

# THE GLEANER

AND

## NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

VOLUME III.]

"Nec araneorum sane tearus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt nec noster vitior quia ex alienis libamus ul' apes."

[No. 51.]

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 28, 1832.

### THE GLEANER.

MISCELLANEOUS EUROPEAN ITEMS.

**HINDOO CHURCH.**—His Majesty's Privy Council is still engaged in an inquiry as to the right of the local government of India to interfere with the religious rite of Suttee, which comes before them in the shape of an appeal from a number of Hindoos against a regulation made by Lord W. Bentinck, declaring the practice of the Suttee illegal, and punishable by the criminal courts. Dr. Lushington argued the case on behalf of the appellants, and showed, from the concurrent testimony of the most celebrated Pundits, that the Suttee was an essential part of the Hindoo religion: He quoted the following passage from the text of Angiras, said to be of the highest authority:—

"That woman, who, on the death of her husband, ascends the same burning pile with him, is exalted to heaven, as equal in virtue to Arundhati. She who follows her husband to another world, shall dwell in a region of joy for so many years as there are hairs on the human body, or thirty-five millions. As a serpent-catcher forcibly draws a snake from his hole, thus drawing her lord from a region of torment, she enjoys delight together with him. The woman who follows her husband to the pile, expiates the sins of three generations on the paternal and maternal side of that family to which she was given while a virgin. There having the best of husbands, herself the best of women, enjoying the best delights, she partakes of bliss with her husband, in a celestial abode, as long as fourteen Indras reign. Even though the man had slain a priest, or returned evil for good, or killed an intimate friend, the woman expiates those crimes; this has been declared by Angiras. No other effectual duty is known for a virtuous woman, at any time after the death of their lords, except casting themselves into the same fire. As long as a woman, in her successive transmigrations, shall decline burning herself, like a faithful wife, on the same fire with her deceased lord, so long shall she be not exempted from springing again to life in the body of some female animal. When their lords have departed at the fated time of attaining heaven, no other way but entering the same fire is known for woman whose virtuous conduct and whose thoughts have been devoted to their husbands, and who fear the dangers of separation."

The learned civilian went on to argue, that the government of this country was pledged to preserve inviolate the religion, laws, and customs of the Hindoos, and that the regulation now appealed against was a direct infringement of that sacred pledge. The further hearing was adjourned till Saturday last, when counsel were to be heard on behalf of the East India Company. The Rajah Rammohun Roy was present during the argument.

The Lords of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council held a meeting at eleven o'clock, on Saturday morning, at the Council Chamber, Whitehall, to resume the hearing of the appeal. Their Lordships were a considerable time in deliberation, and will submit the result to his Majesty in Council for his approbation.

**A DOG ATTACKED BY CHOLERA.**—We have learned from an authentic source that a singular instance of the spreading of this fatal malady to the canine race has just occurred in the vicinity of the cholera hospital in Townsend-street, Dublin. Whether the animal lay in the bed of any deceased inmate of that place, (a conjecture not improbable,) or how the distemper was contracted, is not positively known.—The following particulars have reached us:—The animal was a large mastiff; he was attacked in the street, about one hun-

dred yards from the Depot gate. He whirled about, as if shot, and became attacked with violent spasms; his frothy tongue lolled out; two medical gentlemen examined the animal, and instantly pronounced the case to be one of decided Indian spasmodic cholera. They directed him to be shot by a publican named Jeff, who refused to destroy the property of any one, without the consent of the owner. A labouring man, however, not so scrupulous, went for a pistol, intending to destroy him; before he returned, collapse had taken place. The dog died within half an hour after he was attacked. A physician who saw the body, declared it was capable of imparting greater infection than the dead bodies of twenty human beings. The dog was accordingly instantly interred.—*Dublin Times.*

**UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN.**—The unemployed workmen of Paisley had several meetings last week, and have petitioned for assistance. A great number have been idle from four to six weeks, and some of them with families have suffered great privation. On Wednesday 47 of the most urgent cases received 1s. each, and on Thursday night, 200 were served with 6d. each, as a temporary relief. A petition was given in to the committee of supply on Friday night, craving aid, and stating that they are willing to work for it. The total number of weavers actually idle, amounts to 899. We learn that there are eighty Dyers, and a great number of Flower-lashers out of employment.—*Glasgow paper.*

**ADVANCE OF WAGES.**—It is with extreme delight that we have this week to announce a material improvement in weaver's wages. Owing to the happy settlement of the Reform Bill, and the consequent return of confidence in the market, the demand for piece goods is very great, and the consequence has been, as we have stated, an advance in the rate of wages. Yarns have also risen from a half penny to a penny a pound.—*Blackburn Gazette.* [Several of the Yorkshire manufacturers have also advanced the wages of their workmen.]

The accounts of the crops from all parts of the country concur in affording the promise of a most abundant harvest. In Ireland this is particularly the case; corn of every description presenting the most rich and luxuriant appearance.—*Liverpool Courier.*

The weather in the North Highlands and Islands is very favourable, and the crops look well. The poor Highlanders, who suffered so much last summer for want of food, are better off this year, as they have potatoes and meal in abundance. Potatoes in Skye and the other Islands are at present unusually cheap.

The clergy of Sweden have petitioned the Government to be authorised to take tithe off potatoes; but as potatoes were unknown in feudal times, their application has been refused, as having no foundation in history.

Governments are generally about twenty years behind the intellect of their time. In legislation, they are like parents quarrelling what kind of frock the boy shall wear, who in the meantime grows up to manhood, and won't wear any frock at all.—*Monthly Magazine.*

**EMIGRATION.**—The Earl of Stirling, with the view of fulfilling the intentions of the original charters granting to his ancestor (the first Earl) the provinces of Nova Scotia, Canada, and other territorial possessions in North America, intends to make over an allotment of 48,000 acres of the waste and unlocated lands of Lower Canada or New Brunswick, to twenty Trustees, for the use of the poor of Great Britain, to be located thereon, in such proportions as the Trustees shall deem most expedient and beneficial to the poor.—*Court Journal.*—[Would it not be as well for the

Earl of Stirling, first to obtain possession of the land which he is so liberal in allotting to others?]

A Paris paper contains the following extract of a letter from Vienna:—

"Apropos of Napoleon. His unfortunate son is certainly dying. Malpelli, his physician, had for some time spoken of him in such a manner as to leave very little hope—but that little has now vanished. The Duke of Reichstadt's disorder is a pulmonary phthisis, which slowly destroys him. The poor young man said a few days since, 'So young, is there no remedy? My birth and my death then will be the only point of remembrance.' Some time since his mother sent to him the superb cradle that was given at his birth by the city of Paris. He deposited it in the Imperial Treasury, and recalling the circumstance to his mind a few days since, he said, 'My tomb will be near my cradle.' I was at Paris at the time of his birth, and was present at the grand review which Napoleon had upon the occasion, in order to present to the troops the infant already decorated with a crown. Who would then have anticipated that, proscribed like him through civil discords, I should see him die at Vienna? His mother is ill at a distance from him. His loss will be much regretted; he is good and kind hearted, as well as clever and handsome. The sacrament is to be administered to him this morning. What a mournful destiny is his!"

**THE FOURTH ESTATE.**—It has been jocularly observed that the Legislature, as at present constituted, consists not of King, Lords, and Commons, as heretofore, but of King, Lords, Commons, and Reporters, in Parliament assembled; but, judging from a number of circumstances which have fallen under our notice, we are inclined to think that the intended joke amounts merely to the enunciation of an almost literal fact. A "fourth estate" has imperceptibly grown up; while, owing, perhaps to the *res duræ, ac regni novitas*, it has proved itself the most capricious and arbitrary of the whole; so much so, indeed, that unless means be speedily taken to check its insolence, by breaking upon the monopoly it enjoys under the blessed stamp laws, the reputation of public men, and the knowledge of public measures will, in a great measure, depend on a little irresponsible knot or junto of persons in the gallery. Of the general conduct of Reporters we say nothing; but their manner of acting with reference to Scottish Members is utterly disgraceful to them as men affecting liberal sentiments and opinions, as well as professing some respect for justice and fair play. They are accustomed, in the exercise of their sovereign pleasure, to amuse, that the concerns of this ancient kingdom possess no importance whatever; and accordingly they have ceased, by common consent, to give almost any report, or even to take any notice whatever of discussions affecting our most vital interests. Of this conspiracy, on the part of the reporters we have it in our power to produce most striking evidence. For nearly a month, while the Scotch Reform Bill was in progress through the Commons, the Lord Advocate spoke on an average two hours each night it was under discussion, and very frequently (as we have learned from persons who heard him) with even more than his accustomed readiness, felicity, eloquence, and wit; yet all this has utterly perished, and, after a laborious search, we have been unable to find three intelligible sentences reported consecutively of any thing that fell from the lips of the great living master of language, and the *facultas eloquii*. Now, this is really too bad, nay utterly intolerable; and we are surprised that some means are not taken to correct an evil which, at a time like the present, is peculiarly malignant in its effects on the character of public men. While night after night the Lord Advocate was light-