

The Gleaner

AND NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

VOLUME IV.]

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

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MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 23, 1832.

THE GLEANER.

MISCELLANEOUS EUROPEAN ITEMS.

THE EDDYSTONE LIGHT-HOUSE.—The care of this important beacon is committed to four men, two of whom take the charge of it by turns, and are relieved every six weeks. But as it often happens, especially in stormy weather, that boats cannot touch at the Eddystone for many months, a proper quantity of salt provisions is always laid up, as in a ship vitualled for a long voyage. In high winds such a briny atmosphere surrounds this gloomy solitude from the dashing of the waves, that a man exposed to it could not draw his breath. At these dreadful intervals the two forlorn inhabitants keep close quarters, and are obliged to live in darkness and stench, listening to the howling storm, excluded in every emergency from the least hope of assistance, without any earthly comfort but what is administered from their confidence in the strength of the building in which they are immured. Once on relieving this forlorn guard, one of the men was found dead, his companion choosing rather to shut himself up with a putrifying carcass, than by throwing it into the sea, to incur the suspicion of murder. In fine weather these wretched beings scramble a little about the edge of the rock, when the tide ebbs, and amuse themselves with fishing, which is the only employment they have, except the trimming of their nightly fires. Such total inaction and entire seclusion from all the joys and aids of society can only be endured by great religious philosophy, which we cannot imagine they feel; or by great stupidity, which in pity we must suppose they possess. Yet, though this wretched community is so small, we are assured it has sometimes been a scene of misanthropy. Instead of suffering the recollection of those distresses and dangers in which each is deserted by all but one to endear that one to him, we were informed the humours of each were so soured that they preyed both on themselves and on each other. If one sat above the other was commonly found below. Their meals, too, were solitary; each, like a brute, growling over his food alone. The emolument of this arduous post is twenty pounds a year, and provisions while on duty. The house to live in may be fairly thrown into the bargain. The whole together is, perhaps, one of the least eligible pieces of preferment in Britain; and yet, from a story which Mr. Smeaton relates it appears there are stations still more inelligible. A fellow who got a livelihood by making leather pipes for engines, grew tired of sitting constantly at work, and solicited a lighthouse man's place, which, as competitors are not numerous, he obtained. As the Eddystone boat was carrying him to take possession of his habitation, one of the boatmen asked him what could tempt him to give up a profitable business, to be shut up for months together in a pillar? "Why," said the man, "because I did not like confinement."

DESCENT OF THE BISHOPS.—The present amiable and respected Primate of all England chances to be the son of a poor country clergyman. The Bishop of London derives his descent from a schoolmaster in Norwich. The father of the Bishop of Durham was nothing more than a shopkeeper in London. The Bishops of Winchester and Chester boast no nobler lineage than belongs to the sons of an undermaster at Harrow. Bishop Burgess, as all the world knows, is the son of that illustrious citizen with whose excellent fish-sauce civilized men are generally well acquainted; while his lordship of Exeter dates his parentage through a long line of hereditary innkeepers in the town of Gloucester. Besides these, we have the Bishop of Bristol, the son of a silversmith in London; the Bishop of Bangor, the son of a schoolmaster in Wellingford; the Bishop of Llandaff, whose father was a country clergyman; with many others, whom it were superfluous to enumerate.

Lincoln, St. Asaph, Ely, Peterborough, Gloucester, all spring from the middling classes of Society.—*Fraser's Magazine.*

The *Saubian Mercury* has the following:—"On July 29, at night, Professor Harding, of Gottingen, discovered a new comet in the head of the Serpent, which is different from any of those whose appearance is announced for this year. It is without a train, and its light is feeble, but its nucleus is more brilliant. Its direction appears to be towards the south-east. At 54 minutes past 10 its right ascension was 235 deg. 52 min. 33 sec. and its northern declination 14 deg. 10 min. 24 sec. At the end of an hour and 25 min. the first had diminished 5 min. 44 sec., and the second 5 min 40 sec."

THE MARQUIS OF ANGLESEY.—Sixteen members of the Grand Jury, and fifteen magistrates of the Queen's county, have addressed the Lord Lieutenant on the result of the late special commission producing tranquility. His Excellency, in the course of his answer, said—"While the prevention and punishment of crime are committed peculiarly to some, it will not be forgotten that obedience to the existing laws, in the most comprehensive sense of the proposition, is the duty of every subject of the King. True and indisputable as this is, I have felt myself called on to make the observation, because I am persuaded that many persons have been deluded by the pernicious doctrine, of late so frequently inculcated, that it is compatible with law, by any contrivance, to evade the performance of the obligations it imposes, and frustrate the means which it provides for their enforcement. Such an opinion I cannot too strongly reprobate, nor shall any exertions be spared to bring to justice those who act upon it, by entering into illegal confederacies themselves, or (which is equally criminal) exciting others to do so."

The anxiety to get into Parliament has not been diminished by the reform act, more than 900 candidates having already solicited the votes of the new constituency.

It is apprehended, that the Duke of Sussex will be under the necessity of having recourse to the aid of one of our distinguished oculists early in the winter, his Royal Highness's sight being seriously impaired by a cataract that has been forming many months past.

It is stated, in some of the Irish papers, that it is intended by the Government there that the officers of the Commissariat, and other departments, shall attend the tithe sales, to purchase cattle, &c.

The Duke of Sussex has received an invitation from his Majesty, to pay him a visit of several days at Windsor. The cause of the coolness between the royal brothers is sufficiently known to the public, and contributed not a little to the distrust of his Majesty's intentions with regard to reform; which, however, events have proved to be groundless.

From documents submitted to Parliament, it appears, that the official value of the hemp, flax, and linen yarn imported into this country from foreign parts, in the year ending 5th January, 1831, was £2,494,171. More than three fourths of it was imported from Russia, and a large proportion of the residue from Prussia and the Netherlands. The quantity imported in future years, in consequence of the duty having been taken of, will be much increased.

The total reductions made by the present ministers in the army, navy, and ordinance establishments, amounts to £1,411,798. In the navy alone, the savings amounts to £964,200.

Mr Spring Rice mentioned that the Manchester railway had cut off twenty-eight coaches between Manchester and Liverpool, and £8,384 from the revenue.

The Cashmere shawl goat has been successfully introduced into England by C. T. Tower, Esq., of Weald Hall, Essex.

A Shields pilot, who had been drinking to excess, became profane in his language, and wished the cholern would come among them, as there were far too many pilots! Before he left the house, he was himself attacked, and died; his wife, child, and aunt also, fell victims to the disorder, and their dwelling was left without an inhabitant.

Of all the crops of the present abundant season, that of barley is reported to be the most prolific; in many instances the produce appearing to be double that of an average crop.

A munificent glazed garden is now erecting at Brighton, the dome of which will be of greater diameter than that of St. Peter, at Rome, and in height sufficient for the growth of some of the loftiest trees of the eastern world.

England and Weed feed 36,000,000 sheep, each of which yields a fleece of four pounds weight, or one hundred and forty-four millions of pounds, which, at 1s. per pound, is worth £7,400,000. These manufactured produce twenty millions of pounds, leaving a profit of upwards of twelve millions per annum to the various manufactures.

Colonel Fox, son of Lord Holland, and son-in-law to his Majesty, has been appointed Surveyor General of the Ordnance.

The amount of stamps paid on marine insurance in the year ending January 5, 1832, was, in London, £162,017. 1s. 3d.; in Great Britain, elsewhere, £53,806. 13s. 3d.; in Ireland, £2,669. 8s. 2d.

At a meeting of the Protestant Conservative Society, in Dublin, it was resolved, on the motion of the Rev. Mr. Boyton, that Mr O'Connell's last letter to the Dublin Political Union should be submitted to counsel, for the purpose of instituting a prosecution against the member for Kerry, for a conspiracy to resist the payment of tithes.

The extraordinary havoc which the epidemic has made, when it has reached certain lunatic asylums, is said to puzzle the faculty exceedingly. Here is no irregularity of living to entice its approach, or propagate its supposed contagion; what other predisposing causes there may be, none of our medical sages are said to have yet discovered.

Of the candidates already named in England and Scotland, 47 have never sat in the House of Commons: and of this number 10 are country gentlemen; 12 bankers, merchants, and persons engaged in trade; 6 literary men or men of science; and 16 lawyers.

Sir T. Denman, the Honorable Sir J. Abercrombie, Mr. Littleton, and Mr. Charles Wynne, are all, it is reported, candidates for the Speaker's chair. No person is better calculated for the office than Sir Thomas Denman; and, as the pension of £2,000 a year, recently granted to the Lord Chief Baron of Scotland on the abolition of his court in Scotland, would cease in the event of his being elected Speaker of the House of Commons, it is thought ministers will propose him.

Lady Noel Byron and her daughter, the Honourable Augusta Ada Noel Byron, have, for some time been living most retiredly at Brighton. The honorable Miss Byron, 'sole daughter' of the late highly-gifted nobleman of that title, is now in her 17th year, and a young lady of considerable personal beauty and accomplishments. She will inherit the large fortune of her grandfather, the late Sir Ralph Milbanke Noel, Bart.

The famous White Rock at Hastings long known as a remarkable projection from the land, is fast crumbling away, the tides having undermined it. From its present appearance, it is scarcely probable that it will stand over another winter.

Mr Cobbett having asserted, that a statement in the Hampshire Telegraph was 'a direct, unqualified lie,' the editor of that paper, in reply, says, 'We must answer the bone-picking drummer in his own style, and