

ject of medicine, there will always be a field for Quackery. Success to it! I drink the toast in Champagne. And be it, I would whisper, remembered, that when a practitioner who would be honest, is driven by neglect, discouragement, and conventional prejudice, to become a quack, society, for all the mischief he may inflict upon it, has only to thank its own wrong.

From the London Athenæum.

THE LONELY MOTHER.

My home is not what it hath been,
When the leaves of other years were green,
Though its hearth is bright and its chambers
fair,
And the summer beams fall brightly there;
But they fall no more on the clear young eye,
And the lip of pleasant song,
And the gleamy night that wont to lie
On the curls so dark and long.

Oh! pleasant is the voice of youth,
For it tells of the heart's confiding truth,
And keeps that free and fearless tone
That ne'er to our after years is known:
I hear it rise in each hamlet cot,
O'er evening prayer and page,
But woe for the hearth that heareth nought
But the dreamy tones of age.

The glow is gone from our winter blaze,
And the light hath pass'd from our summer
days;

And our dwelling hath no household now,
But the sad of heart, and the grey of brow.
For its young lies low 'neath the churchyard
tree,

Where the grass grows green and wild.
And thy mother's heart is sad for thee,
My lost, my only child.

But a waking music seems to flow
On me, from the years of long ago,
As thy babe's first words come sweet and clear
Like a voice from thy childhood to mine ear;
And her smile beams back on my soul again
Thy beauty's early morn,
Ere thine eyes grew dim with tears or pain,
Or thy lovely locks were shorn.

Alas! for the widowed eyes that trace
Their early lost in that orphan face.
What after light will memory mark,
Like the dove that in spring time sought her
Ark?

For long in that far and better land
Were her spirit's treasures laid,
And she might not stay from its golden strand,
For the love of hearts that fade.

But woe for her on whose path may shine
The light of no mother's love but mine,
Oh! well if that lonely path lead on
To the land where her mother's steps have
gone,—

The land where the aged find their youth,
And the young no whit'ning hair:
Oh! safe my child, from both time and death,
Let us hope to meet there.

FRANCES BROWN.

The Politician.

The British Press.

From the London Shipping Gazette.

FRANCE AND MOROCCO.

An insurrectionary spirit is manifesting itself rather widely among the native population of Algeria. In the west on the Morocco frontier, they have assumed an assailant attitude, and with the indomitable ABD EL KADER at the head of a large force, they have attacked some of the detached bodies of the French forces with great vigour, and have come off conquerors. On this first great outbreak, the Arabs have half avenged the atrocious massacre of Dahara; not in the ignominious manner in which their devoted countrymen were fiendishly deprived of life, but in a fair field, like brave men. And, can it be wondered at, that a nation of which all the men are warriors, should be maddened to revenge by the ferocious and base cruelty of their unscrupulous invaders? Every right-thinking man must admire the unflinching and brave way in which the native tribes have for fifteen years protracted the fierce struggle with their powerful and rapacious foe. Uncivilised they may be called by the more artificial people of Europe; but they have shown what many European nations might blush to see—an inextinguishable ardour in the defence of their native land. How many continental states have we seen crouch at the first blow of an invader; and then, as if to hide their own cowardice, they have raised a common cry of admiration of the irresistible powers of their conquerors. Inhabitants of Germany, and Italy, and Spain!—should your fair plains be again trampled on by an invading foe, think of the undisciplined bravery of the rude Arab race. A few short months sufficed to lay you in abject submission at a spoiler's feet; whilst at the

end of 15 years the glow of independence and the fire of revenge still burn brightly in the African Arab's breast, and stir him up to battle for his still unconquered country. In the eye of reason all warfare is detestable, save when it is committed to repel invasion; and then when men are fighting for their native land, their hearts, and all their cherished endearments of existence, theirs is a hallowed cause. Such is the cause which the Arab tribes have nobly maintained in Algeria. The Governments of Europe have stood apathetically by, looking indifferently on the sanguinary contest, with all its atrocious passages, in Africa; as if it were no concern of theirs. The laws of nations they say, prohibit their interference; and the people seem to take the dictum of their rulers as the guide of their own judgment. Rarely do we hear the voice of individual reprobation raised against a pertinacious assault on a nation's independence, conducted with a ferocity revolting to all the tutored feelings of our nature. The French are a great people, say the passive politicians, and if it please them to subjugate, with any or with no cause of provocation, a semi-barbarous nation, it is no concern of ours. But in all the civilization and the freedom of Europe, is there no public voice which will denounce the self-willed doers of wrong; in vindication of national justice outraged, and of humanity despised? French rulers and French writers may gloss over the system and the mode of their Algerine warfare, and affect to palliate deeds which shock our common nature; but they can scarcely flatter themselves that the sophistries which they put forth will give the tone to the dispassionate judgment of calm enquirers. The leaders of the French opposition seem to be unconscious of the character which, as a people, they are building up for themselves by their public deeds, among the enlightened and the reflecting of all nations. Generals may adopt, and public sophists may excuse, the brutal massacre of Dahara; commanders and soldiers may glory in the plunder and devastation of a razzia; but the world at large will permanently inscribe ferocity and rapacity among the characteristics of Frenchmen. There are scrutinising eyes and sober intellects beyond the pale of French influence, which are not deceived by glossing falsehoods and by braggart boastings; the dispassionate observers of passing events will say that the warfare in Algeria has been disgraceful to the invaders; and though a cruel curse, it has shed imperishable honour on the brave defenders of their devoted country.

The great majority of the political writers in France, perhaps conscious that they have not that within them to engage the sympathies of honorable men, make it their daily business to stir up dissension, and war if they can, between their own country and surrounding states; more especially do they deal in bitter though senseless invective against England. These men surely will not be surprised to find that among a people whom they detest, and take so much malignant pains to calumniate and provoke, there are some who do not see all the virtues in the Gallic character, nor do they recognize all wisdom and justice in the public conduct of the nation.

In the protracted assault on Algeria, the invaders, in the pertinacious resistance of the natives, only an insolent denial of their self-constituted sovereignty; to be expiated, warrantably, as they have the effrontery to tell the world, by extermination, plunder, and devastation. It requires an understanding purely French, to follow the reasoning and feelings, which no cultivated people envy them, to adopt the conclusion. The Arabs have shown themselves to be a brave people, enthusiastically devoted to maintain the independence of their father-land. Ask any patriot in any country if they are not deserving of the sympathy, and entitled to the good wishes, of every honest man. Abd el Kader, whom the invaders affect to consider as a pestilent recusant of legitimate authority, is the HERO of the age. Where is the idol of history who has fought longer or more bravely to save his unhappy country from base subjection by a foreign foe? His name, in the impartial estimate of posterity, will be enshrined with those of an Alfred, a Tell, a Kosciuszko, and a Washington.

In another part of the world the French are just now scandalised at the persevering carnage carried on between two neighbouring half rude people, because, forsooth, not that they dislike the butchery or the subjugation; the tooth-and-nail contest interferes with the money-making pursuits of French traders. In the course of their dealings with the lawless buccanier, whose savage course of proceedings they wish to stop, it might be well for their minister to ask the redoubtable Rosas, if a razzia were not a perfectly lawful mode of conducting a war against herdsmen and shepherds; and whether he, a brigand and a butcher, would not have been delighted to have taken part in the roasting of a thousand defenceless men, women, and children, in the caves of Dahara?

The tone of offended innocence which pervades the Parisian comments on Algerine insurrections, and on the pertinacious patriotism of the Emir Abd el Kader, is unctious in the extreme, and to disinterested readers perfectly ludicrous.

From the London Morning Chronicle.

RAILWAYS IN IRELAND.

It is satisfactory to observe that the Irish public appears to be at the present moment more occupied with railway projects than with any kind of political agitation. Agitation there is, no doubt, which, considering not only what it is, but what a capacity of sudden and startling increase it possesses, cannot be lightly regarded

by any person of common sense; but it is a fact which augurs well for the future tranquillity and prosperity of Ireland, that, in spite of Repeal Associations and Orange Societies, the material interests of the country are occupying the attention of practical men in a greater degree than they have ever done before. The development of the railway system in England, prodigious as it must be, if even a portion of the projects before the public take effect, opens prospect of change so vast and unbounded, that the imagination is fairly overwhelmed by the contemplation. But the mighty results to be anticipated in this country from new facilities of transport and locomotion, are not proportionably greater than the social and political consequences likely to be produced in Ireland by the less considerable and less numerous, but still immense improvements which are either designed or in actual progress there. It is a trite fact, that Ireland yields a smaller amount of useful products, in proportion to the extent and fertility of its soil, and the density of its population, than any other civilized country. The Irish labourer does not receive more than half the wages of an agricultural labourer in England. The immediate and sufficient cause is, that his labour is not more than half as productive. The inferiority of Irish husbandry causes two men to be employed in doing the work of one. Of course the two must be content to live on an amount of wages not greater than what one man, working on a better system, might obtain. These are familiar facts, and it is as equally well known, that improvements which would render Irish labour twice as productive as it now is, are obstructed solely by political and social causes—by inequalities of political arrangement, which supply the fuel to agitation, and by sectarian antipathies, which prevent the friendly union of men, having a common interest for a common purpose. The mutual distrust of different parties has hitherto paralysed the industrial energies of Ireland, and the misery and stagnation thence resulting, have kept alive, and confirmed their pernicious hostility. The making of Railways, however, seems likely to check powerfully the revolution of this circle of evils. We know very well that no steady tranquillity or prosperity can be looked for in Ireland, without wise and vigorous remedial legislation, and a long continuance of impartial government; but the difficulties both of legislation and government, will be lessened and great positive good effected, by the combinations of individuals and interests which railway projects have caused, and are causing every day. It is a most important fact, that a large proportion of the capital advanced for railway enterprises in Ireland is Irish capital. The consequence is, that Irishmen of influence differing widely in religious and political dissensions. The prejudices of class and creed, too, to which those dissensions owe their peculiar bitterness, must gradually lose their power in proportion as their absurdity is rendered obvious by personal intercourse. Judging from the report of railway meetings in the Irish journals, which present the spectacle of political opponents coming together on the most friendly terms, we cannot but think that the old animosities by which improvement has been so long retarded, are undergoing a slow but certain process of decline.

From the London Pictorial Times.

RIO DE LA PLATA.

RECENT occurrences in the River Plate have awakened considerable curiosity, and appear to demand more lengthened details of past history and the progress of events in that part of the world than we have hitherto given, especially as, in the present day, there are but few persons who seem to know anything about its locality, to whom it belongs, or its mode of government.

The river Plate was first entered by Sebastian Cabot in 1526; and after various and desperate conflicts with the aborigines, as, well as dissensions amongst the leaders of the expeditions, a settlement was effected on the southern shore, about two hundred miles from the river's mouth, and from the salubrity of the atmosphere, was named 'Buenos Ayres,' or 'Fine Air.' This took place in 1535, and the city was founded by Don Pedro de Mendoza, as the first venture of the Spaniards; who, notwithstanding the deadly hostility of the natives, continued to increase and spread over the colony, so that in the year 1700 the colonists numbered nearly 17,000 persons. The term 'Buenos Ayres' was then given to a province of La Plata, and in 1776 it was made the capital of the viceroyalty. At the present date the population cannot be less than 80,000, including individuals of all countries.

During the intermediate time many changes have occurred; the Spaniards founded other colonies, and hence arose 'Monte Video,' or the Mountain of Sight, situated on the northern shore, about a hundred and thirty miles to the eastward of Buenos Ayres, which, being nearer to the entrance of the river, and the best harbour, was strongly fortified by batteries and armed walls. Possession was also secured on the western coasts of South America, and the wealth of the mines produced extensive traffic between the Old and the New World, inasmuch that even the common utensils used in household affairs were manufactured of the precious metals, and the churches abounded in the most gorgeous display of gold and silver. This attracted the attention of the Buccaneers, who, tempted by the immense spoil to be obtained, risked life and limb in attacking the Spanish settlements, and the account of the vast booty they obtained is truly astonishing.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth they were assailed by Sir Frances Drake, and yielded a

rich return, so as to gain him the favour of his royal mistress. At every period of warfare with Spain, the Pacific Ocean has swarmed with cruisers and privateers, and during the intervals of peace a class of English marauders, under the name of 'Free traders,' have kept up a brisk traffic, in defiance of the Spanish vessels of war who sometimes get severely trashed.

It will be remembered that, during the war with France caused by the ambition of Napoleon, his intrigues induced the mother country Spain to threaten England with vengeance; but before a full declaration was made of the Spanish government, Commodore Graham Moore, in the Indefatigable frigate, with three others, attacked four Spanish treasure ships, three of which were captured, and one was blown up. This occurred on the 29th of October, 1804, and on the 14th of December following open war was declared between the two countries, and of course the colonies partook of the feeling of the parent state.

The treasure taken in the ships amounted to a very large sum which Buonaparte had expected to appropriate to his own use, but the vigilance of the English cruisers defeated his purpose; but so inveterate was the hatred caused against this country, that it blinded the colonists to the nefarious schemes of Napoleon. When, however, the course of his insidious policy became more exposed, there was a strong feeling evinced in Buenos Ayres in favour of independence; or rather, in the first instance, the consideration strengthening that Buonaparte was desirous of seizing upon Spain for his own family, the Spaniards, still adhering to their monarch, were willing to break compact with France, whilst the descendants of the Spaniards—those who had been born in the colonies not cherishing the same regard for Spain, and caring nothing for the French—were desirous of freeing themselves from all coercion.

This gave rise to the expedition under Sir Home Popham in 1806, when, under a show of friendship, backed, however, by bayonets, Monte Video and Buenos Ayres were taken; but subsequently, through the misconduct of General Whitelocke, the English troops were forced to evacuate both places; but a treaty of amity and trade succeeded till 1810, when a perfect revolution took place at Buenos Ayres. The governor and the members of the executive were dining together at a public dinner at the castle, and while thus engaged a body of soldiers marched into the room, took the whole into custody, and having escorted them to a vessel lying close in shore, she got under way, and proceeded down the river. From that moment independence was secured; and the Mutine sloop of war brought to England the first Spanish deputy from the Cortes. Monte Video was still doubtful, but ultimately came into the scheme, though the old Spaniards remained faithful to the land of their nativity.

Elio, the ex-governor of Buenos Ayres, having been banished to Monte Video, stirred up the spirits of the people against the revolt; and the republicans, under Rondeau, a South American officer, and Antigas, a Gracho chieftain, laid siege to Monte Video; and Elio, finding himself unable to maintain his position, applied to the Portuguese Government of Brazil for succour. Four thousand men were accordingly despatched to his assistance, but the Spaniards, having become distrustful of their new allies, shortly afterwards succeeded in making terms of peace, whereby it was agreed that the republicans should retire from what was styled the 'Banda Oriental' and the Portuguese at the same time return to Brazil. This was complied with at once by both parties, but the truce did not endure more than twelve months. Elio was superseded by Don G. Vigodet, who arrived from Spain with reinforcements; but the republicans were on the alert, and Monte Video was again besieged; and, though treachery deprived the besiegers of a considerable force, yet Rondeau maintained it until June 1814, when the citadel surrendered; but Antigas, having commenced hostilities against his old allies, Rondeau evacuated the place, and Antigas entered it, but was not suffered to retain possession very long, for the Portuguese troops in Brazil were sent to attack it, and a force of 10,000 men took the city in January 1817. But the wars had been most destructive—the villages and settlements in the interior were for the most part destroyed, and Monte Video was, for a time, reduced to great destitution.

Buenos Ayres uttered loud complaints against this act of Brazilian aggression, but to no effect. Antigas held the plains with a band of marauders, perpetrating mischief, and even made an attack on Buenos Ayres, but was ultimately defeated, and retreating into Paraguay, where he was taken prisoner by the Dictator, Doctor Francia.

Proposals were then made for incorporating the disputed province with Brazil, which was agreed to, and the Plate made the boundary of territory. Buenos Ayres exclaimed against this cession, and used rather violent threats. At length a conspiracy was formed at Monte Video for the purpose of ridding the place from the Brazilian empire, and assistance was requested from Buenos Ayres, and a guerilla warfare commenced against the Brazilian army; and, on the 12th of October, 1825, the small band of guerillas defeated 2,200 troops of the line, and the government at Rio Janeiro declared war against Buenos Ayres, which province immediately prepared for action, and began by increasing the squadron under Admiral Brown, and manning it with English seamen, and at the same time issuing letters of marque.

The fleet of Brazil, consisting of seventeen sail, including three large corvettes, and three