

EXTRACTS FROM NEW WORKS.

LORD HILL AT TALAVERA.—Hill was moving up to reinforce Colonel Donkin, and was in the act of giving some orders to the Colonel of the 48th Regiment, when he was fired at from the summit, and, not doubting that the shots proceeded from some British stragglers who mistook the direction of their fire, he rode smartly up, accompanied by his brigade Major, Fordyce, to stop them. These two were instantly surrounded by the enemy: Fordyce was killed on the spot, and the hand of a French Grenadier was already on the bridle of Hill's charger; but the General spurred his horse hard, broke away, and galloped off. Directing the wounded beast downwards, he met a part of the 29th, and turning, led them up with uncalculating courage to the charge. The old 29th did not disappoint him; they won back the summit at the point of the bayonet. But scarcely had the general placed them in position by the side of Colonel Donkin's brigade, ere a heavy mass of French battalions again advanced, and a violent attack, of which the first was but a prelude, burst upon them. The fire flashed red upon the night, and was delivered so close, that the combatants discerned each other's formation within a few paces. The British having poured in their deadly volley, rushed on with their bayonets, broke the dark column, and drove it down. Dr. Lardner's Cabinet Library—Memoirs of Wellington.

FALLING IN LOVE.—Talking of the heart reminds me that I have fallen in love; fathomless love, but lest you should make some splendid mistake, and envy me the possession of some of those princesses or countesses with whose affections you English voyagers are so apt to invest themselves, I beg leave to tell you that my goddess is only the wife of a 'Merchant of Venice,' but then she is pretty as an antelope, is but two and twenty years old, has the large, oriental eyes, with the Italian countenance, and dark glossy hair of the colour of Lady J——'s. Then she has the voice of a lute, and the song of a seraph (though not quite so sacred) besides a long postscript of graces, virtues, and accomplishments, enough to furnish out a new chapter for Solomon's songs. But her great merit is finding out mine: there is nothing so amiable as discernment. Lord Byron's Letters and Journals.

MECHANICAL POWER OF COALS.—It is well known to modern engineers that there is virtue in a bushel of Coals, properly consumed, to raise seventy millions of pounds weight, a foot high. This is actually the average effect of an engine at this moment working in Cornwall. The ascent of Mont Blanc from the vale of Chamouni, is considered, and with justice, as the most toilsome feat that a strong man can accomplish in two days. The combustion of two pounds of coal would place him on the summit. The Menai Bridge, one of the most stupendous works of art that has been raised by man, in modern ages, consists of a mass of iron, not less than four millions of pounds in weight, suspended at a medium height of 120 feet above the sea. The consumption of seven hannels of coal would suffice to raise it to the place where it hangs. The great pyramid of Egypt is composed of granite. It is 700 feet in the side of its base, and 500 in perpendicular height, and stands on eleven acres of ground. Its weight is therefore, 12,760 millions of pounds, at a medium height of 155 feet; consequently it would be raised by the effort of about 630 chaldrons of coal, a quantity consumed in some foundries in a week. Herschel's Discourse on Natural Philosophy, in Dr. Lardner's Cyclopedia.

INDESTRUCTIBILITY OF MATTER.—The destruction produced by fire is most striking in many cases, as in the burning of a piece of charcoal or a taper, there is no smoke, nothing visibly dissipated and carried away; the burning body wastes and disappears, while nothing seems to be produced but warmth and light, which we are not in the habit of considering as substances; and, when all has disappeared, except, perhaps some trifling ashes, we naturally suppose it is gone; lost, destroyed. But, when the question is examined more exactly, we detect, in the invisible stream of heated air which ascends from the glowing coal or flaming wax, the whole ponderable matter, only united in a new combination with the air, and dissolved in it. Yet, so far from being thereby destroyed, it is only become again what it was before it existed in the form of charcoal or wax, an active agent in the business of the world, and a main support of vegetable and animal life, and is still susceptible of running again the same round, as circumstances, so that, for aught we can see to the contrary, the same identical atom may be concealed for thousand of centuries in a limestone rock, may at length be quarried, set free in the limekiln, mix with the air, be absorbed from it by plants, and in succession, become a part of the frames

of myriads of living being, till some concurrence of events consigns it once more to a long repose, which, however, no way unfits it from again resuming its former activity. 1b.

MODERN DISCOVERIES AND IMPROVEMENT.—I can offer no conjecture how many of Wren's fifty-three discoveries and inventions are at present in use with mankind. The wonderful improvement in the rapidity of printing, and the invention of copying machines, have made his double pen unnecessary; the discoveries of Arkwright have superseded his ribbon machine; the steam engine of James Watt will pump more water in five minutes than Wren's best engine would in an hour; a steam packet will outstrip all his new ways of sailing; a line of battle ship of the days of William the Fourth would blow a dozen of the first rates of Charles the Second's time to the moon; the harbour of Ramsgate and the breakwater at Plymouth, conquered from the deep sea by the genius and skill of Rennie, are infinitely more laborious and magnificent than any thing the first founders of the Royal Society contemplated—their 'easy way of whale fishing,' would have small chance beside the gun harpoon—the speediest ways 'of attacking and carrying forts' of the year 1660, would never have sufficed for the investing, battering, breaching, and storming of Bajados in a dozen days. No conveyances of the days of the Stewarts could have had any chance of overtaking a telegraphic despatch—nor would the swiftest coaches that ever traversed the brain of the Royal Society, have been formidable rivals to the twelve mile an hour mails of his Majesty's Government—to say nothing of the steam coaches of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. Yet we must not think, inasmuch as we have few or none of his inventions at work now, that consequently his labours were vain and unnecessary. Invention yields to invention, and man improves on man in all things which lie within the dominion of ingenuity and labour. It is otherwise in the realm of imagination—English poetry has not risen since Shakspeare and Milton.—Family Library.

CONVERSATION.—The first ingredient in conversation is truth—the next good sense—the third good humour—and the fourth wit.—Sir Wm. Temple.

REPRESENTATION. The virtue, essence, and spirit of a House of Commons consists in its being the express image of the feelings of the nation. It was not instituted to be a controul upon the people, as of late it has been taught by a doctrine of the most pernicious tendency, but as a control for the people.—Burke.

The invention of a popular dish is indeed, the most certain road to glory, for the inventor is sure that his name will be in every body's mouth.

Lord Cheserfield says New-Year's Day is the time when the kindest and warmest wishes are exchanged without the least meaning, and the most lying day in the whole year.

SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH JOURNALS.

FROM THE JOHN BULL.

A Dinner of Merchants and Shipowners took place yesterday at Freemason's Hall, which comprised a vast body of the wealth and importance and intelligence of the most influential class of persons in this great mercantile nation, for the purpose of expressing their feelings with regard to the present weak and inefficient Ministry.

We shall not be in time to give any detailed report of the proceedings, but the spirited Petition which we have elsewhere given, emanating from the same body, will pretty clearly shew their views and opinions of the existing Administration.

It is not an unprofitable task when a Ministry are on the eve of attempting the overthrow—at all events a total change—of the Constitution, to enquire what they have done to justify our confidence upon other and greater points, or induce us to place the British Constitution itself at the mercy of men who have shewn themselves incapable of conducting the ordinary business of the state, and utterly ignorant upon the principles upon which it ought to be carried on.

Now let us see—Mr. Poulett Thomson repeals a duty without the consent of Parliament—Lord Althorpe apologizes for it, and says it shall never occur again—Lord Althorpe proposes a duty on Stock transfers in the teeth of an Act of Parliament—which it is natural to suppose he had never read—when he finds

the thing impossible, he condescends to withdraw the duty.

Lord Althorpe—and when we say Lord Althorpe, we mean the whole of the set—excepting by the way, Mr. Edward Ellice, who, being a practical man, and acquainted with mercantile and financial matters, they never consulted about their fine Budget—it being the recognized duty of the Treasury Secretary to advise and consult upon that particular point—Lord Althorpe then proposes a duty on Portugal wines, and upon Cape wines, and upon a reduction of duty upon French wines—France being our natural enemy, Portugal our ancient ally; and the Cape one of our own Colonies whose staple is wine. Lord Althorpe finds that he may not raise the Portuguese wine duty because of the Methuen treaty, and that he cannot encrease the Cape wine duty because there is an Act of Parliament prohibiting any such increase until the year 1833.

Lord Althorpe, in order to conciliate our manufactures, lays a duty upon the raw material, and in order to encrease the profits of coal proprietors reduces the duty on coals: but in doing this, he issues an order that the duty shall remain as it is for three months, in order that the present holders of coals may get rid of their stock. The consequence is, that not a human being will buy coals until the time when they are told by Ministers that the duty is to be taken off, and the colliers are rotting in the harbours, and the sailors are mutinying in the streets of the different seaports engaged in the coal carrying trade. Upon a representation, Lord Althorpe sends off orders to take off the duties immediately, and begs that he may hear nothing more about it.

Pending the discussion about coals, the following scene took place in the House of Commons:—Lord Althorpe was sitting on the Treasury bench, and the Right Hon. Poulett Thomson near him—a member came to Lord Althorpe and asked him what he meant to do about the export duty?—'Oh,' says Lord Althorpe, 'we mean to reduce the export duty from 17s. 6d. to 10s.' 'That,' said the Member, 'is to foreign ports; but what do you do with respect to our own Colonies?' 'Oh,' says Lord Althorpe, 'just the same—ten shillings.'

'Why,' said the Member, 'is there not a considerable difference in the export duty at present between that laid upon coals for foreign ports and coals for our own Colonies?'

'No,' said Lord Althorpe, dictatorily and Chancellor-of-the-Exchequerly,—'No, all the same—isn't it Thomson?' turning to Poulett.

'Yes—all the same,' said Thomson—'seventeen shillings and sixpence.'

'That is very surprising,' said the Member, diffidently, 'I—had understood'—

At this moment appeared Mr. Spring Rice.

'Rice,' said Lord Althorpe, there is no difference between the duty on coals exported to foreign ports and coals exported to our own colonies?'

'Oh, no—none,' said Rice and sat down.—The Member walked away, but he did not walk far—for on the table, in less than five minutes, he found the statute regulating the existing duty, and fixing it at 'seventeen shillings and sixpence per ton for foreign ports, and four shillings and sixpence per ton to our own colonies. The Honorable Gentleman, doubled down the page; handed it to the Finance Minister of the Empire, and retired.—Thus, had Lord Althorpe persisted in reducing the duty, he would have encreased it to the colonies five shillings to the colonies—or more than double.

The encrease of the army—the augmentation of the navy, and the proportionate advance of the estimates, are trifles—the calling out of the militia, and the restoration of the yeomanry, are not worth speaking of—but the tax upon steam, and the reduction upon tobacco, neither of which can take place, were not the most satisfactory manifestations of wisdom or understanding.

And now the Canadian timber duties—upon the infliction of which they are resolved—resolved to stand or fall upon the decision, and yet—at this very moment Mr. Poulett Thomson has the—we don't know exactly what to call it—candour, perhaps, to admit his conviction that they will deprive Canada of half