

The following very whimsical description of a Sump, we copy from Blackwood's Magazine:

TICKLER.—James, what is a Sump?

SHEPHERD.—A Sump, Timothy, is a chiel to whom Nature has denied any considerable share o' understaunin', without hae'n close to mak him just altogether an indisputable idiot.

NORTH.—Hem! I've got a nasty cold.

SHEPHERD.—His pair pawrents haena the comfort o' being able, without frequent misgivings, to consider him a natural-born fool, for you see he can be taught the letters of the alphabet and even to read wee bits o' short words, no in write but in print, sae that he may in a limited sense be even something o' a scholar.

NORTH.—A booby of promise.

SHEPHERD.—Just sae, sir—I've ken't sumpas no that ill spellers. But then, you see sir, about some sax or seven years auld, the mind o' the sumpjie is seen to be stationary, and generally about twal it begins slowly to retrograwd—sae that about twenty, and at that age, if you please sir, we shall consider him, he has vera little mair sense nor a sookin' babby. \* \* \* Sumpas are aye fattish—wi' roon' legs like women—generally wi' rad and white complexions—though I've kent them black-a-vised, and no ill-lookin' were it not for a want o' something you canna at first sight weel tell what, till you find by degrees that it's a want o' every thing—a want o' expression, a want o' air, a want o' manner, a want o' smeddum, a want o' vigour, a want o' sense, a want o' feelin'—in short, a want o' sowle—a deficit which nae painstaking in education can ever supply—and then, oh! oh! but they're douce, douce, douce—obstinate than either pigs or cuddies, and waur to drive along the high road of life. For, by tyin' a string to the hind leg o' a grumphy, and keepin' jerk jerkin' him back, you can wile him forrits by fits and starts, and the mair contumacious cuddy you can transplant at last, by pour, pouring upon his hurdies the oil of hazel; but neither by pregin' nor prayin', by reason nor by rung, when the fit's on him frae his position may mortal man howp to move a sump.

NORTH.—Too true. I can answer for the animal.

SHEPHERD.—Sometimes he'll stau for hours in the rain, though he has gotten the rheumatics, rather than come into the house, just because his wife has sent out aye of the weans to ca' in his father at a sulky juncture—and in the tantrums he'll pretend no, to hear the dinner-bell, though even so hungry; and if a country squire, which he often is, hides himself somewhere among the shrubs in the policy.

NORTH.—Covering himself with laurel.

Shepherd.—Then, oh! but the sump is selfish—selfish. What a rage he flees intil beggars! His charity never gangs farther than saying he's sorry he happens no to hae a bawbee in his pocket. When aye of his weans at tea-time asks for a lump of sugar, he either refuses it, or selects the weest bit in the bowl—let takes care to steal a gey big piece for himself, for he is awfu' fond of sweet things, and dooks his butter and bread deep into the carvey. He is often in the press—

NORTH.—What an author!

Shepherd.—In the dining-room press, stealing jam, and after hickin' wi' his tongue the thin paper on the taps of jelly cans—and sometimes observed by the lad or lass coming in to mend the fire, in a great hurry secreting tarts in the pouches of his breeks, or leaving them in his alarm of detection half-eaten on the shelves, and ready to accuse the mice of the robbery.

NORTH.—What are his politics?

Shepherd.—You surely needna ask that sir. He belongs to the Cheese-paring and Candle-end Saeval School—is a follower of Josey Hume—and aye ready to vote for retrenchment.

NORTH.—His religion?

Shepherd.—Consists solely in fear of the deevil, whom in childhood the sump saw in a woodcut—and never since went to bed without saying his prayers, to escape a charge of hornin'.

The following are the concluding remarks of a long article in Blackwood's Magazine for January, entitled—  
"REMOTE CAUSES OF THE REFORM PASSION."

There are twenty of the poor who can now read, for one who could do so formerly; and all the manufactur'g towns of Britain have added fifty, many one hundred per cent, to their numbers; during the last ten years. These changes co-existing in the lower classes of society, with the wharp towards error which the Whig party had acquired during the revolutionary contest, have combined to produce the present extraordinary and anomalous state of public thought. When the vast and democratical bodies in the manufacturing towns were awakened into political life, and had their passions turned by the power of reading into the arena of domestic strife, the newspapers soon discovered that their principal circulation was to be looked for in these great emporiums of the passions; and that nothing was so acceptable to them as incessant abuse of their superiors. 'Egestas cupida navorum rerum,' speedily asserted its fatal ascendancy in the commonwealth; every thing which was sacred or venerable, sanctified by usage, or recommended by experience, speedily became the object of attack to the shafts of ridicule and the artillery of sophistry; and political ambition, anxious to triumph by such instruments, soon discovered that no method could be relied on for success, but extravagance in the same inflammatory principles, and increase in the same popular flattery. Hence the fatal rapidity with which revolutionary principles have spread of late years; the utter perversion of thought in a large portion of the people on all political subjects; the abhorrence to every thing established; the passion for innovation, and the universal growth of irreligious principle, and moral depravity, in the population of all the great cities of the empire.

As long as these principles were confined only to speculative men, the teachers of youth, or the popular leaders, they did no immediate mischief, and were instrumental only in preparing the downfall of established institutions, by sapping the foundations in general opinion on which they rested; but when they began to be carried into effect by legislation, they have invariably produced, or threatened, the most disastrous effects. Each successive accession of the Whig party to power, accordingly, for the last half century, has been marked by the immediate commencement of some perilous measure, and the nation has on every such occasion narrowly escaped shipwreck from their enormous innovations. Mr. Fox, in 1783, instantly prepared his India Bill, which, if it had not been defeated by the firmness of the House of Peers,

would, by vesting the whole patronage of India in the hands of the Crown, have long ago subverted in the balance of the constitution, and destroyed the liberties of the people by the influence of Eastern corruption. No sooner were they installed in power in 1807, than they set about forcing Catholic emancipation at once on the sovereign and the people—a measure which has well-nigh overthrown the equipoise of the constitution, even at a subsequent period; and which, if persisted in at that time, would unquestionably have led to a civil convulsion. No sooner had they got possession of the reins in 1830, than they set on foot measures of finance, which threatened ruin to the great commercial and colonial interests of the empire; and when defeated in that, united all their strength to subvert the ancient constitution of the empire.

But it is in the very magnitude of these changes, and the vital interests which they every where affect, that the best security against their ultimate success is to be found. All the great interests of the empire—our agriculture, our colonies, our shipping, our commerce, are threatened by these perilous innovations. No thing but the way in which, for a quarter of a century, they have deluged the country with sophistical principles, could have enabled the authors of these changes to remain a week at the head of affairs: they are borne forward merely on the stream of error and passion which they originally formed, and have now urged into a torrent. But the practical effect of these ruinous innovations must, in the end, open men's eyes to the delusion on which they are founded, and convince those whose understandings have become so warped as to be inaccessible to every other species of persuasion. A ready every branch of industry—every man who lives by his labour in the country, is suffering from their innovations. If fatal measures can be retarded a little longer, the tide must set in the other direction.

Still greater hope is to be derived from the reaction of the genius and wisdom, against violence and ignorance, which is now so powerfully taking place, and promises soon to purify the streams of thought of all the dross and poison with which they have so long been polluted. It is this under current perpetually flowing, which corrects the errors of prevailing institutions, and ultimately comes to influence the measures of government, by swaying the opinions of those who direct it. Already the talents of the conservative party have been splendidly drawn forth; already have the youth of England docked to the side of truth at both universities, and the cause of order triumphed in every field where it has been brought to combat the principle of misrule. In the solitude of thought, the drops of genius are beginning to fall from their crystal cells, and the fountains of eloquence to pour forth their mighty streams which, unlocked in a moment of peril and alarm, are destined to vivify and improve mankind through every succeeding age. It is in such contemplation of the healing powers of Nature, that men, in arduous times, are best fitted to discharge their social duties; and the sufferings are not to be regretted which awaken men to noble feelings, and amidst the passions which distract, point to the wisdom which finally governs the world.

## EUROPE.

LONDON, March 8.—We have received the whole of the Paris Papers of Tuesday, and Gazette de France of yesterday. They are filled principally with speculations on the occupation of Ancona by the French Troops—some of them calculating on the arising of a misunderstanding between France and Austria respecting it. In this view, however, the public did not concur.—The Funds rose more than a quarter per cent. on Tuesday. The Minister of Finance had applied to the Chamber of Deputies for a new vote of credit for three months.

The second Division of the Portuguese Squadron sailed from Belleisle for the Azores on the 28th ultimo.

Holland continues to make active preparations for war.

One Hundred Thousand Pounds have been voted in the House of Commons, for the relief of the Sufferers at Barbados.

Capt. Warrington, found guilty and sentenced to be cashiered, has been allowed by his Majesty to sell his Commission.

MARCH 9.—Important despatches were received yesterday from the Russian Minister, on a special embassy to the Hague, Count Orloff. They confirm our previous advices, that difficulties had arisen which protracted his Excellency's stay at the seat of the Dutch Government.

A Conference was held yesterday afternoon at the Foreign Office, in consequence of the above despatches, as also others from Sir C. Bagot, for the British Government. The several foreign Ambassadors assembled at three o'clock, and continued in deliberation until seven o'clock in the evening.

The question of Irish Tithes occupied the attention of both Houses last night. The debates will be read with great interest, especially that which took place in the House of Lords; where the Bishops themselves are in favour of the course which has been taken by his Majesty's Ministers.

PROGRESS OF THE CHOLERA.—GLASGOW AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.—Glasgow March 6.—Remaining at last report, 26; new cases 9, Died 3; recovered 5;

remaining 21. Total cases from commencement, 230. Total deaths, 103. Total cures, 100.—Govan.—The Cholera broke out in this village on Thursday. Five cases have occurred, two of which proved almost instantly fatal.—Partrick.—Two fatal cases occurred here on Sunday, making a total of 11 deaths since the commencement. There have been no new cases, and no patients are now under treatment.—Greenock, March 5.—There have been several fatal cases in this town.—Cases remaining 5.—Paisley, March 5. The reports for the last two daysshow a considerable increase of new cases and deaths. The disease is now spread over the whole of the town. Total cases since commencement, 154; Dead, 82; Recovered, 48; remaining, 24.—Newcastle, &c.—The disease still lingers in Newcastle and its neighbourhood, but the cases are so few as to excite little or no alarm. Only two cases remain under treatment, and the reports from the neighbourhood are made only once a week. At North Shields, it is rapidly declining.

LONDON, March 11.—The important manifesto of the ministerial policy of France, with regard to Italy in particular; the 'untoward' use of 'military means' there; the protest of the Pope, and its probable effect on European politics; the visit of Count Orloff to the Hague, and his expected arrival in London; together with the revolt of the blacks in Jamaica and of the whites in St. Lucia, redeem our foreign department from the barrenness by which it has lately been distinguished. France stands alone in Europe as an example of legislation following in the wake of popular discontent; and it is well observed by M. Perrier, that England follows in the wake of France. We give details elsewhere, to which we refer our readers.

The important news of this morning is from France. Foreign affairs have been debated for some days in the Chamber of Deputies, and the minister is called to his defence with regard to Belgium, Poland and Italy. The latter is the point of immediate interest. The attack of opposition being led by General Lamarque, in a speech of fire towards the *juste milieu*, and of ice towards the friendship of England. M. Theiers replied, in a very animated strain, in defence of ministers. M. de Thouvenel renewed the attack, and Casimir Perier came to the rescue. Peace was his object for peace was the interest of France; liberty was his object, for liberty was the glory of France; order was his object for that was necessary to France. The friendship of England was his glory, for that made France independent of the world. On these principles the interference with Belgium, the non-interference with Poland, and the expedition to Ancona, were easily explained, and were consistent with each other. True, the absence of the commanding officer and the temerity of his subordinate, had complexed the affair. True, the Pope protested and Austria remonstrated, but the Pope had neglected to perform his promises to the legations, and France would see them performed. Austria had no right alone to occupy with arms a soil for which all the other persons were mediating. France must save the Pope from the possible ambition of Austria; and the steps taken were, notwithstanding all this, taken with the perfect understanding of the five powers and consent of Austria. The English government proceeded in the path which the revolution of 1830, properly understood, pointed out, and while freedom held the helm in England, and France sailed with her, all the world could not dissolve the union, and France had nothing to fear. The protest of the Pope has, notwithstanding, made a strong sensation in Paris, and nobody professes to understand the principle of the forcible possession of Ancona, even after the explanation of M. Perier. He assures us, however, that peace will not be disturbed in consequence.

The Reform Bill will pass through a second reading in the House of Lords. Last week we said that from twelve to fifteen new Peers would be necessary to carry it. We now say, that by an arrangement they are understood to have gone round or do not intend to vote against it.

Cholera Return.—London—to this date, cases 441, deaths, 234.

The Lord Chancellor has announced his intention of founding a legislative measure on the report of the law commissioners, by which imprisonment for debt will be abrogated—except under circumstances where impris-