conference will be divided into four sections, 1st—To enquire into the fact, causes, and results of the alleged early removal of children from school. 2nd—To institute similar inquiries in respect of the education of foreign countries. 3rd—to consider the expedients which have been proposed for keeping the children of the working classes longer at school. And 4th—to inquire into the wants of such other expedients as shall be proposed for the consideration of the conference, and particularly those known as half-time schemes. The report of these sections will be laid before a final meeting on June 24th, over which Prince Albert will again preside.

#### STRANGE JOURNEY UNDER A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.

On the 6th inst., the man who looks to the state of the carriage wheels at Rugby station observed a little boy astride one of the axletrees under the body of a carriage. With great difficulty the man got the child out, and a deplorable object the poor little fellow appeared, begrimed with dust and soot, his clothes ragged and burnt, hair unkempt, altogether "out of sorts" and nearly paralysed with cold. He accounted for his being in that strange posture by saying that his mother, who lives in Manchester gave him sixpence to pay his passage on board ship to Ireland, where his grandfather lived, and that he got on the carriage at Manchester in order to ride cheap to Liverpool; but as the carriage was starting off to London he was brought as far out of his way. The lad was taken charge of by Captain H. Lowndes, well warmed, washed and fed, and rigged out in a fresh suit of clothes. The Marquis of Chandos took him by the hand and led him through the throng that crowded the station to the Royal carriage, at the time Prince Albert arrived. Some silver was given him by the members of his Royal Highness's suite. The youth must have travelled upwards of 140 miles, and was eighteen hours on the journey. The great wonder is that he was not dashed to pieces.

#### THE ATLANTIC SUBMARINE CABLE.

The United States frigate *Niagara* left Gravesend recently, for Liverpool, to ship her portion of the transatlantic electric cable, consisting of 1,500 tons. The *Niagara* will sail from Liverpool about the time the *Agamemnon* leaves the river, having shipped an equal amount of East Greenwich. The *Agamemnon* is to be accompanied by the paddle-wheel steam-frigate *Cyclops*, for the purpose of taking soundings. The "Liverpool Albion" says, that when Mr. W. Brown, M. P., the chairman of the Telegraph Company, and the engineers, came to look over the *Niagara*, they found, to their extreme regret, that, without ruining her, by cutting away stanchions, there was not space to make sufficiently large circular coils of the cable to secure its safe delivery into the ocean—which, in such an enterprise, is the first point to be attended to. The *Agamemnon* was at last fixed on; but she required considerable alterations. It was suggested that the best thing that could now be done was for the *Niagara* to take on board the shore end of the cable, and lead the van of that part of the squadron going to the Western World, and be ready to give every necessary assistance. In this suggestion Captain Hudson most cheerfully acquiesced, saying he was ready to do anything the deputation wished, to aid and assist the undertaking.

#### ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS.

*Evangelical Continental Society*.—The annual meeting was held at Exeter-hall. In the absence of Sir Culling Eardley, Bart., A. Stewart, Esq., M. D., took the chair. The report explained that the object of the Society is to assist and encourage Evangelical societies upon the Continent in their endeavours to propagate the Gospel. Assistance had been given to the amount of £300, to the Evangelical Society of Paris. The income of that Society, now four-and-twenty years old, for the past year, was £150,000, (or £6,000). It employs ninety-three agents, and its efforts have been much blessed. In Paris, especially, the work has received a new and vigorous impulse. The chapels in the Haute Vienne have been re-opened, after three years patient waiting and suffering; but the Schools, continue to be closed. The Evangelical Missionary Church at Lyons has been assisted by the sum of £125. In the city and suburbs of Lyons, the gospel is regularly preached in seven or eight different chapels. Many additions have been recently made to the number of the communicants who now amount to 600. A new chapel is about to be opened, but persecution still prevails in this district and elsewhere. Last November 46 members of the church at St. Bel, a few miles from Lyons, were, for having met for the worship of God, and were sentenced to fines for an asserted violation of the law. To the union of Evangelical Churches in France, £75 had been voted this year. To the Evangelical Society of Geneva, a most important and valued institution, £175 had been voted; and £80 granted to the work in Poitou, for which M. Verruc successfully visited this country a few months ago. To the Evangelical Society of Belgium, where there is a noble field most efficiently occupied, £150 had been granted. A visit of encouragement of several Brethren to the Vaudois church during the year, had proved very beneficial in a variety of ways, and led to the consecration of £20, as long as it is needed, to the education of a young man in the