

hands of the Kaliph Omar. On the death of Omar, who died by the usual fate of Eastern princes—the dagger—the country was left to the misgovernment of the Moslem viceroys—a race of men essentially barbarian, and commuting for their crimes by their zeal in proselytism. The people, of course, were doubly tormented.

A new scourge fell upon them in the invasion of the Crusaders, at the beginning of the 12th century, followed by a long succession of bitter hostilities and public weakness. After almost a century of this wretchedness, another invasion from the Desert put Jerusalem into the hands of its old oppressor, the Saracen; and in 1187 the famous Saladin, expelling the last of the Christian sovereigns, took possession of Palestine. After another century of tumult and severe suffering, occasioned by the disputes of the Saracen princes, it was visited by a still more formidable evil in the shape of the Turks, then wholly uncivilized—a nation in all the rudeness and violence of a mountaineer life—and spreading blood and fire through Western Asia. From this date (1317) it remained under the dominion of the Ottoman, until its conquest, a few years ago, by that most extraordinary of all Mussulman, the Pacha of Egypt—a dreary period of 500 years, under the most desolating government in the world. It is equally impossible to read the Scriptural references to the future condition of Palestine, without discovering a crowd of the plainest and most powerful indications that it shall yet exhibit a totally different aspect from that of its present state. Enthusiasm, or even the natural interest which we feel in this memorable nation, may color the future to us too brightly; but unless language of the most solemn kind, uttered on the most solemn occasions, and by men divinely commissioned for its utterance, is wholly unmeaning, we must yet look to some powerful, unquestionable, and splendid display of Providence in favor of the people of Israel.

The remarkable determination of European politics toward Asia Minor, Syria and Egypt, within these few years, the not less unexpected change of manners and customs, which seemed to defy all change; and the life infused into the stagnant governments of Asia, even by their being flung into the whirl of European interests, look not unlike signs of the times. It may be no dream, to imagine, in these phenomena the proofs of some memorable change in the interior of things—some preparatives for that great providential restoration, of which Jerusalem will yet be the scene, if not the center; and the Israelite himself, the especial agent of those high transactions, which shall make Christianity the religion of all lands, restore the dismantled beauty of all earth, and make man—what he was created to be—only a little lower than the angels.

The statistics of the Jewish population are among the most singular circumstances of this most singular of all people. Under all their calamities and dispersions, they seem to have remained at nearly the same amount as in the days of David and Solomon, never much more in prosperity, never much less after ages of suffering. Nothing like this has occurred in the history of any other race; Europe in general having doubled its population within the last hundred years, and England nearly tripled hers within the last half century; the proportion of America being still more rapid, and the world crowding in a constantly increasing ratio. Yet the Jews seem to stand still in this vast and general movement. The population of Judea in its most palmy days, probably did not exceed, if it reached, four millions. The numbers who entered Palestine from the wilderness were evidently not much more than three; and their census, according to the German statisticians, who were generally considered to be exact, is now nearly the same as that of the people under Moses—about three millions. They are thus distributed:—

In Europe, 1,916,000, of which about 658,000 are in Poland and Russia, and 453,000 are in Austria.

In Asia, 738,000, of which 300,000 are in Asiatic Turkey.

In Africa, 504,000, of which 300,000 are in Morocco.

In America, North and South, 58,000. If we add to these about 15,000 Samaritans, the calculation in round numbers will be about 3,180,000.

This was the report in 1825—the numbers probably remain the same. This extraordinary fixedness in the midst of almost universal increase, is doubtless not without a reason—if we are even to look for it among the mysterious operations which have preserved Israel a sepa-

rate race through eighteen hundred years. May we not naturally conceive, that a people thus preserved without advance or retrocession; dispersed, yet combined; broken, yet firm; without a country, yet dwellers in all; every where insulted, yet every where influential; without a nation, yet united as no nation ever was before or since—has not been appointed to offer this extraordinary contradiction to the common laws of society, and even the common progress of nature, without a cause, and that cause one of final benevolence, universal good, and divine grandeur?

From the Dublin University Magazine.
HALLOWED GROUND.

WHERE, oh where is the hallowed ground?
Listen where the night winds sound,
Murmuring through the lonely pile
Of some old cathedral aisle;
Where, with rainbow colors stained,
Moonlight, through the windows rained,
Falls upon the marble tomb,
Glimmering, starlike through the gloom,
While the silent banner droops
O'er the sculptured warrior groups.
Here the song of praise hath stirr'd—
Here the organ peal been heard—
Here hath waked the voice of prayer:
Surely hallowed ground is there.

Yes! and yet not only here:
Come into this church yard near,
Where the gentle whispering breeze
Softly rustleth through the trees—
Where the moonbeam pure and white,
Falls in floods of cloudless light,
Bathing many a turf heap,
Where the lowlier slumberers sleep,
And the graceful willow waves,
Banner like, o'er nameless graves;
Here hath prayer arisen like dew—
Here the earth is holy too.
Lightly press each grassy mound;—
Surely this is hallowed ground!

Holy these; yet not alone.
Oft, where neither name nor stone
Of the parted keep a trace,
Is a consecrated place;—
Oft 'the buts where poor men lie'
Have an unseen dignity;—
Oft the halls of stately pride
Are to holy ground allied:
Many a mountain, many a vale,
Scene of some inspiring tale
Of the olden chivalry,
Seems a sacred spot to be—
Seems to say that hallowed ground
May in every land be found.

Yes! where mighty names have been
Link'd unto an earthly scene,—
Where the poet and the sage
Pour'd their hearts upon the page,—
Where the patriot loved to tread,
Where he found his warrior bed,—
Where the messengers of God
In a stranger country trod,
Bearing first the tidings high
Of man's glorious destiny,—
Where the martyr's blood sublime
Sowed Heaven's seed for future time;
To these spots our hearts are bound,—
Here, indeed, is hallowed ground!

MISS M. A. BROWNE.

NEW WORKS.

History of the French Revolution, till the Death of Robespierre. By D. W. Johnson.

THE ORIGIN OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL GUARD AND THE TRI-COLOUR FLAG.

The people heard of the minister's dismissal with more open indignation; for, though Necker had, by his vacillating conduct, forfeited much of their esteem, his successors were known to be more adverse to their cause. A large body quickly assembled in the Palais Royal, and excited by Desmoullins, an eloquent young patriot, who summoned them to arms, they tore branches from the trees, seized busts of Necker and the Duke of Orleans from a statuary's mart, and were parading the streets in triumph, when another multitude, which had quietly congregated in the gardens of the Tuilleries, was furiously assailed by the German legion of Prince Lambese, who, with indiscriminate cruelty put age and infancy to the sword. Roused by such wanton barbarity, and the death of a comrade slain in the massacre, the French guards united with the populace; and a fierce contest ensued between the two regiments, which the officers with difficulty allayed. But, the contest begun, the people were not so easily appeased. All ranks of the citizens flew to arms; and while the lower ranks seized whatever weapons could be found, the higher enrolled themselves into a body of militia, forty eight thousand strong. Such were the rudiments of those National Guards, who have since exerted an influence so important on the country, and may now be considered as its surest protection against aggression from abroad or tyranny at home. They assumed as a badge of distinction the blue and red-colours of the city and Duke of Orleans; and superadding the delicate regal

white, they, by thus blending the softness of the lily with the tint of the violet and hue of the rose, formed that memorable Tricoloured Flag, which, with brightness obscured by many an ensanguined deed, subsequently traversed the world (realizing Lafayette's prediction), and tolled the knell of tyranny wherever it was unfurled.

ROBESPIERRE.

Robespierre, the most influential member of the club, was disqualified by a fastidious demeanour and constitutional cowardice from conducting a popular revolt. He freely fomented the fiercest passions of the populace, but cautiously abstained from vulgar associations; and aimed, by a gloomy seclusion in privacy, to acquire the reputation of austerity in public. Indifferent to effusion of blood, he yet eschewed open violence; and though he never shrunk in advising sanguinary measures, he studiously refrained from their execution in person. Vain and vindictive, he was eager to sacrifice those who had wounded his ardent egotism and insufferable pride, by representing his personal enemies as the foes of the state: but bold in sedition he was timid in strife, and though he panted for their extermination, he had neither courage to give the signal, nor capacity to conduct the slaughter. He was moreover devoid of that eloquence which sways a multitude. No grace adorned his elocution, no passion inspired his oratory, which would have been alike cold, unimpressive, and contemptible, but for his inflexible pertinacity, and the character he had acquired for incorruptible patriotism. A slender figure, an anxious countenance and embarrassed air, also deprived him of the power which a commanding aspect and majestic deportment possess on the minds of the vulgar; and his distant, irresolute address inspired neither his friends with love, nor his foes with fear.

MARAT THE MISCREANT.

Marat, a native of Neuchâtel, whose fame as a journalist rivalled that of Robespierre's as a Jacobin, was a ill more divested of human feelings and human sympathies. Originally a veterinarian in the royal stables, some real injury or imaginary insult contributed, with a frenzied imagination, to throw him into the ranks of the revolution; and under the designation of 'Friend of the People', he promulgated maxims so atrocious that even extreme republicans considered them to emanate from reason's aberration. He pronounced all civilized classes aristocrats, and proposed to exterminate them all. With two hundred assassins he offered to complete the revolution, and by the fall of three thousand heads he aspired to confirm it. Like Draco, he recognised no punishment but death; mingled the most repulsive cynicism with the most revolting cruelty; yet had the merit, if such it be, of denouncing his victims without personal hatred. His enthusiastic energy and insane sincerity rendered his power omnipotent with the savage masses of the capital; but though his sway was terrific while enforcing his doctrines from the dungeons in which he dwelt, he was physically and mentally incompetent to lead men in a day of danger. His dwarfish form, hideous overgrown head, livid countenance, squalid figure, and disgusting deportment would have deprived him of personal influence, even if he had not been devoid of that animal courage which, though one of the most common, is perhaps the most captivating of virtues in man.

DANTON.

Danton, a disappointed member of the Paris bar, who constituted last of an already formidable triumvirate, was endowed with all the qualities for leading a fierce assemblage of the people. His bold, reckless demeanour impressed them with admiration, his athletic person with awe, and his deep, menacing voice with fear. Described as the Mirabeau of the populace, and glorying in the designation, he shared in some of the great orator's virtues, and eclipsed him in all his vices. His rude, but stirring and natural eloquence harmonized with the understanding, while his grovelling sensuality reduced him to a level with the meanest of the multitude. A mercenary republican and venal royalist, he in secret received the bribes of the court, though he loudly denounced it in public; and assured his dupes that it was necessary to stigmatise in order to save them. The conclusion of his career leaves it doubtful whether in this respect he was sincere, or added the crime of a traitor to the guilt of a hypocrite but at present he was a revolutionist of the most violent order; shrank from no crime that appeared useful, from no sacrifice that seemed desirable.

The Philosophy of Mystery. By W. Cooper Denny.

NATURAL ECCENTRICITIES AND RARITIES.

Among the mute productions of nature, there are eccentricities and rarities, which, in default of analysis or explanation, would not fail of being referred to some supernatural agency: as Leo Afer, according to Burton,

accounts for the swarms of locusts once descending at Fez, in Barbary, and at Arles, in France, in 1553. 'It could not be from natural causes; they cannot imagine whence they come, but from heaven. Are these and such creatures, corn, wood, stones, worms, wool, blood, &c., lifted up into the middle region by the sunbeams, as Barcellue the physician disputes, and thence let fall with showers, or there engendered? Cornelius Gemma is of that opinion, they are there conceived by celestial influences; others suppose they are immediately from God, or prodigies raised by arts and allusions of spirits which are princes of the ayre.' Over Languedoc there once burst an awful and supernatural cloud, from which fell immense snow-flakes like glittering stars. There is nothing strange in this, for the shape of the snow flake is ever that of an asteroid. But then there came pouring down gigantic hailstones, which their glassy surface impressed with the figures of helmets, and swords, and scutcheons. This, too, may be the effect of very sudden and irregular congelation; but this law was not known, and therefore its result was a mystery. Among the wonders seen by the great traveller Pietro deilla Vella, was the bleeding cypress tree, which shadows the tomb of Cyrus, in Italy. Under the hollow of its bows, in his day, it was lighted with lamps, and was consecrated as an oratory. To this shrine resorted many a devout pilgrim, impressed with a holy belief in the miracle. And what was this but the glutinous crimson fluid, exuding from the diseased alburnum of a tree, which the woodmen indeed term bleeding, but which the ancient Turks affirmed, or believed to be converted on every Friday into drops of real blood? The red snow, which is not uncommon in the arctic regions, is thus tinted by very minute cryptogamic plants; and the fairy ring is but a circle of herbage poisoned by a fungus. In Denbighshire (I may add) the prevalent belief is, that the shivering of the aspen is from sympathy with that tree in Palestine, which was hewn into the true cross. The simple stratification of vapours, especially during sudden transitions of temperature, may produce very interesting optical phenomena; not by refraction or reflection, but merely by partial obscuration of an object. We have examples of these illusive spectra in the gigantic icebergs seen by Captain Scoresby, and other arctic voyagers which assumed the shape of towers, and spires, and cathedrals, and obelisks, that were constantly displacing each other in whimsical confusion, and endless variety, like the figures of a kaleidoscope. Phipps thus describes their majestic beauty—'The ice that had parted from the main body, they had now time to admire, as it no longer obstructed their course; the various shapes in which the broken fragments appeared were indeed very curious and amusing. One remarkable piece described a magnificent arch, so large and completely formed, that a sloop of considerable burden might have sailed through it without lowering her masts. Another represented a church, with windows, pillars and domes.' We may scarcely wonder at the mystifications of nature when she assumes these gorgeous eccentricities, as have also been witnessed in the barren steppes of the Caraccas, on the Orinoko, where the palm groves appear to be cut asunder; in the Llanos, where chains of hills appear suspended in the air, and rivers and lakes to flow on irid sand; in the lake of the Gazelles, seen by the Arabs and the African traveller; and the lakes seen by Captain Munday, during his tour in India. The very clearness of the atmosphere, like that which floats around the Rhine, renders distance especially distinct; but mountainous regions, from the attraction of electric clouds, afford the highest examples of atmospheric beauty and effect. London and other cities, however crowded with lofty buildings, are not deficient in these aerial illusions. Even from the bridge of Blackfriars I have seen a cumulo stratus cloud so strangely intersect the steeples and the giant chimneys of London, as distinctly to represent a sea port, with its vessels and distant mountains.

THE SPECTRE AND THE HOUSE MAID.

From Dr. Pritchard I quote this fragment:—'A maid servant, who lived in the house of an elderly lady, some years since deceased, had risen early on a winter's morning, and was employed in washing, by candle-light, the entry of the house; when she was greatly surprised at seeing her mistress, who was then in a precarious state of health, coming down stairs in her night dress. The passage being narrow, she rose up to let her mistress pass, which the latter did with a hasty step, and walked into the street, appearing, to the terrified imagination of the girl, to part through the door without opening it. The servant related the circumstance to the son and daughter of the lady as soon as they came down stairs, who desired her to conceal it from their mother, and anxiously waited for her appearance. The old lady entered the room while they were talking of the incident, but appeared languid and unwell, and complained of having been disturbed by an alarming dream. She had dreamed that a dog had pursued her