

superstition! Now, it appears that Lord Ellenborough had issued orders to the British General at Ghizni to carry off the Somnauth gates of sandal-wood from the tomb of Mahmood, which for the last 800 years they had adorned. They are about twelve feet high, and consist of four leaves. Lord E. now proposes to restore these to the idolatrous temple of Somnauth, with the inscription or motto carved upon them, "Mahmoud répit—Ellenborough restituit." This act of restoration has been officially announced to all India and the world in his unique proclamation.

THE RESTORATION OF THE GATES OF SOMNAUTH BY LORD ELLENBOROUGH.

The gates of Gaza, which, in days of yore,
The mighty Sampson on his shoulders bore,
Prostrate remained—no sacrilegious hand
Dared to erect them in the Holy Land.
Not so of Somnauth: these the Christian Lord,
With heathen rites, to heathens hath restored,
Strange contrast! Yet alike their fate appears:
For Sampson pulled a house about his ears.

MONUMENT TO GRACE DARLING.—Mrs. Sharp of Clare Hall, London, has signified her intention to give the sum of £200 towards erecting a Monument, in Bamburgh churchyard, to the memory of Grace Darling.

MRS. WOOD THE VOCALIST.—This lady so well known in the United States, has occupied much attention lately, from the circumstances of her having embraced the Roman Catholic religion, with the intention of taking the veil. A Yorkshire newspaper, published in the district where Mrs. Wood and her husband have lived of late years, states that the lady has had a leaning to catholicism since 1836, when she first visited America with her present husband, arising out of the following circumstances:—In that year she gave her gratuitous services to a Religious Catholic Society in Boston, and afterwards she had a small testimonial presented to her, singularly and beautifully written on tinted paper. The following is a copy:—"Madam, —This is but a slight token of the orphan's gratitude,—but it is hallowed by the orphan's prayer. Whatever is happiness on earth may it be yours,—and when earth's labours are done, may those exquisite and thrilling tones which have relieved our wants, be blended with the seraph voices around the throne of God in Heaven.—Written by an Orphan." This affecting testimonial has preyed upon her mind ever since, and often has she expressed her admiration of the religion and beauty which she there became more directly conversant with. To the impression this circumstance made upon her mind is attributed the change in her religious views. In reply to certain insinuations as to the cause of the extraordinary step she has taken, Mrs. Wood addressed the following letter to one of the local papers:—

"Sir,—Having understood that a rumour has been circulated in the neighbourhood of Wakefield, importing that the ill-treatment of Mr. Wood has forced me into a convent, I feel it imperative on me to give the most unqualified contradiction to the report, and to state that Mr. Wood's conduct to me has been uniformly kind and indulgent.

"MARY ANN WOOD.

"Convent, Micklegate-bar, York, Feb. 17, 1843."

It is admitted on all hands that they lived on the most happy terms, and that her marriage with Mr. Wood has been as felicitous as her first marriage with Lord William Lennox was the reverse. But although professionally popular in the provinces since that event, where she has realized a handsome fortune, Mrs. Wood has never been able to make good her stand in London. Up to that time she was one of the greatest favourites in the British metropolis. The *Dublin Evening Post* gives the following statement:—"To dispose of all scepticism as to the conversion of Mrs. Wood to the Roman Catholic religion, we are enabled to state, through the kindness of a Protestant gentleman of this city, a friend of ours—Mr. Robert Brennan (who will excuse our giving his name)—that he, after using his utmost endeavours to dissuade Mrs. Wood from the step she was about to take, accompanied that lady, on Saturday last, from the residence of Mr. Wood to the convent at York, where she now is—that Mr. Wood, on their separation, made for her an ample provision, should she either take the veil or return to live in the world. The separation of Mr. and Mrs. Wood was solely on the ground of the impossibility of her being received into the Catholic Church without resolving on such separation, as that church does not recognise the doctrine of divorce, and Mrs. Wood felt there could not be any compromise in matters that regarded eternity. The parting of Mrs. Wood and Mr. Wood and their infant son was truly affecting, and proved the intensity of their attachment, the sacrifice they made, and the triumph of religion over this world. It appears the decision of Mrs. Wood was no sudden ebullition. On the contrary, she had been for several months in communication with the zealous and truly pious Roman Catholic clergyman of Wakefield, the Rev. Mr. Morris, whom she had selected as her instructor in the tenets of that church, into which she was publicly received on Sunday, the 5th of February, in the chapel of Wakefield, where she made her first communion.

STREET SWEEPING.

NOVEL INVENTION.

Many of our Manchester readers must have noticed a very ingenious machine (an *automaton scavenger*) engaged in its useful labours, drawn quietly through the streets at the same rate as other

carts, and making no more disturbance, while its revolving brooms sweep up the dirt like a gigantic cat licking up cream.

"The apparatus consists of a series of brooms suspended from a light frame of wrought Iron, hung behind a common cart, the body of which is placed as near the ground as possible for the greater facility of loading. As the cart wheels revolve the brooms successively sweep the surface of the ground, and carry the soil up an inclined plane, at the top of which it falls into the body of the cart.

"The apparatus is extremely simple in construction, and will have little tendency to get out of order, nor will it be liable to material injury from accident. The draught is not severe on the horse. Throughout the process of filling, a larger amount of force is not required than would be necessary to draw the full cart an equal distance.

"The success of the operation is no less remarkable than its novelty. Proceeding at a moderate speed through the public streets, the cart leaves behind it a well swept tract, which forms a striking contrast with the adjacent ground. Though of the full size of a common cart, it has repeatedly filled itself in the space of six minutes, from the principal thoroughfares of the town. This fact, while it proves the efficiency of the new apparatus, proves also the necessity for a change in the present system of street cleaning."

"That there must necessarily be great economy in the improved process, is evident from the following statements:—"The process of street cleaning consists of three parts—viz., sweeping, loading, and carrying. Under the present system, these are entirely distinct operations. Each of them constitutes a protracted and expensive process; and the two former absorb a large amount of human labour. By the aid of the self loading cart, one horse is enabled to perform all three processes; which are not only carried on simultaneously, but, as it were, blended in one operation, whilst each is so far simplified as to render the combination less complex and protracted than the single process of either sweeping or loading by the present mode. By the present mode of sweeping, the dirt is first removed from the centre to the sides of the street, and there collected into heaps, for convenience in loading. An immense amount of time and labour is thus consumed; the mass of dirt being moved over a wide extent of surface and the operation of cleaning continually retarded by the accumulation. It is calculated that each particle, on the average, moves through twenty feet of space before the operation of loading commences, and that the preparatory sweeping for each load consumes the greater part of a day's labour. Here the advantage of the patent apparatus is self evident: it entirely supersedes the whole process just referred to. The dirt, instead of being swept from one part of the street to another, is swept at once into the cart, and the street is cleared affectually. The operation of sweeping, in fact, merges in that of loading; and both are performed without the intervention of human labour. When going at the rate of only two miles per hour, with brooms three feet wide, the patent apparatus will clean nearly sixty superficial yards per minute. This is about the average rate of work done by thirty six men. Supposing the apparatus to work five hours per day, it would clean 18,000 yards, equal to the performance of eighteen men."

THE COMET FOR 1843.—A Comet of great brilliancy has been seen, visible throughout the day without the aid of a glass, and its brilliancy almost equal to that of Venus. Its situation is very near the eastern limb of the sun; its tail appears about 3° in length. It may be the comet announced some three months since in Europe; it was then traversing the constellation Draco; be it that or another, it is of rare brilliancy. There are but three on record, of sufficient brilliancy to be seen in the day season. The first was 43 years before Christ, and is called a "hairy star;" it was seen with the naked eye in the day time. The second was in the year 1402, and was so brilliant that the light of the sun, at the end of March, did not hinder people seeing it at mid-day; both its nucleus and its tail, were, to use the language of the day, "two fathoms long." The third appeared in Feb. 18th, 1744, and nearly equalled Venus in splendour, and many persons saw it at mid-day without glasses. It may yet prove that the Comet of to-day is the same as that of 1402. Three observations only are necessary to calculate its orbit, the elements of which, if previously registered, will enable Astronomers to decide whether the Comet under consideration has appeared or not.—*New Bedford Mercury*.

THE COMET.—The Boston Daily Advertiser of the 21st instant, says:—

"The Comet made a brilliant appearance on Saturday evening. It was seen to the greatest advantage at about half past seven o'clock. The nucleus was apparent to the naked eye, and extended in the direction towards the star Sirius, through a space of near forty degrees. The nucleus must have set at about eight o'clock.

We understand that observations of the place of the Comet were taken at Cambridge by Mr. Bond, on the evening of the 9th instant, when the nucleus was first seen, and subsequently on the 11th, 14th, 15th, 18th, and 20th. These observations are sufficient to give an approximation to its orbit, direction of movement and period; and calculations founded upon them are now being made. It is certainly receding from the sun, and probably from the earth; but may remain visible to us some weeks longer."

The train of this interesting visiter has been observed in this City every clear evening during three weeks past. Its nucleus became apparent to those who have been observing its movements,