

## CONSTANTINOPLE.

CONSTANTINOPLE, literally the city of Constantinople, in Roumelia, or European Turkey, is the capital of the Ottoman Empire, and is situated on the Sea of Marmora, and at the west end of the narrow channel of the Bosphorus, which connects the Sea of Marmora with the Black Sea. The ground on which it stands is fitted by nature for the site of a great commercial city, the connecting link between Europe and Asia. A gently sloping promontory, secured by narrow seas, stretches out in a triangular form towards the Asiatic continent, from which its extreme point is separated by so narrow a strait (the Bosphorus) that in a quarter of an hour a boat can row from one continent to the other. Indeed, Scutari, on the Asiatic coast, immediately opposite, is always considered as a suburb of the European capital. Just before the Bosphorus enters the Sea of Marmora, it makes a deep elbow or inlet on the European shore, flowing between the triangle of Constantinople proper and its European suburbs of Galata and Pera, and forming the magnificent port of the Golden Horn. The triangle which, allowing for many vacant spaces within the walls, is entirely covered by Constantinople, is thus washed on one side (the northern) by the deep waters of the port, and on the other (the southern) by the Sea of Marmora. The base of the triangle or the ground immediately beyond the wall which attaches it to the European continent, is an open elevated flat, with some slight inequalities. The area of the triangle is occupied by gentle hills, which are highest towards the land side and the suburbs of Eyoub, and gradually decline to the Seraglio point, the apex of the triangle shelving off on each side to the Sea of Marmora and the port. As Rome was built on seven hills, the Roman founders of Constantinople called these the Seven Hills, though if the principal chain only were counted, there would be less; and if the minor hills or spaces were included, there would be more than seven. The ridge of the first hill, departing from the acute point of the triangle, is covered by the main building of the Seraglio, or vast palace of the Sultan, behind which, a little on the reverse of the hill, the dome of St. Sophia shows itself. The second hill is crowned by the cold and lofty dome of the Osmanieh Mosque. The still loftier mosque of Solyman, the Magnificent towers on the third hill; whilst an ancient aqueduct, the arches of which are of considerable span and which is generally attributed to the Emperor Valens, unites the summits of the third and fourth hills. On a fifth point, the most elevated of the little chain within the triangle, there is a lofty slender tower, built in 1828, in which a guard is constantly kept to watch the breaking out of fires, which are very frequent and destructive in a city where the private habitations are built almost entirely of wood. The situation of Constantinople upon hills is the main cause, not only of its picturesque and beautiful appearance, but of its salubrious and comparative cleanliness. It receives all the breezes from the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmora, and the adjoining plains of Thrace; and the dirt that might otherwise accumulate, descends the hills' sides to the port or the open sea, in both of which it is carried off by a strong current. This natural local advantage is improved by the number of fountains, and the abundance of running water which is always carrying off parts of the dirt, and by the heavy rains which, when they fall, thoroughly cleanse the sides of the hills. The lower edge of the city that touches the port and the suburb of Galata, (the Wapping of the Turkish capital) on the opposite side of the port, may be called filthy places; but the term cannot be correctly applied to Constantinople as a whole, although, from various other causes, the interior of the city is far from being so beautiful and imposing as its external aspect. Visit to the East.

## MISHAPS OF UPID AND HYMEN.

ONE hears of curious things in this line. In Belgravia there is so much reticence about details that a broken love story or wedding story there, makes a romance more or less mysterious. Below stairs it is different, and the mangling woman tells the servant, who tells the mistress, who tells the master, comical tales of amatory disasters, now and then. Here are three, for which we have the best evidence:—1. This anecdote contains a solemn warning against magniloquence in courting. A lawyer's clerk wooed a bugle worker, and the course of true love ran smoothly enough, till an anxious interference on the part of the girl's mother brought about a dictionary crisis, which very nearly wrecked all hopes. Says Mrs A. to Mr B., 'what are your intentions?' Says Mr B. to Miss A., the next time they are alone, 'I did not know how to answer your mother for I couldn't tell if my feelings were reciprocated. Are they?' drawing closer and pressing the maiden's yielding palm. Now 'reciprocated' was a word of five syllables, of which the significance had never been unrolled to Miss A., the bugle worker; the consequence being that she alternately said 'Yes' and 'No' in so incoherent and distracted a manner, that Mr B. the attorney's clerk, retired from the field in a state of total rout, to take the earliest opportunity of asking Miss A.'s sister if anything peculiar—if any traces in the family—if Mary had ever been

known to—in fact if Mary was in her right senses. Elucidations followed, and all went merry as a marriage bell eventually. But we do submit that this anecdote contains solemn warning for Colin not to court Anglo-Saxon maids in Latin. Think of a polysyllabic rupture followed by broken hearts! 2. Bashful lovers are not such rare birds as might be imagined. The Rev. John Brown, author of the 'Concordance,' courted seven years before he thought of a kiss, and when he did venture, proposed to ask a blessing first, which, finding he liked it, he followed up by saying grace after it; and then saying, 'O lass, but it's good! may we tak another thing ye?' took it. Our second story is of a bashful bridegroom who was suddenly missed from the wedding cortege as the party were returning from church, and defied all attempts to find him, on the part of his distracted friends. He came not, and the bride mourned his mysterious absence through a sleepless night. Morning came, and so did the milk; and not long after, the bridegroom, looking chilly and limp, and stupid. 'Where had he been? and what had he undergone? and why didn't he come home?' 'He was ashamed.' 'Then where did he sleep all night?' in a tub, up a cooper's yard! Comment would be idle. 3. Is a short story of a slip between the cup and the lip. The bridegroom was at church expecting his bride. She, sweet soul, within 50 yards of the peace, leaning on the arm of a male friend, who escorted her along, stepped into a puddle, and splashed her dress. Instead of going to church she went back home, and within that space married—the gentleman who accompanied her! Did he purposely guide her trembling little feet into that puddle. The gods know. But might not a curious book be made out of slip-between the cup and the lip.

## OVER CAUTION.

THE proverb tells us that there may be too much of a good thing, and though too little be the most common case, it is occasionally to be seen among life's varieties. Some have too much business, some too much leisure, and some, though that is seldom complained of, too much money, but the heaviest superfluity with which man was ever burdened, is too much caution. Some of it is useful, or rather indispensable. Since the golden age went by, it has been always wanted in this world, and always shall be 'till the lion eats straw with the ox.' Yet, let him who has an over-supply of the article, make haste to throw what he can spare away, for it will be a hindrance not only to himself, but all who have dealings with him. How much of unnecessary secret keeping, what uncalled for goings about the bush, what loss of time, opportunity, and even friends, does over caution entail on its possessors. Inexplicable manoeuvres wake up suspicion, half told tales create misunderstandings, the machinery of life is encumbered, but not made more secure. To provide against all possible contingencies is beyond human foresight. In planning against a distant evil, one may overlook the immediate danger. He who built the tower to protect his son, did not see the serpent that went up to him in the fagot.

## THE NEEDFUL COURAGE.

WHATEVER you be in rank, fortune, or abilities, be not a coward; courage is the armour of the heart and the safeguard of all that is good in this world. Not the valour that faces the cannon, or braves the perils of the wilderness and wave. That is a useful quality, and much to be respected, yet, only after its kind, as a thing which a man may share with his dog. But courage to speak the truth, though it be out of favour and fashion; to stand by the right when it is not the winning side; to give the wrong its true name, no matter what Johnson or Mrs Stubbs will say, that is the bravery most wanted in these days of much profession and little practice.

## DEW.

THIS is a phenomenon of nature which begins to be deposited about sunset, and is most abundant in valleys and plains near rivers, and other collections of waters, and abounds on those parts of the surface which are clothed with vegetation. It is often suspended when rain is approaching, in windy weather, and before thunderstorms. Its approach, in the extensive valley watered by the Thames, presents the following appearance:—After a clear warm day there is gradually formed on the horizon a continuous haze, rising sometimes to a considerable height, and often tinged by the setting sun with a fine gradation of red and violet shades. This is the precipitated water, becoming faintly visible in its descent. Dew is always to be found on the grass by the time that this haze has become conspicuous, and its abundance is proportioned to the density and permanence of the latter. The quantity of dew deposited differs considerably at different places, and at different seasons in the same place; nor does it fall upon bodies indiscriminately. In explanation of these phenomena several hypotheses have been suggested, which we have not room to describe; but no theory has yet been established which is quite satisfactory. Upon the whole, however, the obvious and true reason of the formation of dew is, that part of the vapours which are raised in the course of the day by the heat of the

sun, and remain floating in the air, are condensed by the cold of the night, and settle upon different bodies; but from various peculiarities which have been observed in the dew, it has been inferred that this is not the cause of its formation. The readiness with which dew falls upon glass, porcelain, and a few other bodies, that are non-conductors of electricity, has given reason to suspect that electricity is concerned in the production of this phenomenon; and this opinion is corroborated by the well-ascertained fact that vapour contains more of electricity than the water from which it originates. In addition to which it must be recollected that certain bodies are much better conductors of heat than others, and in general the best conductors of heat are the best conductors of electricity. Hence, it may be seen more than probable, that the formation of dew, with all its peculiarities, depends upon various causes, which tend to vary the effects according as any one of them happens to preponderate. In this island the dew is observed, like the drops of a mizzling rain, upon the leaves of grass and other vegetables, upon wood, glass, porcelain, &c., or upon the earth, which is thereby frequently rendered sensibly moist, more copiously in spring and summer mornings than at any other times of the year. In autumn, however, and even in winter, it frequently happens that an abundant dew is deposited in the course of the night. In countries situated near the equator, the dews are generally observed in the morning throughout the whole year; and in some places in the East, where rain seldom falls, they are so copious, as in a great measure to supply its deficiency.

## THE KING OF SIAM'S AMAZONS.

THE Moniteur de l'Armée publishes some curious details relative to the army of the King of Siam. One corps particularly attracts the attention of strangers, which is the battalion of the King's Guard, composed of women. This battalion consists of 400 women, chosen among the handsomest and most robust girls in the country. They receive excellent pay, and their discipline is perfect. They are admitted to serve at the age of 13, and are placed in the army of reserve at 23. From that period they no longer serve about the King's person, but are employed to guard the Royal palaces and the Crown lands. On entering the army, they make a vow of chastity, for which there is no exemption unless any of them should attract the King's attention and be admitted among his legitimate wives. The King's choice seldom falls on the most beautiful, but on the most skilled in military exercises. The costume these women wear is very rich. Their full dress is composed of a white wollen robe, embroidered with gold. The cloth is extremely fine, and descends as far as the knee; it is covered with a light coat of mail and a gilt cuirass. The arms are free, and the head is covered with a gilt casque. When wearing this dress on State occasions their only weapon is a lance, which they handle with wonderful dexterity. With their undress they are armed with a musket. The battalion is composed of four companies, and each company of 100 women, commanded by a captain of their sex. Should the Captain die, the company is drilled during three days by the King, who appoints the most competent to succeed to the command. The battalion has been commanded for the last five years by a woman who saved the King's life at a tiger hunt by her courage and skill. She possesses great influence at court and is much respected by those under her command. She has the same establishment as a member of the Royal family, and 10 elephants are placed at her service. The King never undertakes any expedition without being accompanied by his female guard, nor does he ever hunt, or even ride without an escort of the same guard, who are devotedly attached to his person. Every individual of the battalion has five negresses attached to her service, and having thus no domestic occupation she can devote herself exclusively to the duties of her profession. There is a parade ground near the city, where one company is stationed for two days every week to exercise themselves in the use of the lance, the pistol, the musket, and the rifle. The King attends once a month at those exercises, accompanied by his brother, who shares in some degree the Sovereign power, and distributes prizes to those most deserving. When the death of one of the parties ensues, the deceased receives a magnificent funeral, and the high priest pronounces a panegyric declaring that the deceased by her valor has merited eternal rest in the abode of the blessed. The survivor receives the congratulations of her companions; but as a measure of discipline, she is sentenced to pass two months away from her company, in fasting and prayer. The military organization of this battalion is so perfect that the entire army endeavours to imitate it.

## A MILKY WAY AT SEA.

A lady, on her voyage to Calcutta, writes the following:—When in the Gulf of Aden, we saw a very remarkable sight. It was a rough and blowy evening that we were called on deck to see the 'milky water,' which his only seen just in this region. It is still undecided whether

the effect is produced by electricity, by atmospheric causes, or by animalcules. Instead of water, it seemed as if the vessel were plunging through great drifts of snow. The appearance extended even to the horizon, and if the air had been colder, and I could have caught the sound of sleigh-bells, I should have lost all idea of the sea, and imagined myself enjoying a magnificent sleigh-ride. It was a splendid sight and it is very remarkable that no chemical analysis can detect any peculiarity in the composition of the water; and as soon as daylight or moonlight comes, it vanishes. The 'milky way' lasted for three nights, and then suddenly stopped, and every evening afterwards the water was as usual.

## ONE GREAT SOURCE OF VEXATION.

I have at length learned by my own experience (for not one in twenty, profits by the experience of others), that one great source of vexation proceeds from our indulging too sanguine hopes of enjoyment from the blessings we expect, and too much indifference for those we possess. We scorn a thousand sources of satisfaction we might have had in the interim, and permit our comfort to be disturbed and our time to pass unenjoyed, from impatience for some imagined pleasure at a distance, which we may, perhaps, never obtain, or which, when obtained, may change its nature, and be no longer pleasure.

## THE HOME PERIL.

IT may seem a paradox, but it is true, that the greatest enemy which a trading nation has to fear is trade. It brings riches, it confers power, it promotes material civilization, and to some extent, befriends liberty. No great commercial people ever obeyed an absolute monarch, and feudal lordship fell before the growth of the burgh and the guild. On the other hand, the increase of its wealth is apt to outstrip the march of refinement, and set vulgarity in high places. The luxury it diffuses, and the wants it multiplies, impair popular resources, and enlarge destitution. By its tendency to accumulate riches in comparatively few hands, and concentrate labour in limited spaces, trade creates that overwhelming power of capital which threatens to be the tyrant of modern times, and worse than all, its dregs can work their way into the character of a people, bringing their hopes, their estimates, and their aspirations to the level of the market.

## AUSTRALIAN SCENERY.

THE extreme uniformity of the vegetation is the most remarkable feature in the landscape of New South Wales. Everywhere we have an open woodland, the ground being partially covered with a very thin pasture, with little appearance of verdure. The trees nearly all belong to one family, and mostly have their leaves placed in a vertical, instead of, as in Europe, in a nearly horizontal position; the foliage is scanty, and of a peculiar pale green tint without any gloss. Hence the woods appear light and shadowless: this, although a loss of comfort to the traveller under the scorching rays of the summer, is of importance to the farmer, as it allows grass to grow where it otherwise would not. The leaves are not shed periodically; this character appears common to the entire southern hemisphere—namely, South America, Australia, and the Cape of Good Hope. The inhabitants of this hemisphere, and the inter-tropical regions, thus lose perhaps one of the most glorious, though to our eye common, spectacle in the world—the first bursting into full foliage of the leafless tree.

## A SENSIBLE WOMAN.

NEVER shrink from a woman of strong sense if she becomes attached to you, it will be from seeing and valuing similar qualities in yourself. You may trust her, for she knows the value of your confidence; you may consult her, for she is able to advise, and does so at once, with the firmness of reason and the consideration of affection. Her love will be lasting, for it will not have been lightly won; it will be strong and ardent, for weak minds are not capable of the loftier grades of passion. If you prefer attaching yourself to a woman of feeble understanding, it must be either from fearing to encounter a superior person, or from the poor vanity of preferring that admiration which springs from ignorance to that which approaches to appreciation.

Too Bad.—A young widow who edits a paper in a neighboring State, says: 'We do not look so well to day as usual, on account of the non arrival of the males!'

Black seals upon letters, like the black sails of the Greeks, are signs of bad tidings and ill success.

Mrs Brown says, her husband is such a blunderer that he can't even try on a new boot without putting his foot in it.

Your hand annoys me excessively, said a French nobleman to an incessant talker who sat next him at dinner. 'My lord' said the bore, 'we are so crowded that I do not know where to put my hand.' Put it in your mouth, Monsieur, was the reply.