

losing some of the fairest possessions of the past in the shape of feasts and holidays.—They are the earliest and most characteristic heir-looms of nations, bound up with their history, linked with their beliefs, and descending to them with myths and legends, those wandering dreams of the world. Moreover, holidays are the birthright of the people.—Rulers may make the laws, rich men may own the lands, the clergy may hold by tithes and articles, and scholars keep the learning: but to the wide-spread and hard-working masses, the Johns who hammer or delve, the Marys who scrub or scour, the holidays belong by ancient and undoubted inheritance. They stand as the only spaces between forge and workshop, from whence the world beyond and the sky above can be seen,—the stations on life's dusty highway, where labor may lay down its burden, the young find time to make merry, and the old to remember. Children rejoice in them and men meet their childhood there in spite of years and toil. The ties of life are drawn closer, and its rust rubbed off from the time; there is a pause in the ever turning wheels, or at the worst a safety valve for folly. Holidays lightened the slavery and kept bright the dreams of the classic world, they lit up the superstition, and cheered the bondage of the feudal ages. Poets and peasants clung to them in spite of reformation controversies; but what Puritan or Covenantor could not do, has been effected in England by all-grasping trade. The holidays are virtually blotted from our calendar. Christmas itself comes with little observation for men have learned to work without ceasing, and a crusty soberness not to be moved has settled down on the hearts and faces of the land.

HARD GOING PEOPLE.

The world has little respect for easy-goers, they are said to spoil the servants and children to lose time and chances, to let business slip through their fingers, and to hold out an unconscious encouragement to knaves. The accusation is, doubtless, founded on fact; but there is an opposite class whose demerits, if as well understood, are not so generally expressed, and they may be termed hard-going people. For them, whatever is troublesome possesses a more than magnetic attraction. The most difficult way of doing anything, or going anywhere, is their chosen among ten thousand, and if an uncertain phase can be found, it is selected to set forth their commands and messages. Warriors are said to court danger, but they court bethoration, not without complaining of it; they are all famous grumblers, and rarely find things to their minds, but if there be a business with which they should not meddle, a subject on which it is not advisable to enter, a time or place which suits nobody's convenience, on it their hearts are fixed with a will not to be shaken; they like stiff discipline and laborious amusements; they live in a series of unnecessary hurries, and arrive exactly when they are not wanted. Like the thorns and thistles, hard-going people are found everywhere, but chiefly among unemployed classes. The world owes to them most of what are called its minor, otherwise never-ending troubles; they build inconvenient houses, they contrive monstrous fashions, they invent roundabout methods of teaching, and the pious amongst them find out hard ways of going to Heaven. To their genius the Catholic monk owes his hair shirt and cell, the Calvinist his dreary Sundays, and some think that as punishment for Britain's sins, a more than common sprinkling of the hard-goers has been sown among her population, that they have always had a great deal to do with her Government offices, and the framing of those acts of Parliament which nobody can understand.

DIAMOND CUT DIAMOND.

WHAT a capital story of intellectual sense is that of the student who went to see Goethe, and proved one too many for the Many-sided. Goethe, of course, disliked being treated as a 'lion,' and was not excessively polite to all comers. Our student called to see the great Goethe, was shown into a room, and waited some little time. After a while the great Goethe made his appearance, and sat down in a chair in the middle of the room quite silently folding his arms, and assuming an air which said, 'Well, here I am; look at me.' The youngster was a little taken aback at first; but speedily recovering himself, he took up a candle, walked solemnly round the Many-sided, scrutinizing him from head to foot, laid a silver coin on the table and silently disappeared. We have a faint idea that the story gives Goethe credit for being so well pleased with this tit-for-tat that he sent for the student afterwards, but we are not sure. If the whole story is not true, it is one of those which ought to be.

WORDS TO THE NOT WISE.

NEVER trust the man whom you have seen able and willing to deceive another; he will deceive you also, should opportunity serve, or interest require it. Never mistrust without cause; but if you have good reason, give up your doubt to neither argument nor appearance; it is your watchfire, and will let you see the approach of the enemy. Never take part in a party which is not fully explained to you; the part kept back may contain the danger, and it is unsafe to enter a path which leads you know not whither. Never consent to profit by evil or dishonest things; there was a sound moral in those old world tales which said that evil spirits had power over all who accepted their gifts.

GUIZOT ON THE LEAGUE MEETINGS.

RESTORED to liberty of action by the re-establishment of public order, they resumed their public meetings; they had begun in the theatre at Bolton; they now hired the theatres of Drury-lane and Covent-garden in London.—The houses were arranged for the purpose; a small platform was erected for the speakers; a numerous crowd of every rank, station and sex filled the pit, boxes and gallery; and at stated periods, the most distinguished political economists came there to attack the system of protection, and to demand commercial freedom in the name of principles and of interests, of science and of charity. We should find it difficult to conceive, and in France we should not tolerate, the degree of violence to which the speakers sometimes allowed themselves to be carried. In the state of our society and manners, the halting-places are too few, and the means of Conservative resistance too weak, for such attacks on the established order of things and the existing law to be made among us without danger. We have forgotten this too much in our efforts for liberty; we desire the torrent, and detest all dykes; which leads to this deplorable result, that when the inundation bursts forth and ravages the land, we can apply no other remedy than drying up the springs themselves, at the risk of languishing and perishing of drought and thirst. Even the Christian pulpit would not allow itself at the present day, within the precincts of our churches, and in the name of charity to the poor, to draw such pictures as the apostles of free trade presented to the view of the English public in Covent-garden Theatre. It is something, said Mr W. J. Fox, who was soon after elected to a seat in the House of Commons, it is much to many here, that, through every station, in every rank of life, the pressure is felt; the demon seems to be omnipresent, and they cannot escape his pestiferous influence. But even this is not the deadliest influence of the Corn Laws. Did one want to exhibit it in this great theatre, it might be done; not by calling together such an audience as I now see here, but by going out into the by-places, the alleys, the dark courts, the garrets and cellars of the metropolis, and by bringing thence their wretched and famished inmates. One might crowd them here—boxes, pit and galleries—with their shrunk and shrivelled forms, with their wan and pallid cheeks, with their distressful looks—perhaps with dark and bitter passions pictured in their countenances—and thus exhibit a scene that would appal the stoutest heart, and melt the hardest—a scene that we would wish to bring the Prime Minister upon the stage to see—and we would say to him, 'There, delegate of Majesty! leader of legislators! Conservator of institutions! look upon that mass of misery!'

When an idea has thus become transformed into a passion and a virtue, when the element of truth which it contains thus completely effaces and obliterates the objections which it excites, and the other truths which limit it, deliberation ceases, discussion is at an end; action only is thought of, its partisans march, dash onwards. The League made the most rapid progress; in most counties and towns in Scotland and England meetings were held, declarations of principles were published, abundant subscriptions were collected. A seat became vacant in the representation of the City of London in the House of Commons. Mr James Pattison, who stood on Free Trade principles, was elected in opposition to Mr Thomas Baring the Conservative candidate. The most eminent of London bankers, Mr Samuel Jones Loyd gave in his adherence to the League. The *Times* newspaper, which hitherto had spoken slightly of the movement, changed its tone, and solemnly declared, 'The League is a great fact.' The fund of £50,000, the produce of the first subscription, was exhausted; it was determined to raise a new fund of £100,000, and at the first meeting held at Manchester, the sum of £13,700 was immediately subscribed.—Finally, a new and unexpected accession of partisans brought the League a great increase of influence; in various agricultural districts, and more particularly in the county of Dorset, meetings of farm-labourers the favourites of protection, were held, at which they recounted their own distress, which was almost equal to that of the manufacturing classes. 'I be protected,' cried a peasant at one of these meetings, 'and I be starving!'—From *Guizot's Life of Sir R. Peel*.

TIMIDITY.

Addison, the well known editor of the *Spectator*, was a man of the greatest modesty of his day. He was a most excellent writer, but, strange as it may seem, no speaker. This is of very frequent occurrence.

On the other hand, we find men of great oratorical powers, but who are averse to writing. And seldom do we find men gifted to disagree with both powers. How is this? It looks as if Providence dispenses gifts as widely and varied as possible. A sample of the former of these may be given in the case of the talented Joseph Addison, above cited:

As Secretary of State, of course his place in the House of Commons to defend the conduct of the Government, required no small powers of volubility, and which, as a writer, Addison was thought to possess. But time tries everything; He arose to make his maiden speech.

"Mr Speaker, I conceive" and there he stuck.

"Mr Speaker, I conceive"—another halt.

"Mr Speaker I conceive"—a dead halt.

Up started a wag,—"Mr Speaker the gentleman has conceived three times and brought forth nothing!"

LATE EUROPEAN NEWS.

From the London Gazette of Tuesday, Jan., 6.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF CANTON.

Admiralty, January 6.

The following dispatches have been received from Rear-Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, K. C. B., commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's ships and vessels on the East India and China station;—

OPERATIONS AT CANTON.

Niger, at Canton, Nov. 14, 1856.

Sir,—In the sixth paragraph of my general letter, No. 91, of the 16th ult., I alluded to the Chinese authorities having a few days previously forcibly seized the native crew of a lorcha under English colours, and that I had demanded redress.

2. I have now the honour to report, from the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that on the 8th of October the lorcha Arrow, with a colonial register from the Governor of Hong Kong, was boarded while at anchor at Canton by a Chinese officer and a party of soldiers, who, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the master, an Englishman, seized 12 of her crew, bound and carried them away, and hauled down the British flag. Her Majesty's Consul afterwards remonstrated with the officer who had seized the men, but without effect.

3. This outrage was immediately brought to the notice of the Imperial High Commissioner by Mr Parkes, her Majesty's Consul, who required the twelve men to be returned to the Arrow by the same officer who had carried them away; that apology should be made, and an assurance given that the British flag should in future be respected. Their Lordships will, however, observe, on perusing the documents which accompany this dispatch, that, although the 12 men were eventually sent back, it was not in the public manner in which they had been carried away, and all appearance of an apology was pointedly avoided.

4. On the 11th of October this unpleasant occurrence was officially reported to me by Sir John Bowring, her Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China, and his Excellency suggested that the seizure of an Imperial junk would probably produce the desired reparation. I accordingly directed Commodore the Hon. C. G. J. B. Elliot, of her Majesty's ship *Sybilie*, senior officer in the Canton river, to carry out Sir John Bowring's suggestion, and I dispatched the *Barracouta* steam sloop and *Coromandel* tender to afford him the means of doing so. A junk was seized, but it led to nothing. I then sent her Majesty's steam frigates *Encounter* and *Sampson* to join the Commodore, (the former to lie off the factory), in the hope that the presence of such an imposing force would show the High Commissioner the prudence of complying with our demands, but his Excellency appeared determined on resistance.

5. At this period Mr Parkes proceeded to Hong Kong to consult with Sir John Bowring and myself as to the best measures of compulsion to be adopted, and we all considered that the seizure of the defences of the city of Canton would be the most judicious, both as a display of power without the sacrifice of life and of our determination to enforce redress—experience of the Chinese character having proved that moderation is considered by officials only as an evidence of weakness.

6. I immediately moved the *Calcutta* above the Bogue forts, as high up as her draught of water permitted, and on the morning of the 23rd of October proceeded on board the *Coromandel* steam tender for Canton, with the *Sampson* and *Barracouta* in company, and the detachments of Royal Marines and boats' crews of her Majesty's ships *Calcutta*, *Winchester* and *Majesty*, and the boats of the *Sobille*, with the Commodore. On approaching the *Blenheim* Reach I diverted the *Sampson* and a portion of our force up the Macao passage, to prevent the Chinese from stopping up the channel, and to capture the *Blenheim* Fort. I then went on the *Coromandel* and *Barracouta* to the Four Barrier Ports, about five miles below the city. Anchoring the two steamers above the forts, I dispatched the boats and took possession of them. An ill-judged attempt at resistance from two of the forts, which fired on our ships and boats, resulted in the death of five Chinese soldiers. There were about 150 guns, from one-foot bore to four-pounders.

7. I now directed Commander Fortescue, in the *Barracouta*, to follow the *Sampson*, and having spiked the guns, destroyed the magazines and ammunition, and burnt the buildings in the forts, I proceeded to Canton, where I arrived at 2 p. m., and learnt that the boats from the *Sampson* and *Barracouta* had taken quiet possession of the *Blenheim* Fort, and also of Macao Fort, a very strong position on an island in the middle of the river, mounting 86 guns, which I have garrisoned, and shall retain for the present.

8. Her Majesty's Consul, by my direction, immediately informed the High Commissioner of my arrival, and of the aggressive measures which he had compelled me to take in consequence of his refusal to redress the wrong committed by his officers; also that I should continue such proceedings until reparation should be made. His Excellency's reply was very unsatisfactory.

9. On the morning of the 24th I landed a portion of the Marines to aid the detachments from the *Sybilie* and *Encounter*, already a Canton, in the protection of the factory, and proceed in the *Coromandel* to join the *Barracouta* off Macao Fort. Then at a preconcerted signal, the *Bird's Nest* Fort, mounting 35 guns,

and a small fort opposite the city, which might have annoyed the factory, were taken without opposition, as were subsequently the *Shamlin* Forts at the head of the Macao Passage; the whole of the guns were rendered unserviceable and the ammunition destroyed.

10. As the state of affairs now appeared so very unpromising, I considered it advisable to take effectual measures for the protection of the factory. The remainder of the Royal Marines and a body of small-arm men were, therefore, landed. Advanced posts and field-pieces were stationed at all the assailable points, barricades thrown across the streets, and the boats kept vigilant watch to guard against the approach of fire-raids and attacks by water. The execution of this important duty I intrusted to Captain W. K. Hall, C. B., my flag-captain whose zeal and activity throughout the whole of the operation I cannot too highly commend. The Royal Marines were in charge of Captain P. C. Penrose, R. M., of her Majesty's ship *Winchester*, who showed great ability and promptitude. Captain Cowper, Royal Engineers, who had been sent from Hong Kong to afford me the benefit of his professional experience, was of great assistance in pointing out and remedying the weak points in our position. A body of American officers, seamen, and Marines, under Commander Foote, of the United States' corvette *Portsmouth*, provided for the interests of the American community.

11. On the 25th I took possession of the Dutch Folly, a fort with 50 guns, on a small island opposite the city, where I afterwards placed a body of 140 officers and men, under Commander Bolland, of the *Calcutta*. All the defences of the city being now in our hands, I considered the High Commissioner would see the necessity of submission, and I directed Mr Parkes to write and state that when his Excellency should be prepared to arrange the points in dispute in a satisfactory manner I would desist from further operations; but the reply did not answer my expectations. An attack was made at 12.30 p. m. by a body of troops, supported by a much larger force, which occupied the streets in the rear. Mr Consul Parkes was on the spot at the time and warned them to retire, but ineffectually. The guard of Royal Marines, in charge of Captain Penrose, then quickly drove them back, with a loss, as we understand of 12 killed and wounded.

12. The 26th being Sunday, we observed as a day of rest.

13. Early on the morning of the 27th I caused another letter to be written to the High Commissioner, to the effect that, as satisfaction had not been offered for the affair of the Arrow, I should resume offensive operations; and his Excellency having, by his illegal measures and determination to refuse reparation, produced this display of force, I concurred in opinion with Sir John Bowring that this was a fitting opportunity for requiring the fulfilment of long evaded treaty obligations; and I therefore, in addition to the original demands, instructed Mr Parkes to make the following communication:—

"That, to prevent the recurrence of evils like the present, which been occasioned by the disregard paid by the Imperial High Commissioner to the repeated applications for redress and satisfaction made to him by letter in the matter of the Arrow by her Majesty's Plenipotentiary and the Consul—writing, in consequence of the closing of the city to foreigners, being the only means of communication—I demanded for all foreign representatives the same free access to the authorities and the city of Canton (where all the Chinese high officials reside), as is enjoyed under treaty at the other four ports, and denied to us at Canton alone."

No reply having been made, I determined to open fire on the High Commissioner's compound (the *Yanun*), a large space of ground within the old city, surrounded by a high wall which contains his Excellency's residence, and is consequently Government property. Accordingly at 1 p. m., the first shot was fired from the 10-inch pivot gun of the *Encounter* and at intervals of from 5 to 10 minutes, the fire was kept up from that gun till sunset.—The *Barracouta* at the same time shelled the troops on the hills behind Gough's Fort, in the rear of the city, from a position she had taken up at the head of Sulphur Creek. A proclamation was this day issued, under the High Commissioner's own seal, and placarded publicly, offering a reward of 30 dollars for the head of every Englishman. One of the originals is in possession of her Majesty's Consul. Nearly all the Chinese servants now quitted the factory. A detachment of 18 gunners of Royal Artillery, under Captain Gye Rotten, joined me. I stationed them at first in the Dutch Folly, where they performed good service.

14. No change having taken place in the aspect of affairs from the proceedings of the 27th I resumed operations on the following day from the Dutch Folly, where I placed in position two of the *Encounter's* 32-pounder guns. I had previously given the fullest warning to the inhabitants in the vicinity to remove their persons and property (Captain Hall having landed twice for that purpose) in which occupation they were engaged during the whole of the night. I began firing shortly after noon, my object being to open a clear passage to the wall of the city. This was materially furthered by a conflagration of a large portion of the houses in our line of attack, which opened the wall to our view. I ceased firing at sunset. Captain the Hon. Keith Stewart, of her Majesty's ship *Nankin*, joined me on the morning of the 28th, with 140 of his crew and two field-pieces: 55 of the crew of the United States' corvette *Levant* also arrived to protect American interests,