

it has its origin, at once infers that it is, in some sense or other, the outlet of the vast snow-field which occupy the higher regions. It is impossible to doubt that it results from, and is renewed by, the eternal ice-springs of those riverless wilds. None who has ever seen, or even clearly conceived a lava-stream, can fail to find it in the nearest analogue of a glacier. Stiff and rigid as it appears, no one can doubt that it either flows or once has flowed. Were the glacier like the flood of molten stone, the result of one great eruptive action, then its existence beneath the limits of the general snow-line would be inexplicable. It melts, it must melt; it lies on warm ground yielding crops perhaps within a hundred yards of its lower extremity; the sun beats perpetually upon its icy pinnacles, which though they reflect much must retain some of the incident heat; and we see, accordingly, in a summer's day, the Glacier oozing out its substance from every pore—above, beneath, within. And yet with this the glacier wastes not; always consuming, it is never destroyed. Evident, therefore, it must be, upon this ground alone, that a glacier glides imperceptibly down its valley, and this independent of all direct measurements of its motion.—James D. Forbes.

RUSSIAN RAFTS.

THE Russian rafts for floating down a river are formed as follows:—First, they take the bare trunks of four straight (indeed in all their large forests you will seldom see any crooked) trees, placed so as to form a frame nearly square, but rather broader at the hinder than the former part. At the four corners they are joined together firmly. A number (25, 30, or 35) of these frames are then fastened together, by young pliant boughs or branches; and as the fore part of every frame is narrower than the hinder part of that preceding it, the whole raft is thus admirably adapted for floating through the bushes, willows and other impediments which grow about the banks and edges of the river.—And as the leading part of every frame is sheltered behind the hinder or broader part of the one before it, it will slide over the banks of the river (with which the rafts often come in contact) for a considerable distance without any damage, that is, providing the leading frame of the shaft be kept in the stream. Upon these frames is laid the timber, lengthwise, one, two, or three deep, as they think proper. After the frames are loaded, they will construct their huts (in which to sleep, eat, and cook,) generally in a triangular form, with an opening towards the hinder part of the raft. The great number of frames thus fastened together makes the raft exceedingly difficult to manage, from its immense length, and in some places the short turns of the river. The main point and object is to keep the first portion of the raft in the middle of the stream, and the remaining portion will ride through and over almost any obstacle.—The way they effect this point is by placing six steersmen (or women and men promiscuously) at the front of the first frame; and each has a strong, long, fixed oar, of great power and leverage. There are also one or two on the last frame to regulate and govern the tail. When they come in sight of a sharp turn of the river, or any other piece of danger, signal is given, and immediately all the persons on the raft—men with uncovered heads, women with banded bodies—are in the act of performing their religious devotions and ceremonies. When they come near the turn, the steersmen begin to work their oars with all their might, in a contrary direction to the tendency of the stream, so as to keep the leading part of the raft as much as possible in the middle of the river. If they succeed in this, and run safe by, clear of any accident, they attribute it to the due and timely performance of those religious duties just mentioned; but if they fail in this, and the raft runs aground, as I have several times seen it, frame over frame, raft upon raft, till it is torn limb from limb, some portions left on the banks, and other portions floating loose and in all directions down the river, then they attribute it to the omission of this duty at some point of the river above, where it ought to have been attended to, or else to the neglect of this duty at some point of the river last year, the punishment of which was sure sooner or later to overtake them. After some altercation amongst them as to what sin this catastrophe is attributable, they set about their raft, with the determination to be more watchful, and perform more punctually what their Church enjoins in future. The faith of the Greek Church is astonishingly applicable to all cases and all circumstances. If they can manage to fit up their rafts again before the water gets too low, they at once put in and steer off once more for Moscow; if not, the timber is piled up at a proper distance from the edge of the river, and there remains till the following year. No person could be made to believe the quantity of wood that passes down the river—the river Moskva, but how far into the interior it bears this name I do not know—unless he saw it for himself, and any person would wonder how it could ever be all burnt or used. But there are large cotton and other factories in and around Moscow which consume, incredible quantities. When the people from the interior have sold their timber at Moscow, they have then to perform the journey back on foot. This they do in caravans or lots together. By James Carr.

TEA.

THERE is, perhaps, no known beverage so effectual as tea in restoring the body when exhausted by fatigue. We wonder much that this is not more generally understood or practically acknowledged by those who understand it. The stomach is fatigued, as well as the external members of the body, after a long walk or a hard day's work, and a heavy dinner on such an occasion not unfrequently results in a head ache or a fit of indigestion. The rich, at present enraged on the moors at their favourite pastime, come home to dinner at 6 or 7 o'clock in the evening, so completely 'done up' that they throw themselves into an arm chair in a state of helplessness—have their feet washed and their hair combed by the servants in attendance; and then, after groaning and sighing, and limping and hobbling, they contrive to get seated at the dinner table—well plished with luxuries for hungry men and keen appetites; but, alas for them; their stomachs partake of the weariness of their limbs, and want restoration before undertaking an arduous task. They eat and drink rich beefs and game, rich wines and liquors, in hopes of reeruiting their exhausted strength; but, in proportion as they regale themselves, their heaviness increases, and sleepiness only corrected by uncomfortable headaches—the inevitable offspring of over exertion and indulgence. The higher classes avoid these results by the excellence of their wines and the lightness of their viands; but the half-caste rich, who are obliged to content themselves with humble fare and thicker potations, must sacrifice appearances. It is poor looking hospitality that, on such an occasion, offers to the exhausted sportsman, a cup of tea and a thin slice of bread and butter, and he himself, perhaps, would laugh at the sarcasm, though there is nothing in the whole vocabulary of the culinary art that could, on the occasion, be more appropriately administered; but, though laughed at as the primary prescription, it never fails to be resorted to as the secondary, for, after the heavy dinner has been found to be a heavy failure, and weariness, drowsiness and torpor have succeeded it, the restoration is found at the ladies' tea-table, where it might have been found before dinner more easily.

LOVE.

DARE I venture on this hackneyed theme—a theme which has been exhausted by the poet and the novelist? I dare!—not to follow in the train of those who have preceded me, and launch another shaft at the blindfold cherub, but, as the champion, the defender, of the mischievous boy, to show where lies the fault, to unveil the cause why his arrows are poisoned, and why the roses he offers are oftentimes so thickly beset with thorns. Frown not, fair readers! to you are attributable all the misdeeds of the wily god.—Did woman feel the responsibility of the station she holds in society—did she feel how much she is the arbitress of man's destinies on earth—may, even beyond it, how differently would she act! Instead of dispensing her smiles equally on the worthy and unworthy, she would show, by her discountenance of vice, how hateful it was to her; no matter how talented a man was, how graceful in manners, or pleasing in person, unless virtue was the guiding star of his conduct, she would banish him her presence, as being unworthy of breathing the same air with her; she would shrink from his society, as she would shun a noxious reptile. Is such the case? No! No matter what a man's vices, if he is handsome, brilliant in conversation, and versed in the arts of flattery, all the smiles and attentions are lavished on him that ought to be bestowed only on the virtuous; while the man who is, perhaps endowed with every good quality that can render him estimable, if wanting in showy acquirements of society, is treated with the utmost indifference; thus giving rise to the too generally received opinion, that the worse a man is, the more agreeable he is to women. Can it then be wondered at, that, to meet her in society, win her affections by a thousand nameless attentions and slight them when won, is the pastime of an hour to those honeyed flatterers, those destroyers of woman's happiness who, like the gilded serpent, captivate but to annihilate.—Were they regarded as the pests of society, instead of being treated as its ornaments the race would disappear.—Empson.

THE SWORD FISH.

In the year 1725, while refitting his Majesty's ship Leopard, after her return from the West Indies, the shipwrights found in her lower timbers part of the sword of one of these fishes.—The outside was rough, and the end, when broken off, appeared like coarse ivory. From the direction in which the sword lay, the fish is supposed to have followed the ship. It had penetrated through the sheathing, which was an inch thick, passed through three inches of plank, and beyond that four inches and a half into the timber. The force requisite to effect this (since the vessel was proceeding in a direction from the fish), must have been excessive, especially as no shock was felt by the people on board. The workmen declared it impossible, with a hammer weighing twenty-eight pounds, to drive an iron pin of the same form and size into that wood, and the same depth, with fewer than eight or nine strokes, whereas this had been effected with only one.

MOSLEM WATER DRINKING.

LOOK, for instance, at an Indian moslem drinking a glass of water. With us the operation is simple enough, but his performances includes no less than five novelties. In the first place, he clutches his tumbler as though it were the throat of a foe; secondly he ejaculates, 'In the name of Allah the Compassionate, the Merciful!' before wetting his lips: thirdly, he imbibes the contents, swallowing them, not drinking, and ending with a satisfied grunt, fourthly, before setting down the cup, he sighs forth, 'Praise be to Allah!'—of which you will understand the full meaning in the Desert; and fifthly, he replies, 'may Allah make it pleasant to thee!' in answer to his friends polite 'Pleasantly and health!' Also he is careful to avoid the irreligious action of drinking the pure element in a standing position, mindful, however, of the three recognised exceptions, the fluid of the holy well, zem-zem, water distributed in charity, and which remains after wazu, the lesser ablution. Moreover, in Europe one forgets the use of the right hand, the manipulation of the rosary, the abuse of the chair—your genuine oriental looks almost as comfortable in one as a sailor upon the back of a high trotting horse—the rolling gait with the toes straight to the front, the grave look and the habit of pious ejaculations.—Burton's Pilgrimage.

A YANKEE'S VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE.

A writer in Blackwood, describing a tour in America, says:—It requires great coolness and experience to steer a canoe down these rapids, and a short time before our arrival two Americans had ventured to descend them without boatmen, and were consequently upset. As the story was reported to us, one of them owed his salvation to a singular coincidence. As the accident took place immediately opposite the town, many of the inhabitants were attracted to the bank of the river to watch the struggles of the unfortunate men, thinking any attempt at a rescue would be hopeless. Suddenly, however, a person appeared rushing towards the group, frantic with excitement. 'Save the man with the red hair! he vehemently shouted; and the exertions which were made in consequence of the earnest appeals proved successful, and the red haired individual, in an exhausted condition was safely landed. 'He owes me eighteen dollars,' said his rescuer, drawing a long breath and looking approvingly on his assistants. The red haired man's friend had not a creditor at the Sault, and in default of a competing claim, was allowed to pay his debt to nature. 'And I'll tell you what it is, stranger,' said the narrator of the foregoing incident, complacently drawing a moral therefrom, 'a man'll never know how necessary he is to society if he don't make his life valuable to his friends as well as to himself.'

A GRAND ASPECT OF THE ALPS.

PERHAPS the intellectual emotion of our maturer life comes upon us with so much novelty and strength and delight, as that shock of surprise and pleasure which we receive from the sight of the snowy pinnacles of the Alps shooting up into the blue heaven, and standing together in silent mysterious vastness. It provokes not to expression, but sinks upon the stilled heart, with a strange, exquisite feeling, essentially spiritual in its solemnity and depth. Our native and familiar earth is seen expanding into the sublimity of heavens, and we feel as if our destiny were exalted along with it. The wonder and sensibility of childhood returns upon us. Niagara, the ocean, cathedrals, all these, when seen for the first time, touch chords of immortality within our being. But none of them, in quickness and fineness, and depth of force, can be compared to the aspect of the Alps. Material and moral qualities combine to render it the most awing and ennobling that can pass before living eyes. There is a calming, elevating, consoling influence in the quietness of power, the repose of surpassing magnificence, in which these mighty eminences rest, living out their great lives in silent and motionless serenity; and troubled souls are reproved and chastened by the spectacle.

SEGACITY OF THE ELEPHANT.

A few days before my arrival at Ehon, a troop of elephants came down one dark and rainy night close to the outskirts of the village.—The missionaries heard them bellowing an extraordinary noise for a long time at the upper end of the orchard; but knowing well how dangerous it is to encounter these animals in the night, they keep close within their houses till daybreak. Next morning, on examining the spot where they had heard the elephants, they discovered the cause of all this nocturnal uproar. There was at this spot, a ditch or trench, about five or six feet in width, and twelve in depth, which the industrious missionaries had recently cut through the bank of the river, to lead out the water to irrigate some part of the river on purpose to irrigate some part of their garden ground, and to drive a corn-mill. Into this trench, which was still unfinished and without water, one of the elephants had evidently fallen, for the marks of his feet were distinctly visible at the bottom, as well as the impress of his huge body on its side. How he had got in was easy to imagine, but how, being

once in, he had ever contrived to get out again, was the marvel. By his own unaided effort it seemed almost impossible for such an animal to have extricated himself. Could his comrades then, have assisted him? There appeared little doubt that they had; though by what means, unless by pulling him up with their trunks, it would not be easy to conjecture. And in corroboration of this supposition, on examining the spot myself, I found the edges of this trench deeply indented with numerous vestiges, as if the other elephants had stationed themselves on either side, some of them kneeling, and others on their feet, and had thus, by their united efforts, hoisted their unlucky brother out of the pit.—Travels in Africa.

The Politician,

THE BRITISH PRESS.

From the London Morning Post.

OUR NEW ALLY IN THE PACIFIC.

We have recently concluded a most advantageous treaty with the kingdom of Siam; and though the commerce of a rich and fruitful—indeed to exuberance—kingdom hitherto connected in the general mind of the British public with little more than malformation of twins and white elephants, may not, at first sight, seem to add very much to the grandeur and majesty of the British empire, still it is not without its significance as a sign of the times, nor its influence upon our finance in the east.

A fallacious system of finance which imposed crushing taxes upon production, has brought on its natural, consequences of reducing production to the limits of home consumption, and consequently cutting down foreign traffic to its minimum. The treaty negotiated by Sir John Bowring had terminated this evil. A more enlightened policy now withdrawing the incubus which dressed upon agriculture, will enable the Siamese to exchange the sugar, pepper, &c., which they can grow in abundance, for the manufactured products of Europe which at all events, in high quarters, they can appreciate and enjoy. The present king a man of great ability and intelligence, has been bred in the school of adversity. Some years ago the throne, his birthright, was usurped by a natural son of the late king, and he found it expedient for his safety to retire to a convent until the death of the intruder. He, however, turned his retirement to a good account, and employing it in cultivating his mind, succeeded, on the death of the late king, in recovering his throne, which he ascended much fitter to reign than many a potentate we could name in this part of the world. Desirous of being known among European sovereigns, and taking his place in the college of kings, he has now entered into a treaty with this country, whose language he speaks and reads, and the distant country he governs will now be brought more into the sphere of our commerce. Valuable and curious presents to the Queen and royal family, which it is said are likely to be exhibited in Paris, accompanied the treaty, which has been sent here to be ratified, to this country, and we have henceforth a valuable and powerful ally, on the frontier of Burmah, not at all unwilling to take his share of the spoil when any disaster occurs to that empire in its collisions with us. Indeed, in the recent war, he did march an army up to his northern frontier, which might have been made very serviceable had we been upon the terms with him then that we are now.

But in that remote peninsula there is a curious institution which almost reminds one of the monstrosity which first gave Siam an European reputation. There are in that kingdom two kings. The second, whose functions appear to be to keep order in the capital, when the king goes to war in person, and to command such expeditions as are not considered worthy of the royal presence, is still more attached to England than the king. He speaks and reads it fluently, and his table is graced by the Illustrated London News: he is a good chemist, astronomer, and machinist, and, in fact, a man of good education, great attainments, and great desire to improve them; and he is, moreover, at present the legitimate heir to the throne. It is of the greatest consequence to us that our relations upon the eastern coast of Asia should be cultivated with the utmost care. It is now ascertained that the Russians have erected strong fortifications at the mouth of the Amour—a river whose course lies through a fertile country, which, though hitherto little known or explored, is the largest river which flows into the Pacific ocean—a stream whose importance may be measured by the fact, that whilst the valley of the Danube extends for two hundred and thirty thousand square miles, with a course of three hundred and sixty; the Tagus, twenty one thousand, with a course also of three hundred and sixty, the area of the valley of the Amour has the enormous dimensions of five hundred and eighty-two thousand square miles, with a course of one thousand two hundred, and all its resources are at the command of Russia.

From this Sebastopol in the remote Pacific, our trade with China, producing six millions of revenue, our Pacific commerce, and our Pely-