

mon the wise, who trifled away as much wisdom as any man made use of the immortal sentence,—"Vanity of vanities, all is vanity," we are persuaded he only alluded to the trifling nature of all the avocations which we mortals, in our vain glory, think so important. Sir Isaac Newton must have seen and felt, that all his discoveries were but trifles, when he compared himself to a little wanton boy who had been idly picking up pebbles by the sea shore, while the great ocean of truth lay unexplored before him.

Very serious matters sometimes get the name of trifles. Mr. P. was once engaged to dine at a party with the notorious Fitzgerald: the latter did not appear. Mr. P., meeting him the next day, inquired the reason? "I had a TRIFLING affair with a friend," replied the duellist. "Indeed! what was the cause?" "Oh, the idiot took the liberty of troubling me for a TRIFLE, won at the gaming-table,—four hundred pounds or so." "Well, and what was the result?" "Oh, I shot him, that's all!"

In conclusion, our readers will readily excuse our want of propriety on so light a subject, when they remember, that we present it to them merely as a trifle.

**FEMALE GOSSIPS.**—Gossip of all kinds is equally idle and frivolous. Whether it be the scandal of a country town, or of the great world, it is equally idle and equally wrong; and it is a disgrace to the gentler sex, that they are so universally charged with the propensity. Not but that the stigma is both too generally and too exclusively applied; for there are many women who by no means deserve it, and there are many men who do. And if the majority still be on the side of female delinquents, we must make some allowance for their contracted sphere, and the want of important occupation. True, every woman may find plenty to do, and every woman may do good,—and employment is the best prescription for a restless tongue. But education and habit are generally in default. There are many who are by no means disinclined from useful effort, but who do not know how to commence it; and who, if they are now little better than tattlers or busy bodies, might have been earlier led to devote their time to improving occupation and active duty. Religious gossip is as bad as any other. It can be by no means edifying to be perpetually discussing the spiritual state of others, and giving our opinion on their progress. We can scarcely indulge in any such comments without being, in some degree, censorious; and it would always do us much more good, quietly to examine our own hearts, than to interfere with the conduct or consciences of those around us. Yet this is a propensity in which it must be allowed, we are all occasionally apt to indulge; and if some are intolerant to every aberration from their standard of duty, others are equally tenacious of what they imagine decorum. They are the first to note indiscretions of every kind, to surmise what is wrong and predict what is unhappy. They are the Cassandra of society; and if their conversation is ever liked, it is a justification of the remark, that there is something not disagreeable in hearing of the misfortunes of our best friends. There are, however, comparatively few women who deserve such a reproach. Even those who are too fond of discussing their neighbours, indulge their propensity, in general, with no ill intent. They do so often, from the mere love of talking, and because, when they have exhausted the weather and the fashions, they are somewhat at a loss for subjects. But women should endeavour to raise their minds above the trifles that too often engross them. They should consider that intellectual elevation is the great end of attainment; for it is not the being a little more accomplished than their grandmothers that will impart to them real superiority. They may multiply acquirements, and yet be no wiser than if their only book had been the Spectator, and their only study the science of confessions. The great end of knowledge is to think; and of this women are quite capable. They are capable of moral and intellectual efforts; and the more they improve their intellectual faculties, the more useful will they be, and the higher will they rise in the social scale. And they will to, be less liable to go wrong. For they will have that within them, which will be a corrective to their faults, and a stimulus to their virtues. Such women, though they may have their share of trial, will bear up against misfortune, and will animate and bless others. And their religion will be so sound and genuine, that it will be their refuge in every distress, the spring of their comfort, and the ground of their hope; it will be liable neither to decline nor change, but will prove a never-failing source of comfort in all the vicissitudes of life.—*Mrs Sandford's Woman in her Social and Domestic Character.*

**A TIGER HUNT.**—After breakfast a party of five started in gigs, and drove to the village, where we found immense quantities of game, wild hogs, hogsdeer, spotted deer, and the nil-ghee, literally, the blue cow. I also saw here, for the first time, the jungle fowl or wild poultry, in appearance something between the game cock and the bantam. We, however, strictly abstained from firing, reserving our whole battery for the nobler game, the tiger. It was, perhaps, fortunate we did not find one in the thick part of the forest, as the

trees were so close set, and so interwoven with thorns and parasite plants, that the elephants were often obliged to clear themselves a passage by their own pioneering exertions. It is curious, on these occasions, to see the enormous trees these animals will overthrow. On a word from the mahout, they place their foreheads against the obnoxious plant, twisting their trunk round it, and gradually bending it towards the ground until they can place a foot upon it; this done, down comes the tree with crashing stem and upturned roots. The elephant must be well educated to accomplish the gentlemanlike manner, that is, without roaring sulkily, or shaking his master by too violent exertions. On clearing the wood we entered an open space of marshy grass, not three feet high; a large herd of cattle were feeding there, and the herdsman was sitting, singing under a bush; when, just as the former began to move before us, up sprang the very tiger to whom our visit was intended, and cantered off across a bare plane, dotted with small patches of bush jungle. He took the open country in a style which would more have become a fox than a tiger, who is expected by his pursuers to fight, and not to run; and as he was flushed on the flank of the line, only one bullet was fired at him ere he cleared the thick grass. He was unhurt, and we pursued him at full speed. Twice he threw us out by stopping short in small strips of jungle, and then heading back after we had passed; and he had given us a very fast burst of about two miles, when Colonel Arnold, who led the field, at last reached him with a capital shot, his elephant being in full career. As soon as he felt himself wounded, the tiger crept into a close thicket of trees and bushes, and crouched. The two leading sportsmen overran the spot where he lay, and, as I came up, I saw him through an aperture, rising to attempt a charge. My mahout had just before, in the heat of the chase, dropped his ankoo (an iron goad to drive the elephant) which I had refused to allow him to recover; and the elephant being notoriously savage, and further irritated by the goading he had undergone, became consequently unmanageable; he appeared to see the tiger as soon as myself, and I had only time to fire one shot, when he suddenly rushed, with the greatest fury, into the thicket and, falling upon his knees, nailed the tiger with his tusks to the ground. Such was the violence of the shock that my servant, who sat behind in the kawas, was thrown out, and one of my guns went overboard. The struggles of my elephant to crush his still resisting foe, who had fixed one paw on his eye, were so energetic, that I was obliged to hold on with all my strength, to keep myself in the howdah. The second barrel, too, of the gun which I still retained in my hand went off in the scuffle, the ball passing close to the mahout's ear, whose situation, poor fellow, was any thing but enviable. As soon as my elephant was prevailed upon to leave the kill in part to the sportsmen, they gave the roughly used tiger the coup de grace.—*Captain Mundy's Pen and Pencil Sketches of India.*

#### THE WIDOW.

Thou art indeed a Widow! thou hast felt  
The keenest anguish sorrow can bestow,  
The hardest trial Providence hath dealt,  
Where woman is the victim of the blow;  
And couldst thou be the breast that did not melt  
For thy last comforts—thy unceasing woe—  
Thy forgotten vows—thy trembling fears—  
Thy cherish'd love, unquench'd by bitter tears.

Thy youth has lost its bloom, and that wan cheek,  
O'er which the hectic flush so lightly plays,  
How plainly does it now of misery speak,  
And sleepless nights, and dark despairing days!  
Yet its expression gentler is, and meek;  
And soft and patient, are thy sad eyes' rays,  
For they have gaz'd, amid thy soul's long strife;  
Upon the page of hope—the Book of Life.

Peace to thee, lovely one—for such thou art,  
Despite thy shrinking form and fading face,  
And little could I prize the grovelling heart,  
That could not in thy touching beauty trace  
A charm more dear than joy could e'er impart,  
With all her dimpled smiles, and buoyant grace.  
Where is the man who would not wish to prove  
A tenderness so true—so fond a love?

Painter of this fair form so sweetly mild  
I will not praise thee—'tis enough to tell,  
Thy art my inmost feelings hath beguiled,  
And bade remember'd agony to swell  
A bosom whereon many years have piled  
The work of time, the boon of faith—farewell!  
Oh! still as now thy powers to virtue give,  
And Genius consecrate, that worth may live.

B. HOFLAND.

**SINGULAR ETIQUETTE.**—Such is the etiquette at Sena, that the longer a stranger is compelled to wait to be introduced, the greater is the honor done him, and the higher is the rank of that person supposed to be, who exacts this unpleasant delay.—*The Landers' Travels in Africa.*

#### POLITICAL EXTRACTS. SPIRIT OF THE BRITISH JOURNALS.

LONDON MORNING HERALD.

**THE REVENUE.**—The revenue derived from the Excise is not a good criterion of the state of comfort, or otherwise, of the people. Whether it be, or be not a just criterion of their condition, depends altogether, or in a principal degree, if not wholly, upon the source whence the money is obtained for paying for the consumable excised articles. If that source should be in the breaking down of the capital of the country, and not in the profits of stock, any conclusion deduced from consumption would be monstrously fallacious. If an iron-master employed a thousand workmen in the years 1823 and 1824, just when the tide of prosperity was setting in favour of all who were employing labour by their capital, excised commodities would be consumed wholly by those 1,000 workmen out of the profits of stock. Labourers were then employed not at very high wages, because the revived improvement had not been continued long enough to advance the rate of wages. The medium state between extreme depression and extreme elevation and prosperity is that which statesmen have selected as the most satisfactory, because it affords the best chance of moderate prosperity being regular and durable. England was in that state in the beginning of 1814, and the Excise revenue would, at that period, be a fair and proper criterion of the state of the great mass of the community. But suppose the same iron master to have broken into new mines or into new ground into the old mines, and to have increased his workmen 1,500 in the year 1825, at advanced wages, and then to have been suddenly cut short in his career by the panic at the close of that year, what will he do under these circumstances? and what will be the condition of his workmen and of the Excise Revenue? The iron-master has the same rents and royalties to pay, and the same capital, in expensive machinery to uphold as he had in the prosperity of 1825. He will not close his works, because that would be to plunge into ruin without the hope of redemption; nearly his whole fortune may be sunk in his mines and machinery; and these things, of immense cost, would be altogether valueless if no workmen were employed upon them. Then this he would do—he would continue to pay his rents and royalties, and uphold his machinery; he would reduce his workmen from 1,500 to 1,200; and make them produce as much iron as the larger number; and, perhaps, take a little—it could only be a little—from the rate of wages paid in 1823 & 24. These 1,200 workmen would, of course, consume more articles yielding revenue to the Excise than the 1,000 workmen consumed in 1823, but the source whence they derived the power to consume them may, in this case, be in the money borrowed on mortgage to preserve the mines and the machinery from dilapidation and decay. This is the true explanation of the vaunted evidence of the Excise revenue being a criterion of comfort, when it does not fall off from preceding periods. This proof, which is repeated by every pragmatical economist as an undisputed matter, may turn out to be a most fallacious and dangerous delusion. It is at present, and has been for a long period, the breaking down of capital which gives the power to consume articles loaded with heavy duties: and this our Statesman will discover when some terrible storm has arisen in the moral world to dispel the clouds in which they are enveloped.—*July 10.*

LONDON MORNING CHRONICLE.

However objectionable it may be to demand pledges at all times from representatives, yet, as a Parliament now continues for 7 years, and as the people are imperfectly acquainted with the class from which they take their representatives, and as many of that class entertain sentiments adverse to the welfare of the people on many subjects which must come before the next Parliament, they will do well to tie their representatives down as tightly as possible on all these questions.—*July 10.*

GREENOCK ADVERTISER.

Seven years is esteemed by almost every class of Reformers as too long a period for any representative to be without direct responsibility to his constituents. Both the candidates for Greenock have expressed themselves favourable to shortening the duration of Parliament; but it has been suggested that, in addition