

THE GLEANER

AND

NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

VOLUME II.]

"Nec aranearum sane texus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes."

No. 35.

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 10, 1831.

THE GLEANER.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MINE HOST AS OF OLD—During the last two or three days the frequenters of Mr. F. Kirk's house, the Cross Daggers, Rotham, have partaken of a Christmas Pie, containing four geese, twelve rabbits, six brace of partridges, three stoves of veal, two stoves of pork, eight fowls, three turkeys, seven pounds of saucages, four hares, four stoves of flour, &c.—Sheffield Iris.

ANTIDELUVIAN BOAT.—The following is an amusing instance of the tenacity with which the Highlanders hold to the honours and integrity of their kindred: A dispute arose between a Campbell and a M'Lean upon this never-ending subject. M'Lean would not allow that the Campbells had any right to rank with the M'Leans in antiquity, who, he insisted, were in existence as a clan from the beginning of the world. Campbell had a little more biblical lore than his antagonist, and asked him if the clan M'Lean was before the flood. "Flood! what flood?" said M'Lean. "The flood that you know drowned all the world but Noah and his family and his flocks," said Campbell. "Pooh! you and your flood," said M'Lean; "my clan was afore ta flood." "I have not read in my Bible," said Campbell, "of the name of M'Lean going into Noah's ark." "Noah's ark," retorted M'Lean in contempt, "who ever heard of a M'Lean tat had not a boat of his own?"

TAILORS' M. P.—The Edinburgh corporation of tailors, in their petition for reform, put forward one argument, in a way judiciously in keeping with the fractional characteristics of the craft. They state that "some of the principle cities, such as Glasgow, Aberdeen, Perth, and Dundee, have only a FOURTH OR FIFTH of a member!"

FRENCH PAPERS.—The names and circulation of the Parisian journals are given as follows:—Constitutionnel, 14,476; Gazette de France, 9,407; Journal des Debats, 8,830; Le Temps, 4,794; La Quotidienne, 4,224; Le Courrier, 3,645; Le Messager, 2,394; Le National, 2,334; Le Journal du Commerce, 1,523; Le Moniteur, 1,291; Le Globe, 1,158; La Revolution, 186; La Tribune, 246.

NEWSPAPERS IN GREAT BRITAIN.—The total number of Newspapers printed in Great Britain amounts to 295; of these, seventy-two are printed in London only, thirteen of which are daily, and twenty-four weekly; in Liverpool nine, and Manchester seven.

STATISTICS, POOR-RATES, PROPERTY-TAX.—Just previous to the breaking out of the American war, about the year 1795-6, the expenditure for the poor, wheat being then at 4s. the quarter, amounted to £1,530,000. In seven years afterwards (on an average of 1783-4-5), wheat had not risen more than 1s. 6d. per quarter, but the charges for the poor were augmented about half a million. The average cost of the poor for the last seventeen years, embracing two of war and fifteen of peace, has been £6,430,000, nearly 3-1-2 to one above the scale of poor rates at the close of the American contest. In 1815, the annual value of the real property of England, as assessed to the property-tax, was, as near as possible, £52,000,000 sterling. At the present moment it is calculated to produce about £40,000,000 or £42,000,000, instead of £2,000,000l. a-year—that is to say, in gold; whereas in 1815 it was in depreciated bank-notes. If the local burdens of the country had continued, with only a proportionate pressure on its resources, the pauper expenditure, &c., of the last four years ought to have dropped from 5,500,000l. in paper, to about 4,400,000l. in gold; instead of which it averages 6,350,000l., being equal, at the above rate of comparison, to 7,600,000l. in the currency of 1815—a rise nearly equivalent to seventy-five per cent. on the local taxation of that memorable era.

MENTAL ANXIETY.—After Sir F. Burdett's return from Middlesex he received a bill from an attorney employed by his committee, one of the items of which was—"for extraordinary mental anxiety on your account, 500l."

A TRIP.—The coachman of one of the Leith coaches, washing his horses' feet in the Firth a few days ago, was carried—coach, horses, and all—in full flow towards the German ocean. The horses and man were rescued, but the coach sailed on, and put into Inch Keith; received a cargo of limpets, crabs, and buckies (see "rative conchology," by the editor of the Scotsman) and thus freighted, returned with the returning tide to the shores of Leith. This is positively the first stage-coach trip to Inch Keith. We have ourselves swam thither on the back of an ox, from the Queen's ferry; but we care not to report the adventures of our voyage. Those who have crossed in the same boat with a herd of Highland kyles can fancy it; to those who have not been so fortunate, description would be vain. They may, however, read Topham Beauclerk's letter to Lord Charlemont, and peep at Lady D.'s sketch of Johnson swimming from Skye, holding by a cow's tail.

LIBERTY OF THE SWISS.—From the origin of the Confederation to this day, the institutions of the twenty-two cantons have been various and entirely distinct one from the other. The liberty of the press had always been very limited in most of the cantons, and unknown in some others. The councils of Geneva, Vaud, Appenzel, and Tessin, restored, of late years, that right in its proper full extent to their fellow-citizens. But the old aristocratic cantons of Bern, Fribourg, Soleure, nay, even the veriest democratical small cantons of Uri, Schwytz, and Underwald, persevered in their ill-judged and ill-timed system of suppression of public opinion, by submitting the press to such a censure as pre-

vented the free expression of any doctrines but those of the government.

LAY TITHES.—The living of Ilfracombe is attached to the stall of a prebendary of Salisbury cathedral (120 miles distant), and the tithes, amounting to about 1000l. a-year, are leased to a layman for a consideration, no doubt, but I should think nothing equal to what is exacted by him from the parish. The minister receives about 100l. a-year (and until lately his stipend was only half that sum), for the performance of duties among a population of 3000, which duties, I should observe, are faithfully and conscientiously performed, and it is a matter of universal regret, that the services of one so generally respected should be so ill-requited, while so large a sum is drawn from the industry of the parish.—Times.

THE PEASANTRY.—The advantage of allowing agricultural labourers small portions of ground with their cottages, has been acted upon in several parts of Dorsetshire, particularly at Windrush, where Lord Sherborne has set the example, by making a number of such grants to the peasantry. It is his Lordship's intention to recommend the adoption of a similar system at Bioray, Eastington, Aldsworth, and Sherborne, on the principle of a reward and encouragement to honest and industrious men, and to increase the comforts of the poor generally.

RAILWAY.—The expense of making the new railway from Liverpool to Manchester was 35,000l. a mile! The canal it has so much affected, and whose shares have fallen so low, was made at one guinea per inch! The total expense of the railway, when finished, is calculated at 1,200,000l. sterling. It is said that when there is, by a railway, direct communication from London to Liverpool, the journey will be accomplished in seven hours!—Glasgow Chronicle.

NEWSPAPER PLAGUE.—The police at Lisbon have just discovered a new, and hitherto successful, method of preventing the circulation of the English newspapers. Officers are stationed near the post office, and every one who comes to ask for a newspaper is immediately arrested and hurried off to prison. The pestilen journals may be seen lying about in bundles, and so much shunned as if they were charged with the Cholera Morbus.—Herald.

PATRIOTISM.—The restlessness, the discontent, and flaming patriotism of the demagogue may generally be traced to personal or domestic causes. Want of money is generally the root of evil, and an adequate supply of it the cure. True patriotism, that rare commodity, is easily distinguishable from the spurious, by the absence of selfishness in its origin, and of a love of mischief in its progress.

AN ARTIST'S SPIRIT.—Chantrey, the sculptor, has completed a bronze statue of his late Majesty for the city of Edinburgh—and, in announcing this fact to Lord Meadowbank, the artist offers, as a proof of his gratitude to the committee, a present of a pedestal of Haytor granite, on which it is to be placed. The value of this present is about 500l. and the generous proposal will, no doubt, be properly appreciated.

The number of law-suits brought before the Russian tribunals last year were no less than Two Million eight hundred and fifty Thousand! so that on an average, every seventeenth person had contrived to make a meal upon the bones of contention.

It is stated in a recent work by Mr. Fraser, that the age of salmon is marked by the circles in the back-bone, as the age of trees is by concentric rings in the heart of the tree: for every year there is a circle.

One of the Prebendaries of St. Paul's was asked the other day, if it was true that pieces of artillery had been placed in St. Paul's on the 9th of November. The reply was, that there were several cannons in the cathedral, but certainly no great guns!

The present King has dined in his Palace during the first three months of his reign, upwards of 21,000 persons, including domestics; but, what is very extraordinary, the kitchen bills for the same period are less in amount than those of the corresponding quarter in the reign of George IV.

THE LATE AFFAIR IN PARIS.—The casualties during the disturbances were fewer than might have been expected. Many persons were hurt by being trodden down; eleven received slight bayonet wounds—and about thirty of the soldiers were struck with stones; three or four officers were by missiles of this kind cut in the face. Count de Sassy was knocked down by a workman with a blow of a wooden mallet.

MISERS.—Quentin Mastis, the blacksmith of Antwerp, painted a picture, which he called 'The Misers.' He was wrong in the designation, and inapprehensive of the topic. His figures are not the figures of misers, but of comfortable cosy old souls, partners in a flourishing concern. They are excellent accountants, and you see they are satisfied with the aspect of their books. Misers! Why there is nothing miserable about them; and, if I recollect aright, the door of their room is standing ajar while they are making up their accounts, and the money is laying loose on the table. People talk about misers without seeming to know any thing of the matter. He is not a miser who collects much money, counts it carefully, looks at it frequently and spends it rarely: he is not a miser who wears an

old coat when he has money enough to buy a new one. A man who is worth twenty thousand pounds, and gets five per cent for his money, and spends it, enjoys a thousand a year; but he who keeps twenty thousand pounds in bags, and loves the sight of his gold, and feasts his eyes with gazing at it, and his fingers with handling it, enjoys twenty thousand a year. Let the unlearned reader, if such there be, know that miser is a Latin word, signifying miserable; it is, therefore, a contra in terms to call a man a miser who is clearly not only not miserable, but decidedly happy in not doing and being that for which he is called a miser. Old Elwes was a happy man, notwithstanding his elongated visage, his attenuated frame, and his non-enjoyment of revelry and noise gaiety. He was not miserable when, from his saving care of money, the roof of his house admitted the rain, but was exceedingly happy in his reply to a visitor, who said, 'Mr. Elwes, the roof of your house is in a sad condition, the rain absolutely came upon my bed, and I was forced to push it up to the farther end of the room to get it out of the wet.' 'Ay, ay,' said the old gentleman, 'that is a nice snug corner in wet weather.'

The true and real miser is he who not only has no enjoyment of his money, but who finds and feels money to be a source of pain; who feels in every payment a pang that penetrates his inmost soul; whose money quits his purse as reluctantly as the three pronged tooth parts from its bony and agonized socket; who is always meditating some plan of saving expense, and is as constantly thwarted in his schemes; who is really miserable because he has not the courage to be what the world calls a miser; who endeavours to be generous but has not the heart to be really so; who at the sight of a beggar sickens with a sadness, miscalled sympathy, and pities his own pocket more than his neighbour's poverty; who buys every thing as cheaply as he can, and then, after all, has the pleasure of cursing his stars that he has paid sixpence more than was absolutely necessary. Your genuine miser has often a very good coat to his back, and may even dwell in a waterproof house; but he has haggled with his tailor till he has lost his temper, and he fidgets his very life out to see the gloss departing from the broadcloth; and when he pays his rent, he writhes like a baby with a blister on its back, at the thought that another house in the same street is let for five pounds a year less than his. He is a great bargain hunter, and, of course, is often bit; he buys advertised wine, and smacks his lips over Cape. He has not the spirit to spend money, nor the courage to hoard it. He will buy, but it is all trash that he buys. He will be charitable in his way, but it is in a little way; he praises the Mendicity Society, and reads Malthus on population. He is continually getting in scrapes with the hackney-coachmen and watermen. He calls a coach on a rainy day, and still he is wet through in order to make a good bargain with the coachman. During the whole extent and duration of his ride he is calculating how much it will cost him, and when he has paid his fare he wishes he could have his money back again and disgorge his ride. He cannot forgive himself for spending a needless sixpence; he repents of the extravagance with as much contrition as a man who has committed a moral enormity; he would almost inflict a penance on himself and scourge his own shoulders for his folly. He cannot bear to be cheated of a farthing. So he says, but he means that he never parts with a farthing but with reluctance. He has no notion of buying golden opinions. He has some little regard, however, to opinion, and wishes to have it without buying; if, however it must be bought, he will endeavour to buy it as cheaply as possible. He has an eye to quantity, not quality.