

time; and that's all! And the stout woodman laughed again till the hills rang. It was observed that from that day Dorf Jaystein never spoke but with reverence of the GREY MEN.

**ORIENTAL CAVALCADE.**—In one of my strolls through the city on horseback, I was nearly swept away by a species of simoon, caused by the progress, through the dusty town, of some important personage travelling in state. When overtaken by such a storm, it is a long time before you can recover either your sight or your position. The idle cause of all this tumult was reposing quietly in a shining, yellow palanquin, ticked out with gilt moulding in every possible direction. He was preceded by a large retinue of strange-looking beings, mounted on horses and dromedaries, and dressed in the most fantastic style. The animals were covered with the most fantastic housings, bound by gold lace, their bridles studded with bells; round their necks were collars of gold and silver, with little drops hanging to them, that kept time most admirably with their joggling measure. The camels were likewise adorned with bells. The riders were in large cloth dresses, caftans, reaching from their necks to their heels, open only on each side, from the hip downwards, for the convenience of sitting on horseback. These were fastened round the waist by a cotton shawl, either of white or green, in several folds. The common colours of the coats were red and yellow. A cimeter hung by their sides, and they bore matchlocks upon their right shoulders. A helmet, sometimes of steel, and sometimes of tin, pressed close to the head, in shape not unlike a dish cover; a pair of jack boots reaching to the knee, and fitting quite tight to the leg; the loose trousers gathered above, giving to the thigh the appearance of being the seat of a dropsy; and a pair of spurs, resembling two rusty weathercocks, completed the equipment of these splendid retainers. Then followed a mass of servants on foot, some naked, and some with their limbs bare and their bodies covered. They carried sheathed swords in their hands, and shouted out the titles of their lord, at frequent intervals, in their passage through the city. They were followed by the stud, each horse beautifully caparisoned and led by a groom; then came the elephants with their showy trappings, gilt howdahs, and umbrellas of gold and silver tissue. The palanquin, bearing the owner of these motely assemblages, at length appeared, and he was followed by a guard similar to the one that preceded him. At a distance these processions look very grand, particularly the elephants and their castles; but, when near, there is a great deal of tawdry and ill-sorted tinsel. The horsemen of the party add greatly to the interest of the scene, by exhibiting their evolutions upon the line of their route. Some tilt at each other with their spears; and others affect to pursue, with drawn swords, the runaways of the party, who, in their turn, chase their followers back into the ranks. In the management of the horse, and the use of their spear, the natives are, generally, very skilful; but some of the irregular cavalry of the country excel all belief in these exercises. They will gallop at a tent peg, stuck firmly into the ground, and divide it with the point of a spear, not abating their speed at the least; and I have seen a troop of men, one after another, break a bottle with a ball from their matchlocks, while flying past at a racing pace.—*Kinnear's Excursions in India.*

**MAHOGANY.**—Some pieces of mahogany furniture is now, probably, found in every house in England;—a hundred and eighty years ago the wood was unknown here. A physician of the name of Gibbons, who resided in London, received, in 1724, a present of some mahogany planks from his brother, a West India Captain. Dr. Gibbons was then building a house in King-street, Covent-Garden, and he desired the carpenter to work up the wood. The carpenter had no tool hard enough to touch it; so the planks were laid aside. The doctor's wife, after the house was finished, wanted a candle-box, and the mahogany was again thought of. A cabinet-maker of the name of Walloston was applied to, and he also complained that his tools were too soft for the purpose. But he persevered, and the candle box was at length completed—after a rude fashion no doubt. The candle box was so much admired, that the physician resolved to have a mahogany bureau; and when the bureau was finished, all the

people of fashion came to see it. The cabinet maker procured more planks, and made a fortune by the numerous customers he obtained. From that time the use of mahogany furniture went forward amongst the luxurious; and the drawers and bureaux of walnut tree and pear tree were gradually superseded in the houses of the rich. To shew the present extensive use of mahogany in this country, it may be sufficient to mention that in 1829 the importation of this wood amounted to 19,335 tons.—*Penny Magazine.*

**THE FELON'S MEDITATION.**

“It was not too much to believe that there were many whom the apprehension of dissection after death would prevent from the commission of a felony.”—*Lord Windford's Speech—Anatomy Bill.*

BEFORE I break into old Stubb's shop,  
And carry off whatever I lay my fist on,  
Will it not be a prudent course to stop,  
And all objections to the plan insist on?

What, if I'm taken?—there's an ugly job—  
I shall be hang'd, that's clear—an awkward thing,  
But if 'tis natural in a man to rob,  
'Tis natural enough that he should swing.

'Tis pleasant round the neck the knot to tie,  
'Tis pleasant, sure, to dangle in the air;  
But oh! if, when I have breathed my latest sigh,  
My lifeless limbs to Surgeons' Hall repair?

Tremendous thought! mere hanging is a joke,  
A hempen neckcloth to a willing throttle,  
But in these bowels a rude knife to poke,  
Or these intestines thrust into a bottle!

Oh! 'tis too much to hear—I can't endure it;  
The dreadful fancy has o'ercome me quite;  
My fingering folly, I must strive to cure it,  
And for this once be honest—Stubb's, good night.  
*Schoolmaster at Home.*

**ULTIMATE EFFECT OF STEAM CONVEYANCE.**—There seems little doubt that steam carriages and rail roads will, in less than fifty years, have entirely superseded the present means of conveyance. The obvious consequence is the greater rapidity of travelling, as well as greater security; but there are others of an important character. The diminution of the cost of carriage will equalize the value of land and its produce in every part of the country: no one will go into Wales for economy, for prices will be as low at Hampstead. The capital is considered to have a market extending in a circle round it, whose radius is from fifty to sixty miles. The circle will be multiplied in some directions sevenfold, so that the *Wen* will cease to be a curse. Treasures will start up under the feet of some men. A fishery that was not worth three pounds may become worth three thousand. In steam conveyance the safety of the passenger is the only limit of speed. What, then, will be the rate of travelling for a cargo that runs no risk? We may expect mackerel from Brighton in an hour; the cart returning with a load of sugar, salt, or slate, in the same time. Farmers, who are the most timid of good people, and about the most short-sighted, cry out that horses will cease: that is very doubtful—they may be in still greater demand: but should draught horses cease to be, what then? Fewer oats will be wanted, and more wheat may be grown for men, or more turnips for sheep.—*New Monthly Magazine*

**MARRIED AND SINGLE.**—A certain lodging house was very much infested with vermin. A gentleman who slept there one night told the landlady so in the morning, when she said, ‘La, sir, we haven't a single bug in the house.’ ‘No ma'am said he, ‘they are all married, and have large families.’

**READING.**—Reading is to the mind what food is to the body: it nourishes, refreshes, and invigorates it. Be careful therefore that all mental food be of good quality. Let nothing be received into the mind, but that which will produce such effects. Let every thing be well digested, and laid up in the storehouse of the memory, to be applied by the judgment, as occasion may require.

**FROM THE UNITED SERVICE JOURNAL.**

**TWO DAYS AT ST. HELENA.**  
BY AN OFFICER.

ABOUT four hours before daylight we were quite close to the southeast end of the Island of St. Helena, where stand the two high mountains called Diana's and Cuckoo Peak. It was not light enough to perceive more than their dark towering heads frowning grandly above us; the sides appeared rugged and precipitous to a degree. Just off the Point, and a little way from the land, are two small rocks, the one called the Pillar, or Isle of Hercules, and the other the Island of St. George. We had soon passed these

and at daylight were under Sugarloaf Hill; after a communication with a detached battery planted just beneath it, we continued towards the harbour. It would be impossible to convey by description an idea of the rugged exterior of this Island—a cluster of spiral mountains, some running to considerable heights, and all presenting towards the sea a rugged inaccessible front, rising nearly perpendicularly from it, with not the least appearance of verdure, tree, or habitation. As Napoleon must be foremost in the thoughts of all who now visit St. Helena, it would be no great effort of the imagination to fancy it the mighty mausoleum of a mighty hero, erected purposely in the waste of waters—another pyramid in another desert. As the day broke cloudily over it, and its peaks reared their dark heads like gigantic columns, the surf murmuring hoarsely at its bases, I could not view it with any other feelings. As the sun rose, we perceived Ladder Hill, and passing Muaden's Point, a projecting part of the rock, having a battery upon it commanding the landing-place, came suddenly in view of James Town, a lively-looking city, situated in a valley, and have the appearance from the roadstead of the fanciful arrangement of a Chinese picture. On the west, about 600 feet above it stands Ladder Hill; its summit is covered with houses, and its bosom with lines of extensive fortification, commanding most effectually all the approaches from seaward; a very excellent winding road leads from the city up to it. On the east side of the town is Rupert's Hill, unadorned and barren. I landed about ten o'clock, and after a walk of ten minutes, through a line of poplar trees, the outward side of the road being planted with cannon, I passed a draw-bridge, and entered a gate which opened into a neat square, the church nearly opposite, and forming the end of the principal street, which leads directly from the centre of the square. Opposite the church, is a very pretty garden, railed in, having for one side the back part of the castle—it runs to the base of Rupert's Hill, there are many rare and familiar plants on it. On the left hand of the gate on entering, is the castle, and on the right stands a hotel, the board of passengers arrive at the same period, these agents entertain them at their houses as boarders, at a charge, I believe of thirty shillings a day. Their houses are very good and comfortable—the servants are generally slaves; for though considerably ameliorated of late years, the custom is still in force here. I was struck with some advertisements on that subject. I observed through the city, for example,—‘Wanted, for sale, a girl or woman.’—‘Strayed away Mr. Scott's Margaret.’ I was doubtful whether this last alluded to an animal of the brute or human race; I was assured, however, that it was one of the latter that had strayed from her fold.

If appearance may be considered a criterion of health, St Helena must be considered one of the most healthy spots in the world. The male part of the population look hale and florid as English residents, and the soldiers, in looks, dress, and smartness, must vie with any corps in the United Kingdom; they receive a ration of salt meat, rice, vegetables, and Cape wine; spirits have long been discontinued, and indeed the duty is so high upon the better quality of spirits that it is never sold on the Island, and the inferior description is totally prohibited. This conduces amazingly to health. The children of the Europeans are the most rosy and pretty little creatures I have seen for years, and the females appeared to me all beautiful. I know not whether being so long unaccustomed to rosy cheeks, with nearly four months of no fair cheeks at all, may have contributed to throw additional charms over these St Helena Helens, but I am not willing to deduct one single beauty from them on that account, and must still think them what they really seemed to be. So notoriously healthy however, is this island, that out of 5000, the present population, the average deaths in the year may be safely rated under fifty, and most of them old people and infants who die everywhere.

The town is the quietest I have ever seen in my life; no carriages or bustle of any description; nothing broke its quiet during my stay but the church bells, and nothing varied its uniformity but the procession of a funeral, an old man who had died in his 75th year, a respectable inhabitant; he was attended by almost every body in the place, arranged two by two, decently dressed in mourning, the clergyman leading the party all through the town, from the church to the burial ground, its extreme length. This is the common custom, and befitting the isolated inhabitants of so remote a spot; every one must be deeply interested in the lot of his neighbor; they should feel but as one family. There was something beyond the common feeling for a departed brother in the mourning followers of the old man; three days before, he had lost a son, a farmer, who had not been long in the island, and who had succeeded to his father in the charge of the plantation. He went out in the morning to collect the eggs of the sea fowl, who lay them in the most precipitous parts of the rocks, they are esteemed as food resembling very much in the flavour the eggs of the plover. He ventured to a spot where he could proceed no farther—it was too narrow to turn—the footing was slight—he made an effort, and was dashed to pieces; he fell 600 feet without interruption. The accident was told to his old father, who just heard it and died. The son left a widow and three children, for whom a subscription list was filling up very quickly and liberally.

Towards the upper part the valley becomes much compressed. The houses, although occupied by the lower order, are very neat, and there appears not the least filth about them. Here are the barracks, the hospital, and a new public garden; a brewery also is established, in which beer is made from imported malt and hops; it is pretty good, and sold in the canteens. The dark people of the place are Africans, and their offspring by Europeans. A number of Chinese were engaged some years ago as labourers and mechanics, for a certain time; their mode of employment and