

ped also. Under the impulse of a sudden thought, he went towards the animal, and uttering a caressing exclamation, held his hand out with a conciliating gesture. But these approaches won no response; there was no wagging of the tail, and no relaxation of the sullen yet eager watchfulness of the brute. Ferrers glanced around him, at the thick wood upon the right, at the dark, sombre spot behind, up and down the broad, white, silent road. No living being was in sight; no welcome sound was to be heard; as far as eyes and ears could perceive, he and his wolf-dog of strange and alarming behaviour were the only occupants of a vast and dreary solitude. But the evidence of the senses was nothing worth. Imagination arrayed the scene in terrors, conjuring up a thousand crouching forms amidst the trees, a thousand gleaming eyes and cruel and ferocious faces peering out from amongst the leaves, a thousand low whispers of direful import in every sigh of the wind. A strong repugnance to enter the deep shade behind him, and his fear of the powerful brute which kept watch before him, held Ferrers stationary, and he resolved to remain where he was until, happily, the *Diligence* might come up and release him from the position he believed to be so fraught with peril.

Suddenly the silence was broken by a sharp hissing on the right—a short, vehement sound uttered with closed teeth. The dog growled in response, and crouched lower still to the ground, looking now ferociously, ravenously, at Ferrers. It was a preparatory action. The hiss was repeated. With one spring the creature fastened upon the victim's neck and bore him to the ground. Ferrers struggled and fought against his formidable adversary with all his strength, but the brute was more than a match for him, and worried and tore at him in a manner which would soon have deprived him of life. In the wild horror of the encounter, Ferrers heard a sound of footsteps, and called loudly for help; but his cry was no sooner uttered than a ruthless blow on his uncovered head, for his hat had been jerked to the ground at the first onslaught of the dog, deprived him of all consciousness.

When he recovered his senses, he found himself supported in the arms of several individuals who had been his fellow-travellers during the day, and who were bearing him carefully to the *diligence*, which was standing in the road. It appeared that, while insensible, he had been lodged against the bank, and over his head his walking-stick had been driven into the earth and his pocket-handkerchief fastened to the top of it, possibly for the purpose of signalling his position to the driver of the vehicle, when it should pass by. The unfortunate young gentleman had been shockingly torn about the throat, breast, and hand, by the fangs of the dog, and was in a desolate condition from the injuries he had received and the consequent loss of blood. His pocket-book had been robbed of bank notes to the amount of one hundred pounds, the book itself, with its remaining contents being left in his pocket; and a diamond ring, of considerable value, had been wrenched from his finger with such violence that the skin was grazed and bleeding all around the knuckle.

When the *diligence* arrived at Arras, Ferrer's wounds were examined and dressed by a physician, with whom he was advised to remain, until he should, in some measure, have recovered; but, the young gentleman, having lost nearly all the money he possessed, and perhaps misdoubting the skill of the Arras *Asculapius*, would by no means consent to this arrangement, and insisted anxiously upon being taken on to Paris, where he had friends and connections, and where he could find first-rate medical assistance. His entreaties were complied with; the conductors of the *diligence* arranged a sort of litter, in the hinder part of the huge vehicle, and he was conveyed as carefully as possible to his original destination. In his state immediately after receiving the injuries had been one of peril, the danger was much aggravated by the time the capital was reached, the journey having produced an amount of fever and inflammation. In the house of a relative he remained an invalid for three months, demanding the most assiduous nursing and the exercise of the utmost skill of one of the cleverest physicians of Paris nearly the whole of the time.

Thanks to the strong constitution, however, and to the fact that the wounds in the throat were, in this case, only external incisions, he at length progressed to a condition of safety, and slowly to convalescence.

Meanwhile, the news of this additional outrage had augmented the general excitement. The police renewed their exertions; but beyond the chasing and killing of several large dogs, supposed to bear a resemblance to that described by Ferrers, they were without result. Much sympathy was expressed for the sufferer in Paris, and many people of consideration called or sent regularly to the house of his relative, to make inquiries respecting him during his progress to recovery.

To be continued.

From Hogg's Edinburgh Instructor.

THE RUSSIAN SHORES OF THE BLACK SEA.

WE reserve one passage till we come to the naval affairs of Russia; and, in the meantime gladly turn from this sad picture to some, subjects, if not of deeper interest, at least of a more cheerful aspect. We left our travellers on board the *Samson*. Before we glide down the river, and revel on the beautiful scenery that clothe its banks, and cast an occasional glance on the physical features of the country through which the Volga takes its course, we may look for a moment at the shipping that floats on her bosom. Between the months of May and June, boats ply between Astrakhan and Rhybinski beyond Taroslaw, and barges then make their way on to Iver, where the goods can either be forwarded by water to St Petersburg, or transferred to the railway, and conveyed by it to that city or to Moscow. The navigation of the river generally closes at the end of October. The Volga Company owns twelve or fifteen steamers, all employed as tugs:—

It was a lovely evening. A reach of the river, ten miles long and nearly two broad, stretched away before us, brightly reflecting the setting sun, which threw a ruddy glow upon the steep wooded bank opposite, and tinged the white sails of two or three country craft, that were working their way gently up the stream. The melodious chant of the boatman floated to us across the waters, as with measured tramp they warped them to their anchors, mingled with shouts of shrill laughter that proceeded from many bare-legged maidens, who were noisily engaged carrying the wood on board our steamer, a task which seemed to afford them no little amusement. Each peal that burst from that youthful throng, as it rang through the clear, still air, told of a happy unconsciousness of that state of servitude by which they are depressed, and which had evidently produced its effect upon those whose monotonous strains were so full of mournful meaning. As I watched the progress of the singular-looking barks, thus almost insensibly propelled up the stream, it seemed a wonder how they could ever reach their destination; or how it should be possible, considering the number of men required and the length of the voyage, that their could ever be any remuneration upon so bulky a cargo as wheat. The following information, which I obtained respecting these very boats, in some measure solved the difficulty: they were carrying wheat from Samara to Rhybinski, and the voyage between these two places, under the most favourable circumstances, occupies at least two months. The season would then be too far advanced to admit of any farther progress, and consequently the wheat remains stored at Rhybinski until the spring. As soon as the water communication is again open, it is re-shipped, and probably reaches St Petersburg towards the end of summer. Sometimes an early winter and contrary winds will retard the boats for a whole season, thus making the wheat two years old ere it arrives at its destination. A large *rechievah*—for this is the native name of the vessel—contains 20,000 poods, or about 320 tons. The complement is in the proportion of four men to a thousand poods. No less than eighty would therefore be employed in a *rechievah* of this size, and the pay of each man is ten silver rubles, of thirty-three shillings and sixpence a-month. The price of wheat per pood at Samara is thirty-five copeks, at St Petersburg, sixty. Occasionally horses are employed instead of men, and then seven or eight boats are lashed, one behind the other, to the immediate barge which contains the horses; and the whole looks like some gigantic river monster working its way up the stream. On the deck of the leading barge a covered stage is erected, which serves as a stable sometimes to as many as a hundred and fifty horses. These may be observed working the huge capstan by which the boat is warped, and round which they perambulate, as in a threshing-machine. As many men as horses inhabit this floating establishment, and boats are continually employed carrying anchors ahead, and sounding the channels. With this cumbersome and expensive contrivance, however, not more than fifteen or twenty versts are made in a day, and the voyage to Rhybinski occupies about six months. The amount of cargo which such a train of barges would convey is about 300,000 poods, or about 4700 tons. On one occasion we calculated the whole length of the train must have been at least half a mile. Some idea of the size of these boats may be formed from the fact of our passenger-barge being 320 feet long, and capable of containing 200 passengers. They are of a construction totally different from *rechievahs*, and are called *pashaliks*; we past the scene of a recent catastrophe which had happened to one of these horse-machines, in which four barges and all the horses had been burnt. It is ridiculous to suppose that these barbarously contrived horse-machines can much longer compete with the steamers, when the advantages which these latter af-

ford are considered. At a very small increase of freight, one steamer can convey 200,000 geods of wheat to Rhybinski in twenty-three days, where the cargo is at once transhipped for St Petersburg, and arrives there in three weeks.

AN INDIAN THUG, DAKOIT, AND POISONER.

HERE I had the pleasure of meeting Lieut. Ward, one of the suppressors of Thuggee (*Thuggee*, in Hindostan, signifies a deceiver; fraud, not open force, being employed.) This gentleman kindly showed me the approvers or king's evidence of his establishment, belonging to these three classes of humane scourges, the thug, dakoit, and prisoner. Of these the first was the thug, a mild-looking man, who had been born and bred to the profession; he had committed many murders, saw no harm in them, and felt neither shame nor remorse. His organs of observation and destructiveness were large, and the cerebellum small. He explained to me how the gang waylay the unwary traveller, enter into conversation with him, and have him suddenly seized, when the superior throws his own linen girdle round the victim's neck and strangles him, pressing the knuckle against the spine. Taking off his own, he passed it around my arm, and showed me the turn as coolly as a sailor once taught me the *Hangman's Knot*.

The thug is of any caste, and from any part of India. The profession have particular stations, which they generally select for murder, throwing the body of their victim into a well. The dakoit (*dakhee*, a robber) belongs to a class who rob in gangs, but never commit murder—arson and house-breaking also forming part of their profession. These are all high-class rascals, originally from Guzerat, who, on being conquered, vowed vengeance on mankind. They speak both Hindostanee and the otherwise extinct Guzerat language; this is guttural in the extreme, and very singular in sound. They are a very remarkable people, found throughout India, and called by various names; their women dress peculiarly, and are utterly devoid of modesty.

The man I examined was a short, square, but far from powerful Nepalese, with high arched eyebrows, and no organs of observation. These people are great cowards. The poisoners all belong to one caste, of Pasie, or dealers in toddy; they go singly or in gangs, haunting the travellers' resting-places, where they drop half a rupee weight of pounded or whole *datura* seeds into his food, producing a twenty hours' intoxication, during which he is robbed, and left to recover or sink under the stupefying effects of the narcotic. He told me that the *datura* seed is gathered without ceremony, and at any time, place, or age of the plant. He was a dirty, ill-conditioned looking fellow, with no bumps behind his ears, or prominence of eyebrow regin, but a remarkable cerebellum.—*Hooker's Himalayan Journals*.

THE MAMMOTH CAVE OF MARTINIQUE.

THAT the famous Mammoth Cave is an antiquity of the world before the Flood—a city of giants which an earthquake swallowed, and which a chance roof of rocks has protected from being effaced by the Deluge, and by the wear of the elements for subsequent ages—is one of the fancies which its strange phenomena force upon the mind. All is so architectural. It is not a vast underground cavity, raw and dirty, but a succession of halls, domes, and corridors, streets, avenues, and arches—all under ground, but all telling of the design and proportion of a majestic primeval metropolis. It is not a cave but a city in ruins, a city from which sun, moon and stars, have been taken away, whose day of judgment has come and passed, and over which a new world has been created and grown old. By what admiral laws of unknown architecture those mammoth roofs and ceiling are upheld, is every traveller's wondering question. In some shape or other, I heard each of my companions express this. No modern builder could throw up such vast vaulted arches, and so unaccountably sustain them. And all else it in keeping. The cornices and columns, aisles and galleries, are gigantically proportionate; and as mysteriously upheld.

Streets after streets—miles after miles—seem to have been left only half in ruins—and here and there is an effect as if the basements and lower stories were encumbered with fragments and rubbish, leaving you to walk on a level with the capitals and floors once high above the pavement. It might be described as a mammoth Herculaneum, first sepulchred with overtopping mountains, but swept and choked afterwards by the waters of the Deluge, that found their way to its dark streets in their subsiding. What scenery and machinery all this will be for the poets of the West, by and by. Their Parnassus is "a house ready furnished"—*A health trip to the Tropics, by N. P. Wallis*.

The Politician.

THE BRITISH PRESS.

From Wilmer and Smith's European Times,
March 4.
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

Before the month expires the Anglo-French armies, consisting of about 100,000 men, including several regiments of cavalry, and a formidable detachment of artillery, will be encamped near the seat of war. Sir Chas. Napier has hoisted his flag, provisionally, on board the *Princess Royal*, 91, as Admiral of the Baltic fleet, and now reinforced by Admiral Corry's squadron, will after assembling at the Nore, proceed at once to the Baltic in time before the ice breaks, to prevent the junction of the three divisions of the Russian fleet. It seems that there are about nine or ten Russian line-of-battle ships lying at Revel, and about the same number at Helsingfors, on the opposite side of the Gulf, and a third division at Cronstadt. As the ice breaks at Revel a week or ten days before it is navigable at Cronstadt, it will be highly important to prevent a junction of the three divisions. The latest news from Revel describes the ice as already breaking, but the season is too early for the ships to get away, and at present they cannot get refuge in any other port. The suggestion we made a few weeks ago that the Island of Oesel and Aland should be seized, is now considered an "accomplished fact." We have no doubt Sir Charles Napier will make an attempt upon Cronstadt, but his success must mainly depend upon reaching the Gulf of Finland before the weather breaks up, and of course we shall not allow the Czar to procrastinate or gain time. The people of England, however, will now not be satisfied with the mere evacuation of the Principalities. The expenses already incurred by Great Britain and France, and also by the Sultan, amount to many millions, and the Czar must reimburse these expenses, and give us very solid security for his good behaviour for many years to come, before we consent to sign terms of peace. This is now becoming a fixed idea in public opinion, and a very good idea it is. The Sultan has now entered into the required Convention, not to consent to peace unless with the concurrence of France and England; and from what has transpired, Austria and Prussia go hand in hand with us in all the measures taken. At any rate, Austria has marched 25,000 men into Transylvania to watch the frontiers, so that in point of fact the Russians will presently be completely surrounded. Omar Pasha has now, it is said, an army of 220,000 men on the Danube, and the Russians have as yet made no impression on his position at Kalafat. Demonstrations are continually being made by both armies all along the line of the river, but a general engagement has been impossible, on account of the weather. Some French and English officers have at last been appointed to commands in the Turkish army, and when the campaign fairly opens, it is quite inconceivable to us that the Russians can achieve any thing against the allied army. If they should peradventure force the position at Kalafat, and cross the Danube, they stand the chance of being utterly cut off by the Anglo-French army taking them in the rear. Prince Paskiewitch has been appointed Generalissimo of the Russian forces, but below will be found a list of a dozen French generals with whom he will have to cope, the least of whom will prove more than a match for an old Prince of 70 years of age. Lord Raglan and Sir Baldwin Walker have been to Paris to concert with the Emperor the plan of both the military and naval operations, and a circular of M. Dronyn de Lhuys to all the foreign French agents abroad, commanding them to act in concert with the English authorities against the common enemy, gives fresh strength to our alliance with France, and must convince the Czar of the hopelessness of sowing disunion between the allies. The Greek insurrection, or rather the rebellion of the Sclaves in the distant province of Albania, is most inconvenient at this juncture. Whatever momentary success may attend these instruments and dupes of Russia, who, bye the bye, has always abandoned them in the hour of peril, it is quite certain that the movement will be speedily suppressed. Prompt measures have been taken from Constantinople to put down this hopeless scheme, and, if needful, the French and English naval and military forces will step in and prevent the useless effusion of blood. The Russian frigates in Trieste have taken refuge in the inner harbour, where our English frigates watching them cannot reach them. The speech of the Emperor of the French at the opening of the Chambers will be found in extenso in another column. Paris, which was threatened with disturbance a few days ago, continues tranquil, and the funeral of the eccentric Abbe Lammensis, who has paid the debt of nature, took place without any disturbance. The following twelve generals, beside General St. Arnaud and Marshal Vaillant, have received commands in the French expeditionary army:—Prince Napoleon, Canrobert, Bosquet, Forey, d'Altonville, Bouat, d'Aurelle de Paladine, Fantomarre d'Erville, De Lourmel Espinasse, De Martigny, Cassaignolles, Vinoy, &c. Several divisions of infantry and cavalry are ready for embarkation. We shall not be surprised to learn that a military force of some thousand men will accompany the fleet to the Baltic.

One of those frightful tragedies which occur in Spain alone has been enacted at Saragossa. Gen. More having raised the revolutionary flag, marched at the head of his regiment, and of some civilians to whom he had distributed arms, to the great square. Here he was encountered by the officers and troops who remained faithful to the Queen; and, after a bloody encounter, the general and the whole regiment were cut to pieces. Upon the news arriving at Madrid, all Spain was placed under martial law.—Gonzales Bravo, Castro, and Bermudez, have received their passports for foreign parts. Corcha has escaped to Bordeaux. It is not known yet whether the affair at Saragossa is only an isolated case. Barcelona, as usual, was said to be in arms, but at any rate Saragossa was perfectly tranquil at the last dates.—The Queen, when the news of the above troubles reached Madrid, rode ostentatiously through the streets, as if to defy public opinion. We are afraid that intestine troubles in the Peninsula are about to recommence.

The news from India, with dates from Bombay to the 25th January and Hong Kong to the 11th January, is interesting. The Governor General, after fixing the boundary line beyond Meeday, had returned to Rangoon. The north west frontier was tranquil, but we have vague reports of fresh troubles in Persia. The insurgents in China appear to be once more gaining ground, and it was reported that they had captured a city north of Peking, so as to cut off the Emperor's escape. The French seemed to have been treated with some degree of hauteur by the leaders of the rebels. The Russian Admiral left Shanghai for Japan on the 24th December, whither it was