

*Serious and Fatal Accident on the London and North-Western Railway.*—We greatly regret to announce the occurrence of a fatal accident on the London and North-western line of railway. The scene of the accident was close to the Winsford station, within about four miles of Hartford, and between Warrington and Crewe. The facts—as near as we could ascertain them from the guard of a down train that passed shortly after the occurrence, and from Mr. Ilberry, to whose kind attention we are indebted—are as follows:—

A new six-wheeled engine, the construction of which was somewhat peculiar, and which, during some late trials, had attained an enormously high rate of speed, was coming down the line to work from the Liverpool station. To it was attached, in addition to a merchandize train, a few empty waggons. On the main line of rail at Winsford, there is a curve so acute, that it is stated that an engine might probably not be able to see any impediment should it be placed near the off line or siding, which, it appears, runs from the main line to some collieries in the vicinity. A train, propelled by an engine belonging to some private individual or company was passing from the side into the down line, when, at the same moment, the new engine, the driving wheels of which are eight feet six inches in diameter, came down the road, and before the breaks could be put on smashed into the coal waggons with a force so terrific that a portion of the merchandize train following was, from the force of the concussion, thrown completely over the enormous engine; the driver was killed upon the spot, and a portion of his head was afterwards found in his cap. The carriages were thrown with great force over the whole line, and some estimation of the collision may be formed from the fact that one carriage was thrown behind a hedge at the top of an embankment. The trains which came up afterwards were detained for some time. The breaksmen, it is said, jumped off the train, and was thus preserved. We must, however, be thankful that it was not a passenger train, as the loss of life in that case would have been lamentable. No doubt the directors, with their usual promptitude, will cause due inquiry to be made into the circumstances.

*Floating Beds.*—Some curious and interesting experiments were tried last week on the Serpentine river, Hyde-park, to test the powers and buoyancy of a novel sort of hammock beds or mattresses, of very simple construction, yet of importance to nautical people and passengers in ships, and intended for the preservation of lives at sea in cases of shipwreck. Captain Stevens and his son, and several gentlemen connected with naval matters, threw themselves into the water, into which the hammock mattresses were also thrown. They got hold of them, and found no difficulty in placing themselves upon them, and floating comparatively high and dry by their assistance for a considerable time. The experiments took place early in the morning to avoid a crowd, but they were nevertheless witnessed by many scientific persons and others.

*Sale of Hughes's Mammoth Establishment.*—The most important part of the collection was sold by Mr. Tattersall on Thursday. It took place upon the Waterloo ground, where ample opportunity was afforded for testing the merits of the animals. There were about forty young horses of various descriptions, besides several ponies. The greater part realized average prices, varying from ten to fifty guineas. For Spitfire, a piebald entire pony, ten hands high, purchased by the Earl of Lonsdale, seventy guineas were given. Of the camels, Alraschid fetched the highest price, which was fifty guineas. The elephant Romeo, a male of large size, was sold for one hundred guineas, the same sum being paid for Juliet, a beast of truly mammoth proportions, known at Drury-lane as Jenny Lind. These animals were said to have originally cost £1000. They were sold to Mr. Batty, of Astley's Amphitheatre, who, in addition, purchased the "Mammoth Dog" at £12 10s., and eight of the camels.

*The Maid and the Magpie in Real Life.*—On Thursday, a magpie flew in at the open window of a dressing-room at Skene House, and ingeniously contrived to pick a ring, belonging to Lady Agnes Duff, from the upright stalk of a ring stand, and fly off with it in its bill. Lady Agnes's maid, who was alone in the room at the time, and witnessed the theft, without being able to prevent it, was filled with consternation. The ring she knew was a valuable one—worth 40 guineas—and she naturally feared that the story of the magpie would hardly be accepted as a satisfactory account of its disappearance. A workman, to whom she communicated the alarm, had seen the bird fly out, and observed that it first perched on the top of a rack of wood. By great good fortune, they found, on going to the place, that the ring had been dropped, and was lying on the ground.—*Aberdeen Herald.*

*Capital Way to Cook Cabbage.*—Permit me to introduce a most excellent solid dish, quite good enough for an Emperor; that is, an Emperor with a keen appetite and a falling exchequer:—A large drumhead cabbage, 1½d.; quarter of a pound of fat bacon, 2d.; pepper and salt, ½d.; total, 4d. Cut this cabbage into two; cut a hole in the centre of each half, big enough to admit the bacon; put the two sides together, having well peppered the interior; tie them up in a cloth; tell the cook it is a plum pudding, and must be boiled three or four hours; then chop it up and serve it hot. If properly done it will stick to the ribs much better than *coup maigre*.—*Correspondent of Irish Farmer's Journal.*

*Jenny Lind and the Cottagers.*—It seems that Miss Jenny, being one of those young ladies who much delight to see what can be seen, whilst staying at the Bath Hotel ordered out her carriage, and, accompanied by her friend Mrs. Grote and other parties, took a drive, for the purpose of enjoying the beautiful scenery for which our much-favoured neighbourhood is so celebrated. Amongst other places thus visited, was the picturesque village of Henbury; and here, as a matter of course, the party were shewn the Henbury Cottages. Jenny was much gratified, nay, positively enchanted. She praised the neat arrangements of this peaceful spot, in whose very quietude and simplicity she seemed intuitively to sympathise. Having taken the round, and surveyed the exterior of the buildings, she at last entered one of the dwellings, where she was received by two of the aged occupants. The old women were busily employed with their knitting, whilst high above them, in a cage, a prisoned blackbird warbled its wood-notes wild, making the lowly cot resound with its charming melody. The old cottagers and Jenny were soon on intimate terms; she examined their knitting, and chatted away in a most affable manner. "What a beautiful bird is yours," she at last remarked. "Yes, my lady, 'tis indeed a pretty creature; we call it Jenny Lind." "Oh! indeed," remarked Jenny, with a smile; "I fear you are too complimentary to that person; have you ever heard her sing?" "La! no, my lady; it ain't the likes of us as she would care to sing to." "Then would you like to hear her, do you think?" "Ah! that I should indeed," was the reply of one. "And I, too," said the other; "she must be a dear creature." "Well, then," said the fair questioner, as something very like a tear glistened in her clear blue eyes, "I am Jenny Lind, and I shall be happy to gratify you;" whereupon she immediately sang one of her pretty melodies, to the great delight of her aged auditors, who, with many protestations of thankfulness vowed that they should "long remember the day when the sweet young lady paid 'em a visit."—*Bristol Mirror.*

*The Siamese Twins.*—A correspondent of the *Raleigh* (North Carolina) *Biblical Recorder*, under date of August 2, 1847, gives the following account of a visit to Chang and Eng, the celebrated Siamese twins, who, it will be remembered, visited this town some 15 years since:—"In company with my friend, Mr. William M'Nance, I called to see the Siamese twins, Chang and Eng, residing about one mile and a half from Mount Airy, on a valuable farm, which they have lately purchased, and removed to from the County of Wilkes. To my great disappointment they were not at home, being absent on a visit to their plantation in Wilkes. The wife of one of them was at home, and four of their children, all of whom resemble them much in appearance. They have each of them children about the same age. In addition to their native names they have assumed the name of Banker, in honour of their banker of that name in the city of New York. The Mrs. Banker we found at home appeared to be a good-looking intelligent woman, with a free and open countenance, apparently about 25 years of age. There appeared to be a number of servants about the premises, of different ages and sexes. Their house is small, but they are preparing to build a new and commodious one. The wife of one of them and two of their children were at Wilkes. They live alternately at each place, and so will continue until they build a new house or sell their plantation in Wilkes, which they design to do. They take much pleasure in farming, have a fine crop, and are quite plain and economical in dress and manner of living, are fond of hunting, and, with their wives and little ones, apparently quite happy and contented. Their wives are said to be members of the Baptist Church, of respectable parents, and the twins occasionally go to church with them. They are punctual in attending the elections, and vote the Whig ticket. I learn that, in addition to their property in North Carolina, they have an invested fund in New York. As they are fond of farming it would be much better that they were situated where they had facilities of getting their productions to market. I suppose, however, the inducements of the chase make them prefer a residence near the mountain."

*A Droll [but Old] Anecdote.*—Etna, notwithstanding its periodical destructive eruptions, is a real blessing to Sicily; and I am almost inclined to think the people would gladly reconcile themselves to the occasional annihilation of the village by its fires rather than be deprived of its snows. Ices and lemonades supersede entirely the Howqua and all other infusions of the tea plant. The ices are occasionally made to represent different species of fruits and often bear a very close resemblance to nature. Brydon has told a ludicrous anecdote of a naval officer of the old school, who was completely taken in by the deception. He was dining with a large party, at the house of a gentleman no less distinguished for the elegance of his table than for the strict formality observed at it. After dinner the ices were produced in the shape of various fruits and sweetmeats. One of the servants handed what appeared to be a fine large peach, to the captain, who, unacquainted with deceit of any kind, never doubted its being real. Cutting it through the centre, in a moment one-half of it was in his mouth. At first he looked grave, and blew out his cheeks to give it more room; but the violence of the cold soon brought tears into his eyes, and he began to tumble it from one side of his mouth to the other. At last unable to hold out any longer, he spat it upon his plate, exclaiming "A painted snowball, by jingo!"—*Recollections of Malta and Sicily.*

All Letters must be Post-paid.

Printed and Published at the Royal Gazette Office, near the Province Buildings, by JOHN SIMPSON, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

Wednesday, December 29, 1847.