

consequences of all this; as soon as your people are instructed, some daring spirits will venture to criticise the proceedings of your favorites, of those who enjoy your confidence, and withal of me, even of me myself!" "I understand you," said the Caliph, and left the room. —*Ivan Vegeghan.*

FIRST JOINING THE ARMY.—On the 20th of July we descended into the valley, and, at the edge of a wood, awaited the coming of the division, from an advanced camp, on their way to Castello de Vida. Every eye was on the stretch; and in the distance, we descried a cloud of dust rolling towards us, the bright sparkling rays of the sun-beams playing on the soldiers' breast-plates; when suddenly the leading regiment of the light division burst forth; their bronzed countenances and their light knapsacks, and their order of march, all united to inspire a conviction, that their early discipline had not only been maintained amidst privations, battles, and camps, but had become natured by experience. They had traversed mountains and forded rivers; the grim and icy hand of death had grasped many in the unhealthy marshes of Alentejo, and with sure effect had scattered balls amidst their ranks without distinction; yet the remainder of these veterans were still bent onwards, to gather fresh laurels in the rugged and uncertain paths of fortune. Seven light regiments of infantry and riflemen defiled before us with their thread-bare jackets, their brawny necks loosened from their stocks, their wide and patched trousers of various colors, and brown-barrelled arms slung over their shoulders, or carelessly held in their hands, whilst a joyous buzz ran through the cross-belted ranks, as their soldier-like faces glanced towards us to greet many of their old comrades now about to join in their arduous toils after long separation. A cloud of dust alone marked their further progress as they receded from their view. Following in succession, we brought up the rear. At the expiration of an hour's march we entered a wood, formed column, called the roll, and the whole division was then dismissed. The assembled multitude of voices, the tearing and cutting down of branches of trees, cracking of fires, rattling of canteens, shooting of bullocks through the head, and the hurrying of parties of soldiers for rum and biscuit for rations, the neighing of horses, braying asses and rampant mules, all resounded throughout the forest, giving new life and merry echoes to its most intimate recesses. Groups of officers stood in circles; every countenance seemed decked in smiles, and a hearty welcome greeted us from all hands. Under the wide-spreading branches of a venerable cork-tree, decorated with pack-saddles, accoutrements, and other military trappings, dinner was served up and laid out on a pair of hampers, which served us instead of a table. Beef, biscuit, tea, rum, and wine composed our fare, it being a usual custom to join breakfast and dinner, so as to make one meal serve for the twenty-four hours, the troops merely halting to cook and refresh themselves during the heat of the day. A more happy meal, I can safely say, I never partook of; and with infinite admiration did I regard the purple jackets and battered epaulettes of my companions. Our small keg of wine being emptied, the word passed to pack up and accoutre; and, in an incredibly short space of time the column re-formed. The "assembly" sounded (the signal of march) thrice, from the right of companies, the band struck up, and, at the end of two hours' march, and towards night-fall, we entered another wood. The same ceremony gone through as already described: the blankets were spread out, the earth our bed, knapsacks our pillows, and the overhanging trees our canopy; the busy hum of life no longer vibrated through the bivouac, and thousands of soldiers slumbered and reposed their weary limbs, lying scattered throughout the forest, or around the dying embers of expiring fires. My companions insisted on stretching themselves on each side of me, protesting that they ought to do thus as a protection against cold for the first two or three nights, since a very heavy dew fell so as almost to wet through the blankets, notwithstanding the great heat of the weather by day. —*Captain Cooke's Personal Narrative.*

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND FRENCH SOLDIERS.—The reminding the British of this moral quality is wholly unnecessary, and instead of language

of excitement being constantly applied to our soldiery, that of control, obedience, and composure is solely recommended; whilst our ancient opponents are obliged incessantly to drive into the ears of their men, that they are naturally and individually the bravest of the human race. Hearing nothing else so flattening to their unbounded vanity, they become so puffed up by this eternal stimulant, as to be fully convinced of its truth, which, in consequence, makes their first attack tremendous. But this sort of creative courage is not capable of standing a severe test. If stoutly opposed at first, this kind of courage not only diminishes but evaporates, and has, done, and will ever fail before that of the British. As soldiers, taking the expression in its widest sense, they are equal, if not superior, to us in many points; but in that of individual constitutional courage, we rise far superior to them. —*Earl of Munster.*

HOW TO MAKE POETRY.—Take your fingers and count them, then reduce your line to the quantity required, always taking care that the words which sound like each other be last. This dish be formed of sense or folly, point or dulness, according to your means; but a slight sprinkling of obs and uhs, with a shake or two from a pot of metaphors and similes, is, indispensable. Be careful that the rhymes are good; "All's well that ends well."

NATIONAL CHARACTER.—When it was told to Nadir Shah that the Turks intended to invade Persia, he threw his cloak in his camp fire. "I do this," said he, "because it was old, and I shall soon have tailors for nothing; the cross-legs are coming." On hearing that the Turks were actually on his frontier, "Never mind," said he, "they would have enough to do, if we were asleep. The Osmanli have but two hands, the one is busy keeping on their turban, and the other pulling up their trousers. If they had a third it would be holding up their pipe."

HAPPINESS OR MISERY.—Happiness or misery is in the mind. It is the mind that lives; and the length of life ought to be measured by the number and importance of our ideas, and not by the number of our days. Never, therefore, esteem men merely on account of their riches or their station. Respect goodness, find it where you may. Honour talent, wherever you find it unassociated with vice, but honour it most when accompanied with exertions, and, especially, when exerted in the cause of truth and justice, and, above all things, hold it in honor, when it steps forward to protect defenceless innocence against the attacks of powerful guilt. —*Cobbett.*

CONSUMPTION OF ARDENT SPIRITS IN VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.—Against this favourable estimate of life, arising from the climate and circumstances of the colony, we are compelled reluctantly to set a dreadful make-weight in the other scale. We mean the lamentable waste of life by intoxication. The quantity of spirits and other strong drink consumed annually in the colony may, on a moderate computation, be taken at not less than 100,000 gallons; which, according to the population, allows the enormous quantity of about five gallons to each individual, young and old, male and female, in the island. So astounding a fact shows, at a glance, the horrid state into which some of the community must be immersed. Dreadful as it is, however, we are happy to bear testimony to its decrease, compared with former periods. A very large portion of those who first put their foot upon the Derwent, ever belonging to what should be the more respectable and exemplary class of society, were confirmed drunkards, and died in the prime of life. To their ruinous example may fairly be attributed much of the dissipated habit that have so long afflicted the colony.

ECCENTRICITY.—Eccentricity finds eccentric reasons for its doings. Schlager, a Danish man of fortune, sold his estate and fixed in the northernmost corner of Iceland. He said, that he fixed there because he hated the confined air of Europe, and chose to have his breeze fresh from the pole. An Englishman, some years ago, was found vegetating in the midst of bogs and solitudes, in a village on the west coast of Ireland. A Spaniard perched his house on the top of the Sierra Morena; on being asked "Why he preferred that place of clouds, storms, and solitude?" he said, "That he was tired of mankind, and the clouds hid mankind from him; that he was tired of his wife's tongue, and that the storms drowned her talk; and, as to the solitude, he could not be solitary, who had the angels for his next door neighbour." —*Whittaker's Monthly Magazine.*

PULPIT SOUNDING-BOARDS.—Professor Farish has had a sounding-board of parabolic form put up in his church at Cambridge; and he states, that he "finds the power

of it in increasing the sound far greater than he could have previously conceived." He adds that, when in the pulpit, he "can easily hold a conversation with a person at the greatest distance in a low whisper."

ORIGINAL.

FOR THE GLEANER.

SIR,

In a country of free institutions it is a scandal to the Legislative power when laws, originated in the dark ages of society, and destructive alike of freedom to the body, and of liberty to the mind, should still be permitted to disgrace our code. Imprisonment for Debt is derogatory to the rights of free-born men;—a violation of the social compact;—a bar to the prosperity of an infantine colony;—a subversion of a moral and industrious education;—a cloak and covering for fraud and roguery. Paradoxical as my last assertion is,—and none I apprehend will be prepared to deny the former,—I again assert it is the fact. The experienced rogue is too acute to be caught, and the vindictiveness of the laws is seldom inflicted on any but the most generous of society,—too poor to complete their engagements, but too manly to truckle to the caprices, and humour the prejudices of a base and unfeeling creditor. Our Statute Book has tacitly acknowledged the inhumanity of the common law, and makes almost annual provisions for the amelioration of the incarcerated debtor. But so unequally are these ephemeral provisions created, that each successive enactment makes absolute regulations without any regard to former laws; so that a man who unfortunately incurs a Judgment for debt, may act without any violation of the existing law, but suffer by a penalty inflicted by an Act made subsequent to the contracting of the debt, or of the suffering of the judgment. One year the beneficiary law says, that the honest debtor shall be confined twelve months and no longer;—the succeeding one—and all are described in the preamble, where, indeed, they have one as made for the purpose of RELIEF—provides for the further imprisonment until the debtor has actually received a years maintenance!—This is called Relief! Another law, for which its father had not a sufficiently good opinion, to bestow on it a preamble, makes WHITE NEGROES of those who may have the "benefit" of the Limits, by requiring them to work, provided the creditor can point out a mode in which they can be employed! I once heard of an instance in which a man who had the above BENEFIT, was DESIRED by his creditor to work at a public well!—Admirable Relief!—a man who honestly confessed a judgement for the security of his creditor ten years ago; becomes subject to the PENAL BENEFITS of the present law; and must sustain, if the same creditor so choose, at the very least, thirteen months imprisonment; while two years ago, he would have received his discharge at the end of twelve months,—because the existing law makes no provision for prior debts or judgments, or against having an effect; and one so enormously unjust, that in my humble opinion it is repulsive to the common law—of an *ex post facto* nature!

It is a maxim in law that PENAL ACT shall be construed LITERALLY, and one enacted for a BENEFICIAL purpose, shall receive a LIBERAL construction. The administering of the BENEFITS of the Act made for Confined Debtors, is generally throughout the Province entrusted to men in business, and who it would be supposed by their interests would not be led to indiscriminate mercy; but, as if to throw an imputation on the conduct of those gentlemen, the law now requires that two of those Justices, instead of one, shall agree to the grant of its beneficiary provisions.

I wish to see the day, and it is not distant, when the common law, as it applies to this subject, shall be altogether abolished,—thereby abrogating the PRINCIPLE of imprisonment for debt. I also wish to see for the present more effectual provisions made whereby the HONEST debtor—for I can scarcely bring myself to advocate the fraudulent one—shall obtain those reliefs which the present mode of legislating confers, in a more summary, certain, and inexpensive manner;—and in cases where an appeal may be necessary, instead of recurring to the Supreme Court, the expense of which, in cases of actual imprisonment for poverty, makes the provision absolutely ridiculous,—a resort to a Jury to be summoned in a summary manner, may prove advantageous. A Jury, indeed, in cases where a man is to be deprived of that birthright, of which nothing short of CRIME should ever be permitted to do so, seems to be by far the most eligible mode of determining the necessity or propriety of punishment, and the duration of its infliction.

With your permission, I shall address a few more observations on this subject to the public, in a future number.

FREEDOM.