

January, February, and July, and in the evenings of the last two weeks in December. Through a good telescope, Venus will appear a fine large crescent in January, and in December exhibit the appearance of a little full moon. Mars may be seen in the mornings in the early part of the year, and in the evenings of the Autumn months. He will be at his least distance from the earth in June, when he will appear with a large and ruddy disc, near the south-eastern horizon. Jupiter will appear very splendid, even to common observers, in the evenings from the middle of August to the end of December. Saturn will be in an advantageous position for observation during July, August, and September; at the same time, if the telescope be a good one, and will bear a considerable power, this planet, and its extraordinary ring, will present rather a novel sight to those who may not be accustomed to observations of this kind.

TYPE SETTING MACHINE.—At a recent meeting of the London Society of Arts, Mr. Young, one of the inventors of the type-setting machine, explained the construction and uses of the several parts of this contrivance. One of the machines being in the room, the inventor was enabled to show it in full work. The upper part consists of the type reservoirs, which are long rectangular channels, fixed in an inclined position to prevent the letters falling out, and of a size corresponding with that of the type to be used. Immediately below these reservoirs, are as many knives or cutters, the use of which is to cut off or displace the bottom letter of each column of type. The motion is given to these cutters, by the manipulation of the performer sitting in front of the instrument, who in playing on the keys (altogether 96 in number) draws down the vertical rods, connecting the keys and the cutters, and thus displaces the cutters, which, pressing against the lowest letter of each column of type, causes it to pass through an opening in the bed plate of the cutters, and thus enter on to the top of an inclined plane at the back of the machine. The inclined plane is constructed of brass, and contains several curvilinear channels, down which the types glide gradually at intervals, regulated by the manipulations of the performer. At the bottom of the inclined plane is an eccentric movement (worked by a treadle) to regulate the admission of the stream of type into a long open trough or channel leading to the composing case, where the type is adjusted ready to form into pages for the press. When in full work, as many as 8000 letters, &c., may be set up by this machine, worked by two young women, in one hour—whereas, by the ordinary mode, a good compositor cannot set up more, on an average, than 1700 letters.

[From the Pekin Gazette.]

CHINESE IMPERIAL EDICT.

On the 9th day of the 8th moon (September 13,) a public despatch from the military board arrived at Canton, stating that on the 16th day of the 9th moon (August 21,) these Imperial orders were received:

"At the commencement of our family, when we first achieved the conquest of China, its foundation was based on arms. When I received my ancestral throne, I managed affairs with care and attention; and matters were settled with the speed of an arrow shot by a horseman; I dared not be guilty of the least delay, inattention, or carelessness: but in the course of years, in all the provinces, military discipline became decayed and out of use, to that degree, that when the troops went to battle, there were not any arranged laws or tactics. At the present time the English barbarians are causing trouble and confusion in the two provinces of Keangsoo and Chekeang, poisoning, that is, treating cruelly and tyrannising over the people, which greatly excites my most vehement anger and indignation. I order the governors and lieutenant governors of each of the maritime provinces to especially apply themselves to the knowledge of my state of mind and intentions; and with additional care and thoughtfulness to apply themselves to the duty of warding off and guarding against. The different bodies of stationary troops—the division of troops attached to the higher officers of a province, as well as the rest distributed through each province, are to be continually drilled and exercised, until they become fully experienced in all martial exercises; teach them to be courageous and intelligent. From this time henceforth, if, as hitherto, military discipline and affairs be not studied and practiced, and if there is any carelessness in warding off and guarding against (that is, if any more towns are lost,) the said governors and lieutenant governors shall be held responsible.

"Pay an implicit and awe struck obedience! pay an implicit and awe-struck obedience!—Respect this!"

SPLENDID METEOR.—A little after 8 o'clock in the evening of Sunday last a splendid illuminated meteor passed over a considerable part of the north of the county of Nottingham. Its course was from the N. W., and in its direct path it went a little to the east of Grove, near Retford, where its appearance was splendid in the extreme. It greatly resembled a large body of fire of a blood red colour, assuming various shapes. Its apparent height here was trifling, but its velocity could not be less than 50 to 60 miles in a minute. In its course it was seen by numbers at a distance from each other, yet those who observed it, although so many miles asunder, fancied it fell within a short distance. In 1710 a very extraordinary meteor was first seen in Leeds, on the 18th May, at a quarter past 10 at night. Its form was that of a flaming sword. On the 19th of March, 1719, another blazing meteor was seen in

every part of England. It was observed in London about 8 P. M. On the 11th of December, 1741, at 1 P. M., another was seen at Peckham, in Surrey, in the form of a globe of fire, larger than the full moon. At half past 9 at night, on the 18th of August, 1783, a most luminous meteor was seen in several parts of the kingdom; afterwards it passed into France, and was distinctly seen at Paris, Brussels, and Nuits, in Burgundy. In passing over Lincolnshire loud reports were heard, which were compared to the falling of some heavy body in a room above stairs. On the 14th of October, in the same year, two others were seen, but their appearance was of short duration; since when none other have appeared of any magnitude that we can recollect until the evening of Sunday last.—*Nottingham Journal.*

"THE LAND WHICH NO MORTAL MAY KNOW."

Though earth has full many a beautiful spot,
As a poet or painter might show;
Yet more lovely and beautiful, holy and bright,
To the hopes of the heart, and the spirit's glad sight,
Is the land that no mortal may know.

There the crystalline stream, bursting forth from the throne,
Flows on, and for ever will flow;
Its waves, as they roll, are with melody rife,
And its waters are sparkling with beauty and life,
In the land which no mortal may know.

And there, on its margin, with leaves ever green,
With its fruits healing sickness and woe,
The fair Tree of Life! in its glory and pride,
Is fed by the deep, inexhaustible tide
Of the land which no mortal may know.

There, too, are the lost! whom we lov'd on this earth,
With those whose mem'ries our bosoms yet glow;
Their reliques we gave to the place of the dead,
But their glorified spirits before us have fled
To the land which no mortal may know.

There the pale orb of Night, and the fountain of Day,
Nor beauty nor splendour bestow;
But the presence of Him, the unchanging I AM!
And the holy, the pure, the immaculate LAMB!
Light the land which no mortal may know.

Oh! who must but pine, in this dark vale of tears,
From its clouds and its shadows to go,
To walk in the light of the glory above,
And to share in the peace and the joy and the love,
Of the land which no mortal may know.

THE GATES OF SOMNAUTH.—The proclamation of the Governor General in reference to the restoration of the gates of the idolatrous temple of Somnauth, is a remarkable event connected with the general cause of religion. To understand the bearings of the subject, it is necessary to advert to certain points in the history and mythology of India. In the peninsula of Gujerat between Bombay and the Indus, close to the sea, lies the district commonly known under the name of Cattynear. This region is celebrated in the sacred writings of the Hindus. There is said to have taken place the most renowned conflict, in the mythological legends of this singular people—a conflict, in which sixty millions of combatants were engaged, and all slain except about a dozen! There, too, is the identical spot on which the popular deity Crishna is said to have received the fatal wound which put a period to his eventful incarnation. There also, on the sea shore, stood the city and temple of Somnauth, or Somanatha, that is, Lord of the Moon. In this temple was believed to be enshrined one of the twelve images of Shiva, the third or destroying power of the Hindu Triad, which were fabled to have fallen bodily from Heaven. Altogether, the district and the temple came to be regarded as amongst the holiest and most remarkable even in this land of prodigies. The natural and inevitable consequence was, that thousands and tens of thousands annually resorted thither, as merit-seeking pilgrims. And, in those high and palmy days of superstition, the fruits of those soul-deluding pilgrimages gradually accumulated into enormous treasures. Early in the eleventh century, the far-spread renown of these inflamed the cupidity of the celebrated Sultan Mahmoud, of Ghizni. At the head of the ferocious and plundering banditti, he seized and pillaged the temple of Somnauth—carrying off its all but incredible riches. The venerated image he destroyed; the temple itself he razed to the ground, reserving only its admired gates of sandal-wood, which he carried as trophies of his victory to Ghizni; and there have they been ever since attached to his own tomb or mausoleum, proudly exhibiting to all Asia the triumph of the Moslem and the humiliation of the Hindus. Subsequently, the temple of Somnauth was restored, and the reputed sacredness of the shrine and the adjacent territory soon replenished its treasures. Towards the end of the fifteenth century it was again sacked and demolished by Sultan Mahmoud Begra, a bigotted Mahomed chief, who usurped the throne of Gujerat. His conquest was soon consummated by the erection of a mosque on the site of the Hindu temple. In the course of time the mosque was allowed to decay; and at length a widow of one of the princes of the Hoelar dynasty succeeded in rearing a temple to Shiva over the ruins of the mosque. Thither did pilgrims from all quarters speedily resort, for the purpose of performing their devotions at so sacred a shrine. To the Mahomedan chief of the district they were constrained to pay a heavy duty or tax for the privilege. But in 1816, through the intervention of the British Government, a greater freedom of access to the shrine was secured by the flocking pilgrims—the unhappy dupes of a soul-whithering