

awe which pervades the chamber of death and hushes the voice as if the senseless clay could hear, had passed over their spirits like breath stain upon glass. I heard the low, confused murmur of voices drone through the darkened room. Now and then the door opened, and some one bent over me and gazed at me, while scalding tears fell upon my face. Then the room was emptied of all persons, and I was left alone in the darkness and stillness. I listened for voices, for anything was better than this dreary stillness—but in vain: a spell was on the house: its sounds of laughter, its rapid footsteps, its bustle and noise were gone—every step was careful and slow, and every voice a whisper. So went on hour after hour and I still lay helpless, and longing for the moment when I should be able to move and loosen myself from the close, deathly grasp which almost pressed the life out of the body. As I lay thus, I suddenly heard a bird's gush of song from the tree beneath my window,—how joyously it warbled, unconscious of the agony so near it—and how my heart sickened within me as I heard it.

Soon persons came and wrapped me up in white linen, and swathed my limbs and made the horrible funeral preparations. Some one says—'how ghastly his eyes look,' and then gently pressed down the lids over the balls of my eyes. Never till that moment did I dream that that accursed spot, on which my gaze had been riveted for so many hours, could become dear to me. The thought that we are viewing any object, however mean, for the last time, always rises in importance, and gives it a factitious charm; and now this spot to me was the straw to a drowning man, the silver line of sunlight in a prisoner's dungeon—the last link with this visible earth. I strove in vain to keep open the lids—slowly they yielded to the pressure of the fingers, and gradually the range of vision became more and more confined, until all was utterly out. Never before had the fear of being buried alive suggested itself but now it came over me like a gulping wave. I thought that I should be laid down alive in the charnel house among decaying corpses, and stifled from the clear breath of heaven, famish, if indeed I were not dead then. All the frightful stories of such occurrences that I had ever read came to my mind, and the hope of ultimate recovery grew feebler and feebler.

The night came, and how dreary and unending it seemed. One after another I heard the hours struck by the clock, until at last, from pure exhaustion, I lost my sensation. It must have been late morning when I returned to consciousness. I felt hands upon me—they were lifting me into my coffin! I heard them screw in screw after screw until the lid was fastened, and only the narrow space over the face remained open. I felt the sides of the coffin jar and rub against my arms, and I despaired that I should ever recover my power of motion.

The coffin was lifted and placed upon a table. Some one asked when I was to be buried?—'This afternoon,' was the answer—'he has been now dead two days.' I had then been unconscious for the length of a whole day. Now the time, instead of a weary length, seemed to fly with lightning like rapidity. The past seemed endlessly long—the future was fore shortened to a breath, a moment. The clock ticked faster and faster, and time seemed to pour itself away in rapid moments, as a rising thunder cloud empties its fierce, heavy drops more and more rapidly. It was afternoon—the company gathered—the shutter creaked beside me, and the window was opened. I felt the warm breath of the spring air steal over my face like a delicious odor. I heard the birds singing among the branches, and the gentle rustling of the swaying trees, as the wind stirred among the trees. I thought of all the glad some earth—of the blue sky—of the rippling brooks, half sunlight, half shadow—of the early evening clouds, whose hues shift like the colours on the dove's neck—of the stars, of the moon, of the swelling and heaving ocean, and clung to the memory of them with a mute despair, loving them the more the nearer I came to losing them.

At last the dim, whispering hum about the room ceased—the clocked ticked loudly, and the clergyman's voice repeated those first sentences in the service for the dead—'I am the resurrection and the life,' &c.

His voice ceased—I gave myself up to despair. I tried to resign myself to the dreadful thought that I was to be buried alive. Some one lifted the lid to screw it down ere I should be removed. I heard a faint exclamation from some one bending over me—'Good God! he must be alive yet; there are drops of perspiration now upon his forehead! Bring a mirror and place it to his lips, he may breathe yet.' It seemed that the extremity of my agony had wrung out a cold dew upon my skin. No sooner had the words been spoken, than there was a wild hurry, and suppressed exclamations of fear and doubt, and surprise about the room. What a moment of agony was the next! The fearful anticipation, lest after all, there should be no sign of breath, was worse than all before. The mirror was brought, and then I knew by the sudden and fearful cry, that of Catochias, was at last known.

I was bled instantly: between my lips a few drops of brandy were forced, and my limbs and dead were fomented with heated cloths, with such effect, that in two hours I regained my power of motion and sat up, though weak

from loss of blood and entirely exhausted by the dreadful suffering through which I had passed as through a fiery ordeal. Believe me, those pains I would not suffer again; if the price should be a showering of all the wealth and glory that the world can bestow. Such suffering does not leave a man where it finds him. I arose from my bed an altered man,—with my moral and mental constitution completely changed.

The main incident of this story, however improbable it may seem, is founded upon fact, and has occurred within the range of the writer's experience. Catochias is only a peculiar form of Catalepsy, in which the patient retains the use of his various senses, while the power of motion is entirely suspended, and presents an appearance which may easily be mistaken for death. In removing some bodies from the vault of a neighbouring city, on the occasion of erecting a new church, it was discovered that three bodies had assumed such a situation as could only be accounted for on the supposition of their having been buried while in a state of suspended animation or stupor, they having turned over in their coffins upon the recurrence of consciousness. The occurrence of such a fact alone, together with the known existence of diseases which assume the semblance of death, should induce the extreme caution, and make it a matter of duty to apply, before burial, such tests as to leave no shadow of doubt and no room for mistake with regard to the actual fact of death.

#### EUROPEAN NEWS.

From British Papers to the 19th June, obtained by the Caledonia.

Liverpool European, June 19.  
Lord Congleton (formerly Sir H Parnell) put a period to his existence on Wednesday morning, the 18th inst. at his residence, in Cadogan-place, London, by hanging himself with a handkerchief.

Up to the 31st May the amount of contributions for the sufferers at Hamburg was about £1,943,000.

The cholera has been raging in Calcutta, carrying off many scores of natives and several Europeans.

The effective yeomanry of Great Britain and Ireland, in 1841, comprised 840 officers and 13,434 men, and the expense to the nation was £82,369 6s. 1d.

The *Silesian Gazette* states that the greater part of the manufacturing town of Belchatow, in the district of Petrikanwart, was, last month, destroyed by fire.

A letter from Seville states that the distress of the nuns in that place is so great that, in order to keep them from starving, a benefit has been given for them at the theatre.

The whole of Lord Ashburton's homestead, situated at Clapham, a romantic village about two miles distant from Bedford, together with 12 houses in the village, were recently totally destroyed by fire.

The *Leipsic Gazette* says, that a plot against the Emperor of Russia has been discovered and suppressed, the senate of St. Petersburg having joined in the conspiracy, which was provoked by the late attempts to emancipate the peasantry.

On the 29th April, the town of Kosegar, in Esclavonia, was totally destroyed by fire; 179 houses, more than 500 barns, and many of the inhabitants became the prey of the devouring element.

The *Journal de Frankfort*, of the 10th inst., states that on the 6th, the ceiling of the theatre at Schleitz fell during the performance, wounding many hundreds of persons and killing several. Twenty-nine dead bodies were taken from the ruins.

The *Journal de Bruges* relates that lately a young girl of Thieghem, having fallen into a fit of epilepsy during vespers, some persons cried out that a mad dog had entered the chapel. This was the signal for a general rush to the door. Every body seemed seized with terror, and several persons were thrown down and trampled on. Seven females were killed.

A serious accident occurred at the Apothecaries' Hall, London, on Saturday week, Mr Hennell, a gentleman at the head of the experimental department, was in the act of preparing some detonating powder, when it exploded, killing him on the spot, and destroying upwards of five hundred windows in the neighbourhood.

An elderly man of very respectable exterior, named Thomas Parr Gilmour, is in custody at Liverpool, charged with having, under the firm of 'Messrs. Gilmour & Co.' of Liverpool, and 'Messrs. Tomlinson & Co.' of Chester, obtained the goods and property of several respectable traders in London, Birmingham, Sheffield, and other places, by means of fraudulent representations.

A royal proclamation has been issued, ordering that gold sovereigns of less than 5 pennyweights 2 1-2 grains, and half-sovereigns of less than 2 pennyweights 13 1-8 grains, shall not be allowed to pass current. It is stated that about one-third of the gold in circulation is under weight; and some of the sovereigns are intrinsically worth no more than 18s. 6d. or 19s.; the half-sovereigns, not more than 9s. or 9s. 6d. It is supposed that a new gold coinage is about to issue, fortified by some new means against the fraudulent practices of 'sweating' and 'plugging.'

A proclamation was ordered to be issued on Monday, respecting a new coinage of half-farthings.

The whole of the Thames tunnel, 1172 feet in length, is now completed, and so soon as the staircase on the Wapping side is erected, will be opened as a public thoroughfare.

A fire of a most destructive nature happened at Hitchen, in Hertfordshire, on Sunday afternoon, which in the short space of two hours consumed fourteen houses and other premises.

The Dowager Queen of Spain, Christina, has purchased Malmaison, the former residence of the Emperor Napoleon and the Empress Josephine.

A rumour is very prevalent, and is believed in well-informed quarters, that six sail of the line are to be immediately commissioned.

The Russian government is negotiating a loan of two millions sterling with the house of Stieghitz, to execute the railroad between St. Petersburg and Moscow.

The Bank of British North America held its annual meeting at the Bank-house, on the 7th inst., when it appeared, from the report, that the surplus of the bank was £15,000, and the paid-up capital £690,000.

From all quarters of Ireland there is the most cheering promise of an abundant harvest. The corn, fruit, and potato crops will be at market fully a month before those of last year's harvest.

The Antwerp mail brings intelligence of the failure of the firm of Genthe & Co., of Leipsic, a concern of some importance, their engagements being estimated at about £70,000 or £80,000.

We regret to hear of the failure of a large paper factory in the neighbourhood of Manchester; the engagements are said to amount to upwards of £200,000, one of the Manchester banks being principal creditor. A great number of hands will be thrown out of work by this event.—*Morning Herald*.—[The failure is that of Messrs. Hilton, of Over Darwen, near Blackburn.

It is stated in a letter from Athens that the earthquake in Greece, which took place in April last, was felt more severely at Athens itself than we were at first led to suppose. Several houses were thrown down, and the walls of

the fort were much injured. The sea advanced five metres on the shore, and in retiring left the vessels near the land completely dry.

There have lately been some severe thunder storms in Ireland, which have destroyed many lives.

Great activity is observable in the preparations at our naval stations and dock-yards.

The report gains currency that Lord de Grey means very speedily to retire from the government of Ireland. The Duke of Buccleuch, it is supposed, will be Earl de Grey's successor.

The *Cologne Gazette* states that the proceedings in the affair of the University of Pisa has brought to light very serious results. A vast conspiracy has been discovered, the object of which was to overthrow the government and revolutionise the country.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to nominate and appoint Colonel Sir Robert Henry Sale, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, serving with the rank of Major-General in Afghanistan, to be a Knight Grand Cross of the said Order.

*Important to Timber Merchants.*—The commissioners of the customs have, with reference to the contemplated alteration in the timber duties, issued an order to their collectors and comptrollers, at ports where regular bonding timber yards and ponds have not already been provided, directing them to acquaint the merchants engaged in that trade, that they are ready to receive applications as to temporary arrangements for bonding colonial timber and other goods imported to the 10th October next. This will enable the timber merchants to import cargoes previously, and hold them in bond, subject to the low rate of duty, if not taken out for home use before the proposed tariff becomes law.

*Steam of France.*—We find, by a recent statistical return, that at the end of the last year there were in France 179 establishments having steam power, containing 5,600 boilers, of which 1,889 were for the purpose of heating, and 3,511 for giving motion to machinery. There were, besides, 2,637 engines, the aggregate force of which was equal to 39,779 horse power. At the same period there were 260 steamboats, being 128 more than in 1839, without comprising those belonging to the state. The number of engines was 400, of a force equalling together 45,000 horse power. The number of passengers conveyed by these vessels was 2,500,000, being 800,000 more than in the preceding year. The increase of merchandize sent by them on freight was equally remarkable, having exceeded by more than 60,000 tons the quantity thus conveyed in 1840. The locomotives employed on the railroads in the departments of the Seine, Rhone, Gard, Herault, and Loire, were in number 118, and in force upwards of 300 horse power. Of these about 35 were of French manufacture.

Lord Ashley's Bill for the Regulation of Labour in Mines and Collieries has been brought in and read a first time. The measure was favorably entertained; and ample justice was rendered to the benevolent intentions of Lord Ashley, and to the patience and zeal he has shown in prosecuting the laborious inquiries on which the bill is founded.

The Lords have begun to work in earnest—a sure sign of an approaching termination to the session, and had a discussion of the Income Tax Bill.

The feeling produced by the delivery of the letters and part of the pa-