

Literature, &c.

MALAY VENGEANCE.

BY H. R. ADDISON.

I VISITED the coast of Coromandel purposely to see the far famed procession of Jhuggernaut, which I found so far from falling short of those accounts I had hitherto looked upon as exaggerated, that, although I had gone to see it fully prepared to view horrors, I came away sickened and terrified by scenes more revolting than imagination ever pictured. Indeed, to this very moment some of the incidents recur with such striking force, that I even now regret ever having looked on such abominations and cruelties. Men slicing their flesh with sharp knives, mothers sacrificing their children; bigots performing every torture on themselves, and fanatics dashing their heads beneath the enormous wheels of the car, which in the next moment crushed their skulls before my face, were amongst some of the lesser terrors of this disgusting fete, from which, after a few hours I hastened away, fully determined never again to revisit it.

On my way back to Madras I stopped at the house of Mr T—, one of the best fellows I know, one of the sincerest and most upright magistrates in India. Kind to his servants, an excellent parent, T—, was generally beloved by all who knew him.

When I arrived, I found my friend absent. His wife, however, did the honors for him, and gave me a pressing invitation to remain a couple of days until her husband's return.—She had three children, was the most elegant woman I know, and though of a hasty temper, was good hearted and well intentioned.

I accepted her invitation, and retired to dress for dinner. I had not completed my toilette, when I heard a great bustle in the house; so hastening to finish my task of adorning, I quickly descended to the hall, where I found Mrs. T— bitterly lamenting the loss of a superb emerald necklace, which had suddenly disappeared from her trinket box, in which she declared she had carefully deposited it a few days before.

A strict search took place. Every servant was examined: but all to no purpose, till it was suddenly recollected that a young Malay boy, about ten years of age, who had hitherto acted as a sort of a page, had been sent to the case to bring down a ring to his mistress on the previous morning. The boy had also been seen with some money which he averred he had received from his father, and in this statement he was borne out by his parent (who was one of the *kidmutgars* in the household); but as it was only natural he should endeavor to screen his child, little attention was paid to his corroborating testimony.

The result was that suspicion pointed so strongly at the boy that his mistress desired him instantly to be tied up and flogged till he confessed what he had done with the stolen necklace. The unhappy father threw himself on his knees, and kissing the feet of Mrs. T—, besought her to relent. But, considering the case too clearly brought home to the young Malay, and annoyed at his refusal to admit his guilt, she refused to listen to the parent's appeal.

The boy was tied up, and punished till the blood actually flowed down his back. The father was present at the scene, and though he nearly bit his lips through, he did not attempt to interfere. His son endured the torture without a groan, and after three dozen lashes he was taken down fainting, without having made any confession.

The next morning he was again flogged, but he still remained obdurate. A third infliction on the following day had no better effect, so by advice, Mrs. T— abstained from further attempts to elicit an admission of the theft until the return of her husband, which had been postponed unavoidably for another week.

The boy speedily recovered, and soon returned to his work. The father, though seemingly much hurt at heart, uttered no complaint, and performed his duties as usual.

At the end of the week my friend T— arrived, bringing with him some pleasant companions, who were, with true Indian hospitality, made welcome, and in a few hours they found themselves thoroughly at home under my friend's roof.

The next morning after breakfast the fond husband brought down a collection of little gifts he had procured for his

wife and children, who eagerly flocked around him, and expressed their joy.

'As each new treasure met their longing eyes.' 'By the by, here is the necklace you may remember, my dear,' said T— turning to his wife, 'you desired me to take from your trinket box, and get repaired,' and he drew forth a superb set of emeralds.

In an instant I saw him rush forward, only just in time to catch his wife, who fell swooning into his arms. My friend, who doted on her, was in describable agony. The suddenness of the fit, for which he was wholly at a loss to account; her sobs and bitter exclamations, as she slowly recovered, seemed to wring his heart. The whole scene was one of mystery to me, till with a sudden effort she raised her head, and in a tone of unaffected sorrow exclaimed,

'Forgetful wretch that I am! I have falsely accused poor Sidommy, and punished him for stealing it.'

I started with horror. In a moment his countenance assumed a grave, a severe expression, and his wife explained the affair to him, I could see the pain it gave him. When it was concluded, he pondered for a few moments; then desired Sidommy and his father to be summoned.

When they entered, T— in a few words explained to the boy that his innocence was now manifest, and that the whole business had arisen out of an unfortunate mistake; and as a recompense for his unmerited sufferings, he made him a present of a splendid European dress he had bro't home for his eldest boy, who through somewhat younger, was about the same size as the Malay.

Sidommy appeared delighted, and rushed from the room to clothe himself in his garments. The father bowed low, and left the room without raising his eyes or uttering a syllable.

But a short interval had elapsed when the young page, with tears in his eyes, announced to his mistress that his father, on seeing him dressed, had instantly seized him and torn his clothes from his back, declaring that no finery, no European ornament, could ever cover the disgrace which had been inflicted on him; and that he had in his fury utterly destroyed the handsome jacket his son had just received as a present.

T— was naturally angry at this daring impertinence, and would have punished the kidmutgar, had not his wife strenuously dissuaded him from it, by pointing out that such feelings were only natural in a parent, and that only time could wipe them out. Nothing more was therefore said about the matter, and all went on as quietly as before.

About ten days after this incident a letter from Madras, announcing the expected arrival of T—'s sister at that city, made my friend determine to go and meet her. It was agreed that I should accompany him, get my leave of absence renewed, and return with him to spend another month in his pleasant mansion.

The evening before we started, the Malay kidmutgar came in and begged as a favour that his son might be allowed to accompany us, urging his prayer with great force, and so beseechingly, that although my friend at first objected to him, he finally consented; and away we went in high spirits to meet a young lady whom T— had foretold would become my future wife.

On our arrival at Madras we were doomed to meet with disappointment. The young lady had changed her mind, and instead of seeking a partner among the pagoda laden Madrases, had chosen to marry a handsome young ensign in a marching regiment at home, who by dire necessity was compelled

'To live on his pay,
And spend half a crown out of sixpence a day.'

We therefore hurried through the little business we had to transact, and joyfully set out again on our return—sending however, a dawk courier on before, that our arrival might be expected.

When we arrived at a small village about four miles from T—'s house, we were not a little surprised to find all his servants awaiting him. He naturally sought an explanation, when he found that they had all come there by desire of their mistress, who had received directions to this effect from their master. T— was not a little astonished at so strange a statement, as he well knew he had given no such orders, and demanded if Mrs. T— herself had told them to come; but found that these commands had been conveyed to them through the Malay kidmutgar, who alone had remained behind.

I confess I looked upon it as a hoax or a curious mistake, at which I was inclined to smile. Not so my friend, who seemed agitated as it were by the pressage of some coming evil, and hastened on.

As we approached the house, we saw every window and door closed. Neither his wife nor children seemed to welcome my friend, who jumped out of his palanquin and ran forward like a madman. I followed him, and found him vainly endeavoring to burst open the verandah door. With my assistance he effected this: when horrid to relate, the first object which met our view, was the body of the Malay, surrounded by a pool of blood, his throat cut from ear to ear, whilst in one hand he grasped the razor with which he had destroyed himself, and in the other the very scourge which had inflicted the stripes on his poor boy!

I can scarcely tell the rest: my feelings were far too painfully harrowed up to describe what we next discovered—the still warm bodies of my friend's adored wife and three children, evidently murdered as they slept by the revengeful Malay, who after washing out his dishonor as the falsely reputed father of a thief in the blood of his master's family, had with the same instrument put an end to his own existence.

The wretched boy who had caused this dreadful deed, though innocently, was so horrified that he fled, never to return. T—, after a few weeks spent in the true mourning of the heart,—a mourning which turned his jet black hair to grey within three days,—returned to Europe, where he still lives, a wretched and heart broken man.

From the Youth's Gazette.

MIND—THE TRUE ENERGY.

THE highest force in the universe is mind. This created the heavens and the earth. This has changed the wilderness into fruitfulness, and linked distant countries into a beneficent ministry to each other's wants. It is not to brute force, to physical strength, so much as to art, to skill, to intellectual and moral energy, that men owe their mastery over the world. It is mind which has conquered matter. To fear that by calling forth a people's mind, we impoverish and starve them, is to be frightened at a shadow. I believe, that with the growth of intellectual power, industry will become most efficient, a wiser economy will accumulate wealth, and unimagined resources of art and nature will be discovered. I believe that the means of living will grow easier, in proportion as a people shall become enlightened, self-respecting, resolute and just. Bodily and material forces can be measured, but not the forces of the soul; nor can the results of increased energy be foretold. Such a community will tread down obstacles now deemed invincible, and turn them into helps. The inward moulds the outward. The power of a people lies in mind; and this mind, if fortified and enlarged, will bring external things into harmony with itself. It will create a new world around it, corresponding to itself. If, however, I err in this belief, if by securing time and means for improvement to the multitude, industry and capital should become less productive—I say sacrifice the wealth and not the mind of the people. For I believe that the physical good of a community would in this case be improved. The diminution of a country's wealth occasioned by general attention to intellectual and moral culture, would be followed by very different effects from those which would attend an equal diminution brought about by sloth, intemperance and ignorance. There would, indeed, be less production in such a country, but the character and spirit of the people would effect much more equal distribution of what would be produced; and the happiness of a community depends vastly more on the distribution than on the amount of its wealth. In thus speaking of the future, I do not claim any special prophetic gift. As a general rule, no man is able to foretell distinctly the ultimate, permanent results of any great change. But as to the cause before us we ought not to doubt. It is a part of religion to believe that by nothing can a community so effectually gain happiness and lasting prosperity as by the elevation of all classes of its citizens. To question this seems an approach to crime.

EXTRAORDINARY GEOLOGICAL REMAINS.

THE extensive waste called White Moss, between Middleton and Failsworth, England, is undergoing considerable improvements by the proprietors.

They have availed themselves of the valuable services of the eminent agriculturist, Mr. James Dixon. During the process of reclaiming the moss lands, a large number of trees, of enormous magnitude, have been discovered at a depth of about six feet; some of the oaks have been nearly twelve feet in girth, and forty in length. Several trees of the oak, fir, and yew tribes have been found to be thoroughly sound, even to the uttermost part, except those which have been exposed to the air or lay near the surface. Many of the oak trees have proved more tough and flexible than this tree is under ordinary circumstances. A large quantity of the timber has most unquestionably been on fire. It seems that during some remote age, the fossil trees at White Moss have been burned, for there are examples of the main shaft of these timbers having been consumed. Singular as it may appear, the trees found in this moss have invariably been met with lying in a direction either southeast or due east, as if some change, terrific in effect, and of short duration, had operated to create this state of things. By extraordinary convulsions of nature, tracts of highlands have probably been converted into shallow pools of water, or rather into morasses, which becoming occupied first by reeds, then by mossy and leathery tribes of plants, and these dying annually, without entire extinction, though destitute of the principles of vegetation, the moss of plant like material remained in a partially decayed state; moisture added to this would, in the course of time, accumulate and arrange the thick masses of peat bog that now prevail. Mr. Dixon, with a laudible view to a clear elucidation of the cause of the discoveries recently made at White Moss, gave strict injunctions to the workmen to subject any unusual appearance met with on the timbers to his own careful observation; the result has been, that no proofs of human labors having interfered with the woods that existed on the site, have been met with.

From Knight's London.

SUMMARY OF LONDON.

LONDON is the richest city in the world; occupies a surface of thirty two square miles, thickly planted with houses, mostly three, four, and five stories high. It consists of London city, Westminster city, Finsbury, Marylebone, Tower Hamlets, Southwark, and Lambeth districts. The two latter are on the south side of the Thames. It contains 300 churches and chapels of the establishment 364 dissenters' chapels; 22 foreign chapels; 250 public schools; 1,500 private schools; 150 hospitals; 156 almshouses, besides 205 other institutions; 550 public offices; 14 prisons; 22 theatres; 24 markets. Consumes annually 110,000 bullocks, 776,000 sheep, 250,000 lambs, 250,000 calves, and 970,000 pigs; 11,000 tons of butter, 13,000 tons of cheese, 10 million gallons of milk, a million quarters of wheat, or 64 millions of quarters loaves, 65,000 pipes of wine, 2 millions gallons of spirits, and 2 million barrels of porters of ale. Employs 16,502 shoemakers, 14,552 tailors, 2,391 blacksmiths, 2,013 compositors, 700 pressmen, 1,393 stationers, 2,633 watch and clock makers, 4,227 grocers, 1,430 milkmen, 5,655 bakers, 2,091 barbers, 1,040 brokers, 4,322 butchers, 1,586 cheesemongers, 1,032 chemists, 4,199 clothiers and linen drapers, 2,197 coach makers, 1,367 coal merchants, 2,133 coopers, 1,331 dyers, 2,319 plumbers, 907 pastry cooks, 869 saddlers, 1,246 tinmen, 803 tobacconists, 1,470 turners, 559 undertakers. The above are all males above twenty years of age. 10,000 private families of fashion, &c. About 77,000 establishments of trade and industry, 4,400 public houses, 339 hotels, 470 beer shops, 960 spirit and wine shops. There are six bridges over the Thames at London. London docks cover twenty acres; fourteen tobacco warehouses, fourteen acres; and the wine cellars three acres, containing 22,000 pipes. The two West Indian docks over 51 acres. St. Catherine's docks cover 24 acres. The Surrey docks on the opposite side are also very large. There are generally about 5,000 vessels, and 3,060 boats on the river, employing 8,000 watermen and 4,000 labourers. London pays about one third the window duty in England, the number of houses assessed being about 120,000, rated at upwards of five millions sterling. The house rental is probably seven or eight millions.

From Annals of Chemistry and Practical Pharmacy.

NEW ANTIDOTE TO CARROSIVE SUBLIMATE.

THE result of some chemical experiments of M. Mialge have informed him that the hydrated protosulphuret of