

or curiosity to advance to the margin of the gloomy cavern, and cast an eye down its grim jaws, they have recoiled with a shudder from prosecuting their design of entering.

The pit to which the Russian magnate was led at Wallsend, was one of the deepest and narrowest on the Tyne. It was at that period in the full enjoyment of its fame as sending up the finest coals in the world, and offered certainly good cause of astonishment, that out of such a small black hole an individual was reaping an income of £50,000 a-year. On this account the Wallsend colliery was generally visited by the curious, although the mode of working the mine was not at all different from the one adopted in all the other collieries. What idea the prince had formed in his own mind of a coal-pit, it is impossible to say, but it is to be presumed that he had either thought little about the matter, or been very wrongly informed upon the subject. When Mr. Buddle, the viewer, conducted him up the ladder leading to the platform of the pit mouth, and introduced him to the scene of operations, he stopped suddenly short, and asked with alarm whether that was really the place to which he had been recommended to come. Upon being assured that such was actually the case, he went forward to the very edge of the pit, at sight of which, however, he stepped precipitately back, and holding up his hands, exclaimed in French, "Ah! my God, it is the mouth of hell!—none but a madman would venture into it!" Upon uttering these words, he hastily retreated, and, slipping out of his flannels as quickly as he could, again assumed his splendid uniform of a Russian general, and soon left the Wallsend colliery far behind him.

The person who thus displayed so infirm a purpose, or a mind so easily cowed at sight of an unexpected hazard, was one upon whose impulses for good or bad it pleases providence at this present moment to rest the destinies of a large proportion of the whole human race. It was Nicholas the First, Autocrat of all the Russias.—*Chambers' Edinburgh Journal*, September 21st, 1839.

The Greek Church.

The following notice of the Greek Church, which we find in "*Spencer's Travels in European Turkey*," will be read with more than ordinary interest at the present important crisis. The writer observes:—

"It is well known that the Greek Church, or as it is more generally termed, the Oriental, arrogates to itself the title of being the only true and primitive church of Christ and differs from the Roman Catholic on certain theological questions, particularly in denying the supremacy of the Pope, and also that he is the successor of St. Peter. We will however, leave these theological questions to be settled by the divines of each, and proceed to review those abuses in the discipline of the Oriental church, which so glaringly obtrude themselves upon the attention of the traveller, and which prove that the Greeks are the same credulous people as they were in the days of the great apostle St. Paul, when he denounced their idolatry and superstitions.

"Among the long catalogue of abuses, there is none productive of more fatal results to the well-being of society than the confessional! Equally open to censure is the avowed traffic, carried on by the clergy, in the sale of absolution. Every crime has its price, from murder down to petty larceny, rising in proportion to the rank and wealth of the offender. Divorce is a dreadful source of corruption, even in the best ordered countries, when not restrained by the laws of a wise administration, but here, at the intercession of a husband or wife who is able to pay the clergy, the sacred tie of marriage is dissolved on the slightest pretence, and without a trial.

"Happily for the pockets of the poorer classes the expenses attending the ordinary services of the church are regulated by a Government tariff; but this does not include the superstitious ceremonies so peculiar to the Greek church, which ignorance and a designing, rapacious priesthood have perpetuated among the credulous multitude, and from long usage have become a part of religion itself.

"We will merely allude to a few of the most flagrant—the sale of amulets, relics, the exorcism of maniacs and idiots, the bewitched, and those afflicted with the evil eye, the demoniac, &c., &c.—for all of which money is demanded. The prayers of the priest are also sought and paid for, to cure diseases in cattle, to preserve silk worms, to prevent the blight in corn and fruit trees, and

if they fail it is not supposed to be the fault of the clergy, but the want of faith in those that purchased them! Then comes the blessing of the sea, the rivers, fountains, and springs, by throwing little wooden crosses into them—not to mention the multiplied uses to which holy water is applied, all forming a source of profit. Extreme unction, which must be performed by seven priests, and excommunication is entirely in the hands of the higher clergy and brings them a large income.

"Excommunication, so much dreaded by the Greeks, is not often inflicted, for a man once condemned by the anathema of his church, is expelled from society in this world and damned to all eternity in the next, still when the threat is held out by those who have the power to execute it, the desired effect is certain to be produced upon a weak mind—the extortion of money.

"Fasting is considered in the Oriental church as one of the most important duties of a Christian; and so numerous are the days prescribed, that there are only a hundred and thirty in the year free from the obligation. As for the vigils, they are without end. The long abstinence from nutritious food, particularly during the whole of Lent, in addition to the unfavourable effect it has upon the health of the people, renders them morose, gloomy, and irritable; indeed it has been proved that more murders have been committed during Lent than at any other season of the year. These fasts are always succeeded by festivals, then the numbers of holidays, the midnight masses, the endless processions to the shrine of some favourite saint, all tend to licentiousness, idleness, drinking, and carousing, in short, to the destruction of the morals and industry of the people.

"Again, the gross ignorance of the inferior clergy, not only in theology, but in the common rudiments of education, the dissolute habits of too many of the higher ecclesiastics, and the infamous practices carried on in the monasteries have become household words throughout all Greece; but what does this signify to a class who hold the power of confessing and absolving each other, and who, act as they will, appear immaculate in the opinion of the ignorant multitude.

"The fanatic hatred of the followers of the Oriental church against the Roman Catholic and the poor Jews, exceeds all bounds. Protestants are somewhat in favour, not from any similarity in faith, but because they are, like themselves, opposed to the domination of their old enemy—the Pope."

PLAIN SPEAKING.

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher made a direct reply in Washington on Sunday week, to the attack on the clergyman who petitioned Congress in reference to the Nebraska bill, before a crowded audience. It was a characteristic discourse. We give the following extracts:—

"A true minister must know no fear. He must be a warrior. He must not preach to please the Justice of the Peace, or the Senate. He must go forth and attack wrong wherever he finds it. Does he say that is perilous? Why, it is perilous to live. When preachers shall do their duty faithfully, there will be less dogs to bark. They are told to mind their own business, and not to be meddlers. But the minister who never creates any agitation, is like the husbandman who never ploughs, because he may rip up some old roots. It is a peculiarity of the Gospel that it *don't* mind its own business. It is aggressive. It don't wait for men to come to it for relief, but it goes out to find the man, wherever he is. A Church may have all truth in its creed, but if it sits on its eggless nest and never incubates, it is just as dead as its opposite neighbor, that believes in all manner of error.

"Preaching is subsistence in life. A bullet must have power behind it, or it is dead matter.—If men only needed arguments, analysis and deductions, then the Bible would be enough. But the object of preaching is not to build up a creed or system, but to remove sin and evil. The Churches of the present day, disputing about the correctness and tendency of different articles of faith, remind him of a number of workmen assembled to erect a building. They begin to compare their saws, disputing which has the sharpest—their chisels, contending which has the best temper—and their axes, boasting of the skill and fame of the makers—but never strike a blow or make a tenon towards the erection of the edifice.

"The ministers of these churches think it so sweet and genteel to attack sin indirectly. But the Gospel is direct and revolutionary. There was meaning in the declaration of Jesus that he came to send a sword and not peace. The Saviour wants stout, brave men, not gentle men in silk stockings and kid gloves. Their preaching must be bold and applicatory. The Gospel, it is true, is very inconvenient to sinners, but it must be preached, so that drunkards, stingy, crabbed souls, unjust men, and oppressors, will feel that it is after them."

"Sometimes the men in the pews are impelled to speak out against wrong, but their pastor tells them it is not prudent. If I (said Mr. B.) had a Gospel like that I would throw it overboard. I would never preach to please the pews. There are congregations of men who build splendid edifices, with rich pulpits, handsomely carpeted aisles, well cushioned pews, splendid organ, and have very respectable choirs—but don't call such Churches of Christ—call them Odd Fellows—Mutual Insurance Companies—anything respectable but churches."—*Portland Eclectic*.

"Seeing through a Physician."

One of our contemporaries translates from the French, an account of a lady who, having been some time under the charge of an oculist, without receiving any apparent benefit, had her suspicions aroused, and therefore visited him in the guise of poverty, and was told, as she suspected, that nothing was the matter with her eyes except old age, and that was beyond remedy. This calls to mind a somewhat similar case, which our readers may be assured is strictly true.

Mrs. N— was, in her own opinion, a confirmed invalid. There are some who, without being really sick, fancy that they are so. Of this class was Mrs. N—. As she was a lady of wealth, her physician took good care to encourage these fancies, since they had a directly beneficial influence on his purse.

The lady, finding after some months' treatment that she was no better, began to fancy that travelling was the only thing to reinforce her enfeebled system.

The physician, who did not care to lose so profitable a patient, labored to change her determination, but without avail. Finding her determined, he gave way, and said:—

"Well, madam, since you are resolved to go, I will, if you like, give you a note of introduction to a skilful English physician of my acquaintance, under whose care I would advise you to place yourself."

This proposal was accepted with thanks, and a letter was accordingly written, and given in charge to Mrs. N—. After a while she became curious to know its contents, and reflecting that she could easily seal it up again, ventured to break it open. Her sensations were not of the most agreeable character as she cast her eye over the contents, which were as follows:—

"Dear Doctor:—I send you a goose to pluck, in the person of Mrs. N—, who has for some time been a patient of mine. She fancies herself a confirmed invalid, though, *entre nous*, she is no more sick than I am. If you play your cards well, you can make something handsome out of her, as I have already done."

Mrs. N—'s first feeling of indignation at the cheat imposed upon her, was succeeded by a determination to "throw physic to the dogs." She at once abandoned the plan of visiting Europe, since the motive which prompted her was gone.

The doctor was not a little surprised to meet her in the street a fortnight afterwards.

"Good Heavens! Mrs. N—, I thought you were on your way to Europe by this time. When do you start?"

"I have decided that it would not benefit my health, and have abandoned the project."

"Then you will wish me to resume my daily visits?"

"Don't you think, doctor," inquired Mrs. N—, with nonchalance, that I have been plucked sufficiently already?"

The doctor immediately had business in a different direction.—*Boston True Flag*.

Rulers of the World in 1854.

Perhaps the following table, published in a foreign journal, may be thought of sufficient interest to make a note of. In these unsettled times, and in case of a general war, how much might be changed!

There are present 83 empires, monarchies, republics, principalities, duchies, and electorates. There are 6 emperors, including his sable Highness Faustina I., of St. Domingo; 16 kings, numbering among them Jamaco, King of all the Mosquitoes, and also those of Dahomey and the Sandwich Islands; 5 Queens, including Ranavala of Madagascar, and Pomare of the Society Islands; 18 presidents, 10 reigning princes, 7 grand dukes, 1 pope, 2 sultans, of Borneo and Turkey; 2 governors, of Enterrios and Corrientes; viceroy, of Egypt; 1 shah, of Persia; 1 imam, of Muscat; 1 ameer, of Cabul; 1 bey, Tunis; and lastly, 1 director, of Nicaragua.

More Discoveries at Nineveh.

A letter from Mosul, in the "New York Tribune," states that a new palace has been uncovered in the ruins of Nineveh—a palace whose beauty excels any yet found in Assyria. The letter describes the new discovery:—"Huge monsters—compounds of lion, man, and eagle—guard the entrances. The slabs are in fine preservation, representing the King and his officers at a lion hunt, a war scene and a victory, a state procession led by eunuchs, the King's chariot being drawn by men with altars and priests and griffins; in fine,

a picture of Assyrian manners and religion as they were three thousand years ago. The workmanship is most exquisite. The slabs are to adorn the walls of the British Museum."

WHAT IS MAN?—Physiologists have not only discovered that man is an engine gliding along the track of life often at the fearful speed of 60 miles an hour, but he is also a steamship, chemical laboratory, a distillery, (not, however, of alcohol,) a forcing pump, a grist mill, a furnace, an iron mine, manufactory, a commercial city, an electric telegraph; in short, he is a crystal palace, where he can go and examine the choicest works of art—the most exquisite developments of science. The wonderful phenomena, never yet fully understood, of the union of mind and matter, commingling so harmoniously that we can only realize the fact, without clearly comprehending the manner of union, so that when we leave the exhibition we are either awed into silence by the sublime mystery of our own existence, or exclaim with reverential wonder, "The hand that made us is divine."

The Farm.

Early Vegetables.

Hardy vegetables may be planted as early in April as the ground will answer to work. Radishes, lettuce, cabbages, turnips, potatoes, peas, &c., for early use, may be planted on warm soils, almost as soon as the frost is out. If very severe cold occurs after the plants are up, some straw or hemlock boughs may be spread over them, which will be a sufficient protection, and may be readily removed when no longer wanted.

The best early varieties of peas are the Prince Albert, Early Kent, Early June (or Washington,) and the Cedo Nulli. The latter is a dwarf variety, requiring but little space, is prolific, and comes to maturity in about as short a time as the Prince Albert. The Early Kent is very popular in this neighbourhood, where it has been raised for a few seasons.

A good mode of raising early potatoes is to sprout the tubers in warm horse-dung. They may be placed in layers with the manure, either on the ground or in a box or crate. If the potatoes, when packed for sprouting, are laid on small pieces of tough sods, the grass side downwards, they may be planted with the sods, without breaking the sprouts or roots, which will greatly facilitate their growth. They should not be started too much before planting, as it is difficult to prevent the sprouts from being bruised or injured, if they are much more than an inch long. If planted very early, they should be put on a warm and rather dry soil, to avoid the liability of their rotting, if the weather is moist and cool.

There are several kinds of early potatoes, but no one kind has a universal preference. There is much confusion in regard to the names of varieties. Sometimes several varieties are confounded under one name; but a more common difficulty is the attachment of several names to one variety. There are several kinds, differing considerably in appearance and quality, which pass under the name of Early June. Some are round, others oblong; some yellow inside, others white. A kind introduced from England, and there known as Shaw's Early or Early Shaws, is here variously called by those names, as well as Early June, Mountain June, Fort potato, &c. The true sort is white, both inside and out, roundish in form, tending to become oblong on rich soil, or when it reaches an unusual size. It is one of the best kinds within our acquaintance. There are but few earlier kinds, and those few are poor yielders, and not superior to the Shaws in quality. They frequently grow to a size fit for eating, in eight weeks from the time of planting. When cooked before they are ripe, or while growing, their quality is superior to most kinds in the same stage. They are hardy, yield well, and keep well.—*Maine paper*.

TO CURE BOILS.—The leaven of ginger-bread placed on the boil, and left there until it bursts, has been found to be a good remedy. When the matter is removed, place some more leaven on the part. Another, and perhaps easier mode, is the application of the rough side of the nettle-geranium leaf to draw the boil, and the smooth side to be applied to heal it.

CURE FOR TOOTHACHE.—Dr. Blake recommends two drachms of alum, to be dissolved in seven drachms of sweet spirits of nitre; a piece of lint, or a small piece of sponge, to be dipped in the solution and applied to the tooth.