

the Man with a Grievance! The man with a grievance rushes upon you in all places, and at all seasons. As you are hurrying to the theatre, or entering a baker's just on the eve of shutting up. You may be going to church for what he cares. As you are hastening home to dinner, or proceeding, late as usual, to dine at a friend's, with nine persons waiting for you; as you are speeding to receive the payment due at twelve o'clock, your only chance of getting it; as you are flying to embrace the darling daughter separated from you for a long twelvemonth; or dashing onward, with the design of kicking somebody two miles off, to whom you bear a delicious grudge, at all these times will the man with a grievance lay violent hands upon you, and remorselessly pour his horrid tale into your ear. He would have stopped a highwayman on the road to Tyburn, but that the condemned would naturally have preferred hanging to hearing. In the mixed assembly, you may know the man with a grievance at a glance; persons where he sits or walks move nervously away. But, as he stands looking round for his likeliest prey, some slight acquaintance, observing him silent and companionless innocently bows, and is instantly hooked past recall, by the deadly anger with a grievance. A faint struggle at the end of five minutes, a desperate movement of escape in a quarter of an hour, with a fidgety and agitated manner kept up during the long interval, only reveal the helplessness of the victim—the unhappy listener caught in the fatal lures of the man with a grievance."

From the Halifax Post.

EUROPE, A CENTURY AGO.

JOSEPH HOWE, Esq., lectured last Wednesday evening on the state of Europe, at the time of the settlement of Halifax, Anno Domini 1640. This lecturer accomplished by taking up in detail the several States, Empires, and Kingdoms, that were in existence at that interesting period—interesting not only from the peculiar position of those nations, but from its being the time when our fathers with the spirit of adventure characteristic of the times in which they lived, hoisted their canvases to the breeze that wafted their adventurous keels across the Atlantic, into this fair portion of the western world.

We subjoin a running sketch of the states of Europe, and of some of the events which have influenced their destiny, without confining ourselves to the details of the Lecturer.

Russia was the first that claimed attention, and with justice, too; for about that period Peter the Great began projecting his plans for the elevation of this vast Empire, out of the crude materials which then composed the mass of the Russian people—plans which were subsequently wrought out by the not less energetic Catharine. The results of the wise and judicious policy of these two powerful sovereigns may now be witnessed in the mighty Empire that is destined at no distant period, to exercise so vast an influence on mankind.

Next in order came Turkey, which remains the only portion of all the Mahomedan conquests in Europe. Constantinople was taken by Mahomed the II. in 1453, and the Emperor Constantine Paleologus killed in the breach. Since that time there have been between 20 and 30 Turkish Emperors, reigning on an average 16 years. The power of the Turks, once so overwhelming, has now entirely ceased, and the descendants of the once mighty Saracens now hold this remnant of their conquests only by consent of the great powers of Europe for the general good.

Poland rose to distinction between 1320 and 1580. In 1773, 1793, 1795, and 1815, Russia, Austria, and Prussia, confederated to seize on Poland. Since the period of the settlement of Halifax, therefore, Poland has been blotted out from among the independent States of Europe.

Austria, the most powerful of the German States, acquired by the partition of Poland one sixth of that country. About the time of the settlement of Halifax the whole Continent of Europe was convulsed in wars, in which Austria, under Maria Theresa, took a prominent part. Her armies, led by Prince Eugene, (a Frenchman) in conjunction with our own renowned Marlborough, performed prodigies of valour during the succession war, (1702 to 1713). Many splendid victories were achieved under them. The siege of Belgrade, so often quoted, was undertaken in May, 1717, by Prince Eugene. In August, the Turkish army, amounting to 200,000, approached to relieve it, and a battle was fought in which the Turks lost 20,000 men, after which Belgrade surrendered.

Prussia was a province of Poland till 1600—acquired importance by the annexation of Silesia in 1741, and subsequently by Saxony and parts of Poland. To Frederick the Great Prussia owes not only her present position but her very existence, as a Kingdom. This Monarch is not less celebrated for his abilities as a warrior, than his ardent desire to figure in the world of letters, and his connexion with Voltaire is not the least remarkable event of his time at his Court, assisting the King in his literary labours, but the Monarch and the Philosopher finally quarrelled, beyond the hope of conciliation, and only by precipitate flight the latter saved himself from the vengeance of his royal host.

It is recorded of Frederick that during the desperate struggles of the seven years' war, he constantly carried about his person a bottle of prussic acid, with the determination that should war prove unpropitious he would use the poison to prevent his falling into the hands of his numerous enemies. In another pocket he carried his writing materials, which were put in requisition the moment a battle was con-

cluded, to write (as Voltaire imprudently declared, and for which he was compelled to fly,) "bad versed and worse prose." But Frederick, although a tyrant, had philosophy enough to take care of his own interest and that of his Country by affording protection within his dominions to the subjects of religious persecution—and that time pretty numerous. Frederick, although not insensible to the value of British Gold, preferred not having Englishmen in his army—supposing their luxurious habits (for which he had the most sovereign contempt) had unfitted them for war, and so strict was the discipline of his army that death was only a secondary punishment. But we must leave the Philosopher King and hasten on to Venice and Genoa.

These, it is well known were once the pride of the Earth, particularly the former. From having originally been settled by pirates, Venice had, through a long period of the most remarkable history of the world, acquired such celebrity as to be known as the Queen of Cities and Mistress of the ocean—But both these cities have long since lost their power, and both from the same cause, viz. the passage to India round the Cape of Good Hope, by which the Eastern trade was diverted from its former channel by way of Syria and Egypt. The marine power of Venice was always conspicuous in forwarding the Crusaders to the East. The first Crusade took place in the autumn of 1096—100,000 men advanced from all parts of Europe to Constantinople, and after killing all Jews found in their route, the remnant passed into Asia and were exterminated by Solymann. In the following year 100,000 horse and 600,000 foot passed the Bosphorus and defeated Solymann with an army of 600,000 Asiatics. Jerusalem was taken by storm and all except Christians were put to the sword. An army of 200,000 soon after followed, but were all cut off by the inhabitants of the countries through which they passed. About forty years after 300,000 crusaders, led by the Kings of France and Germany, passed into Asia but were defeated by Saladin, who had re-taken Jerusalem and proclaimed free toleration to the Christians. In 1197, another crusade was projected by the Kings of England, France, and Emperor of Germany, who proceeded to the Holy Land with half a million of men. Although Richard Cour de Leon gained a victory over Saladin, the expedition was as disastrous as the others had been.—The Emperor was drowned and Richard returned alone and suffered long imprisonment in Austria.

In 1200 Baldwin set forth with another, but quarrelled with the Greeks, whose Government he overthrew. John of Brienne conducted another in 1219, and landing with 100,000 men in Egypt, succeeded in taking Damietta, but lost his army in an inundation of the Nile.

Finally, the last of what have been called these mad enterprises, was undertaken by St. Louis, King of France, in 1250. It consisted of 18,000 transports, carrying 200,000 men—After landing in Egypt they were defeated by the Saracens, and St. Louis taken prisoner, but was kindly treated and liberated in 1270. He subsequently embarked again, and landing at Tunis, he and most of his army perished by disease. Thus ended these ridiculous but heroic wars, which are estimated to have cost Christian Europe nearly forty millions of lives, retarded civilization, and gave ferocious characters to the people of Europe.

The Italian States, famous as the nursery of learning and the arts, and not less so as the seat and centre of the Great Roman Empire which at one time extended from the Danube to the Euphrates, with all its glorious associations, have long since been shorn of their ancient grandeur. The fortune of Rome is so singular that it calls for a few remarks in passing. It was founded by banditti in 753, B. C. and from the year 100 B. C. to 300 A. C. the persevering policy of that State ruled the world by the sword. From 300 to 500 Rome governed all Europe, by spiritual power, which is at the present time acknowledged by half its States, and its language still reigns over all learning after a lapse of nearly three thousand years.

Spain, at one period of her history, claimed the same proud distinction that Britain at present enjoys, viz. that she never set on her possessions, without stopping to review her "strange eventful history," it is enough to say that this chivalrous country, from having the wealth of the world deposited at her feet, and possessing an influence by no means limited at the settlement of this City, now has "none so poor to do her reverence." Her former crowded marts are deserted, and the grass grows green in the once busy streets, and the renowned Buccaneers may no longer divide with her the wealth plundered from Mexico and Peru. Were it not that she nominally retains Cuba and Porto Rico, her commercial career would be virtually at an end—Her present condition, contrasted with her former greatness, is a most melancholy but deeply instructive lesson.

Portugal also, from her priority of discovery and profitable traffic to the East, by way of the Cape, offers another practical illustration of the evanescent nature of national prosperity, when not built on the sure foundation of the industry of the people. Where are now the richly laden ships that once entered the waters of the Tagus and where the princely merchants who gathered into their coffers the rich merchandize and pearls of the Indies?—And what has Lisbon now to shew for the mighty advantages she once enjoyed?

Sweden claims some share of attention, if it were only to gaze for a moment on the exploits of her youthful but renowned hero, Charles XII., who has been styled the modern Alexander. But for the ambition and energy displayed by that monarch, Sweden as well as Nor-

way and Denmark—neither of them occupying prominent positions in Europe—might almost escape the notice of the student in modern European history.

Holland, once claiming the Sovereignty of the seas, puts in an undoubted certificate to notice from her enterprise, love of liberty, and notoriety among European nations—While we scan the features of this remarkable country, we are lost in admiration and hardly know to which the preference ought to be awarded—whether to her resolute bravery—untiring industry—exhaustless patience—surpassing skill, or the unflinching patriotism, which were each and all worn as easy, and gracefully as were the garments of her people. But from Holland as well as the Hanse towns glory has departed. Their foreign trade, great as it is even now, has dwindled to a shadow—her fleets that once whitened every sea now steal stealthily along the waste of waters, and the descendants of de Ruyter, de Winter, and old Van Tromp cut now but a sorry figure in those same waters on which their fathers valiantly contested with our own brave Tars the supremacy of the Ocean. The indomitable bravery of her sons for a while upheld her waning influence—for a short time buoyed up the sinking hopes of her burghers—briefly held out the prospect that her once successful whalers and bank fishermen might retain their proud position; but at length even Holland, a nation which, by superior skill and industry had succeeded in monopolizing the carrying trade of the world—had commercial relations with China and Japan—and dictated her own terms to the nations of Europe—in turn yielded up the sources of her wealth to British enterprise and the operation of the Navigation act.

The period of the settlement of Halifax, (when the navigation act had been in operation but little more than half a century) found Holland withering, and, owing to a variety of causes, the proceeds of her fisheries (which at one time yielded little less than fifteen millions sterling,) considerably diminished. The enormous sum produced by the catch and export of herrings was so important a source of wealth to this singular country, that her cities, more especially Amsterdam, are figuratively said to have been "erected on herring bones."

New Works.

Australia, from Fort Macquarie to Moreton Bay. Its Native, Natural Productions, Fertility, &c. By Clement Hodgkinson. HUNTING THE KANGAROO.

The largest kangaroo I ever saw was killed close to my tents at Mungo Creek at the Mac Leary river, it weighed nearly two hundred and fifty pounds, and disabled one of the dogs that had attacked him. It is scarcely necessary to mention that the kangaroo only uses his forefeet for grazing or digging. He advances by a succession of leaps, in making which, his tail, which he carries at right angles to his body, is of great service; some of them have been known in these leaps to spring over obstacles eight feet high. The best dogs for hunting this animal, are those which are a cross between the greyhound and some larger and coarser dogs, the latter and the large Scotch deerhound are very well suited for this kind of sport. As soon as a kangaroo is started, he bounds away for some minutes at a fast rate, as the best dogs, but the latter soon gained upon him, especially if he ascends the steep slope of a range, which is peculiarly disadvantageous to his manner of progression. However, if the country is very bushy and rocky, he frequently escapes from his pursuers by clearing all impediments in his way, by his amazing leaps. Whilst the chase lasts, the horses must keep up a very fast pace; and in the densely wooded coast country, there is ample scope for proving the mettle of our horses, in leaping across water-courses, and rocky brooks, clearing fallen trees, and thorny bushes, and galloping down steep runnels. A well-trained dog in coming alongside of a kangaroo, springs on that animal while in the air, seizing it near the root of the tail; the weight of the dog brings him to the ground, when the former instantly lets go the tail, and fastens on the throat. In effecting this manoeuvre, an awkward dog is frequently torn, or ripped open, by the kangaroo's hind legs, which are armed with hooked claws of great size. It is no uncommon occurrence for him to stop and stand and bay against a tree; when a dog ventures to attack the kangaroo whilst in this position, he generally suffers for his temerity; and it is necessary, on such occasions, for the sportsman to dismount, and approaching from behind, cleave his skull with a *couteau de chasse*, or tomahawk. He sometimes rushes into a pond of water when pressed hard, and has been known to drown dogs which swam to attack him.

On traversing the dense brush of New South Wales, the sportsman, as he climbs over the prostrate timber, and crawls under the entangled creepers and briars, must take care that he does not put his hand on some venomous snake. These disagreeable reptiles are particularly abundant in the north-eastern part of the territory of the colony, where the country is so bushy and swampy. Nearly all the snakes of New South Wales are poisonous, for of ten species that have been examined by naturalists, seven were ascertained to be highly venomous. The Death Adder—This hideous reptile is of a dusky hue, seldom more than two feet and a half long, but immensely thick in proportion to its length. At the extremity of its tail is a small pointed hardened process, with which the sawyers and labourers fancy

that it can inflict a sting like a scorpion. The death adder, perhaps, possesses the most intense venom of any Australian serpent, for many persons have, at various periods, died in consequence of its bite, which is most rapidly fatal. Dogs expire in a very few minutes after they are bitten. Another smaller kind of snake, of a brown colour, would, however, appear to be nearly as bad as the death adder; for, since I have been at the colony a man at the Williams river was bitten by a snake of this description, and died in a quarter of an hour. This snake was under a plank which the man was removing, and so slight was the bite, inflicted by its fangs, that the man did not know at first that he was bitten, and remarked to his comrade, that he had a narrow escape. The death adder is extremely sluggish in its habits and rarely moves out of the way of persons approaching it; I am, therefore, inclined to think, that the original popular name assigned to this reptile, must have been Death Adder, instead of the Death adder."

From Sergeant Talfourd's Vacation Rambles and Thoughts.

THE LOUVRE. After you have passed through acres of canvas; blushing with the glories of modern French art, of which it would be ungrateful to speak, and which it is better not to examine, you enter into the enchanted home of Claude and Poussin—then are surfeited with the luxuriance of Rubens—and then approach the inner shrine of art, where Raphael, Correggio, and Titian keep their state. I can pretend to no distinct recollection of the grandeur and beauties assembled and clustered there, except that Titian's portraits, in their tremendous reality, made Vandyke's look like mere paintings, and actually induced me to turn away from works which, at Warwick Castle, I should have felt to be divine. All beside is confused as the saffron tints on a stormy western sky at sunset. After three hours gorgeous dreaming among the pictures, we descended to the statues; but we had no eyes for them, for we had gazed ours blind above stairs, and could not quite forget ourselves to stone. I was not sorry when we emerged into the fresh air and "light of common day," as from an enchanted castle.

Paris with all its superficial vivacity may be, and I dare say is, a wearisome place to in; but for one who desires a few days of cloudless, careless, innocent gaiety, it is the best place in the world; because, with the objects of curiosity which London may rival, it has an atmosphere of carelessness and joy, which makes you feel, not that you are making holiday in the midst of sad laborious creatures, but enjoying yourself among some happy tribe who make holiday all the year round. Lord Byron speaking of wolder and grosser enjoyments, says, "For one of the half-truths with which Don Juan abounds—

"There is no sterner moralist than pleasure." If it be true that the pleasure he refers to—the pleasures he was too well able to appreciate—tend to sad thoughts, it is no less true, that light-hearted innocent pleasure tends to sweet and wise ones; and that the "laughter which leaves may be peopled with tender thoughts." So, Partisan enjoyments—all innocent and graceful—made me thoughtful, if not wise; and left the place without any sense of its alleged frivolity.

GERMAN STUDENTS. It was nearly dark when we entered Basle, and quite dark before we were housed at the great hotel of the Three Kings, so that we saw nothing of the city but tall houses lining dimly street, dark towers, and very bright shops chiefly for the sale of tobacco and cigars, in which groups of rough-looking young men were smoking with all their might. These were, no doubt, students of the university, whom Mr. William Howitt, the most genial of all Quakers, seems to regard as a nobler and more generous race than the undergraduates of Oxford. As Cobbet, spitefully and unjustly said of the gentlemen of the press—"Only look at them!" and decide whether this comparative estimate can be just. One superiority, to be sure, our youths must confess, and which has probably influenced our gentle "friend" against them—they do not decide their quarrels either by the sword or pistol, like his German favourites. A duels never occurs among the students of our universities; and yet they are in the heyday of life; many of them the spoiled children of their parents, and more of their fortunes, and brought constantly in close collision a circumstance which is alone sufficient to refute the sophism which would preserve the absurdity and barbarity of duelling as an essential safeguard of good manners. I suspect the truth to be that our friend Howitt, like other frail and friendly children of Adam, sometimes admires things in proportion as they are distant and forbidden; and being a man affirmed to keep the peace, thinks that it must be a very fine thing to have courage to break it. There is unquestionably much generous friendship among these young men, strong love of country and some love of learning; but if any one thinks they are to be compared with the youth of the two old English universities, in blood or breeding, I have only to address to him Cobbet's advice—"Go and see them!"

CHILDHOOD IN FRANCE.

I observed some French children—the very small ones, fantastically dressed up as playthings, seemed petted, caressed, and spoiled; but the elder ones, from 10 to 16, looking care worn, conceited, independent, and miserable. Everything is gay in Paris but childhood. Old age is gay—pleasantly so, even when fantastically so; and death itself is tricked out in garlands, and turned to favour and to prettiness.