

their adaptation to the juvenile taste.

### SPORTSMEN THE BEST NATURALISTS.

The natives of South Africa are acquainted with four distinct species of rhinoceros, to which they give distinct names; and it may be remarked that this observation of species by native hunters is far more to be depended upon than the speculations of mere closet naturalists, who draw their deductions from a tubercle, or the tooth, or a stuffed skin. If there be any value in a knowledge of animated nature, it is not to these we are indebted for that knowledge, but far oftener to the rude, "rude hunters," whom they affect to despise, and who, after all, have taught us pretty much all we know of the habits of animals. Such a "rude hunter" as Gordon Cumming, for example, has done more to increase the knowledge of African Zoology than a whole college full of "speculating" savans.

This same Gordon Cumming, who has been accused of exaggeration (but in my opinion very wrongfully accused), has written a very modest and truthful book, which tells you that there are four kinds of rhinoceros in Southern Africa; and no man is likely to know better than he.

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THE WAR AND JOINT-STOCK ENTERPRISES.

It was at one time thought that the war would put an entire stop to all new enterprises which demanded a large amount of capital, and many promising undertakings have been temporarily laid aside owing to this general apprehension. The war, however, does not absorb more than £25,000,000 a year beyond the cost of the naval and military establishments of the country in time of peace, and during the railway mania three or four times this amount was raised in a single year.

It is not surprising that the capital devoted to railways is reproductive, while that expended on an account of the war is to a great extent altogether lost; but this view is not entirely correct. Out of about £250,000 employed in the construction of railways, a considerable portion yields only a most trifling return.

Taking thirty-six of the principal lines in the country, we find that the shares are at or above par in only four instances; in seven cases there is no dividend whatever. Shares which originally cost £100 fetch in the market from £12 to £20, and are bought by sanguine speculators in the hope that when matters get to the worst they may mend.

Our argument is, that as we could afford for several years together to raise for railways an amount very much larger than the total sum which the war is now costing us, there is still sufficient encouragement to attract capital towards bona fide undertakings which will bear the test of strict scrutiny into their merits.

The alteration in the law of partnerships, and the adoption of the principle of limited liability, are calculated also to draw towards such enterprises a large amount of capital which even when we were at peace was locked up in an almost unproductive state.

There are in savings banks millions which do not bring in 3 per cent., and rightly have been obtained there so long as their more advantageous investment could not be effected without involving liability to the extent of a man's whole property.

The Bills brought in by the Vice-President of the Board of Trade, when they become law, will draw from their holding places small amounts which in the aggregate will form a vast sum. The possessor of £200 or £300, who hitherto could do no better than go into business himself in order to realize a fair profit from his accumulations, and from inexperience generally lost them all, may with ordinary precaution place out his money with a prospect of doubling his interest.

We find in the enterprises which have been introduced to public notice during the present year, that the idea of the war being adverse to new schemes is not so universal as was supposed. We have before us the prospectuses of twelve new projects, which involve a demand for capital amounting to nearly £7,000,000.

New banks have been favourably received. It will be sufficient to indicate the title and amount of capital in these new undertakings:—

Table with 2 columns: Bank Name and Amount. Includes Jan. 23 International and London Bank (£500,000), 25 Bank of Egypt (£250,000), Western Bank of London (£400,000), Feb. 8 National Discount Company (£1,000,000), 10 Alliance (France and England) Bank (£800,000).

Total capital, £2,950,000

LITERATURE.

AYCKBOURN'S CHANCERY PRACTICE. Fifth Edition. Wildy and Sons.

The public in general are little aware of the progress which has been made during the last six years in reforming the Court of Chancery, and will be not a little astonished at the anticipation expressed by the author of the above works, as to this Court probably becoming the most important of the kingdom.

NOTES AMBROSIANÆ. By Professor WILSON. Vol. III. W. Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London. 1856.

Some critics accused the editor of these charming volumes of over-estimating the literary character of their writer, and raising Wilson to a higher position among wits and philosophers than was his due. The more we read of these letters the less are we surprised at their editor's enthusiasm.

SIR WALTER SCOTT. By Mrs. W. M. Mackenzie. London: W. Blackwood and Sons. 1856.

SEEMINGLY I live in a waltz ball-room, and am no just the age of Sir Walter, and I have not a perfect picture of a perfect picture, that is, a perfect picture in a party, and I have long known that Sir Walter is in existence as poor a conversation, and the tenth line as well as the Eildon Hills, but not, like a man, a man, which would be great relief to the listener, and which would be great relief to the listener, and which would be great relief to the listener.

AGAMEMNON, THE KING. A Tragedy. From the Greek of ÆSCHYLUS. BY WILLIAM BLEW, M.A. Longman and Co., London: 1855.

This is a very fine and valuable translation in rhyme, of one of the best of the ancient Greek tragedies. Mr. Blew has brought to his work scholarship, criticism, and nice poetical judgment; and he has placed before the English reader a good sample of what an intelligent man, and one who speaks the language of the age, can do in the translation of a Greek tragedy.

THE BUSH BOYS. By Captain MATTHEW REID. David Bogue, Fleet-street. 1856.

We like this story right well,—quite as well as the other lively and instructive volumes which have been produced by its author's pen. It relates to a country in which the English name ought to take a peculiar interest, for we know not how soon again it may become the scene of British warfare, and the grave of many a British soldier.

existence of such hordes of human beings seem compatible with the multitudes of wild beasts whose presence there all travellers unite in attesting.

Like all other tales from our author, "The Bush Boys" is a very slender story. Hendrick Von Bloom is a Dutch settler, and, having others of his countrymen against the English, he has property confiscated, and he is compelled to retire to the bush. His life becomes nomadic and perilous; he crosses from spot to spot with his flocks and herds, and his three sons and one daughter, with a husband, too, as a servant, and also a black girl. They are to destroy their crops; another time, their horses perish from the bites of a poisonous insect; and, on another occasion, their herd of cattle is ravaged by lions and a black lion.

The natives of South Africa are acquainted with four distinct species of rhinoceros, to which they give distinct names; and it may be remarked that the author has not only distinguished them, but has also distinguished them upon the speculations of mere coast naturalists, who have depended upon the tubercle, or the tooth, or a stuffed skin, for their evidence.

MEMOIR OF THE late JOHN BRAHAM.

The death of this eminent vocalist on Sunday morning last, though far from his advanced age, was not taking the public by surprise, his star being an unexpected announcement to many of his brother performers who had but recently met him in his accustomed haunts, and looking as well as he had done for the last ten years, and conversing with his customary liveliness and good humour.

Mr. JOHN BRAHAM was descended from the German stock of the Jewish nation, and his parents, who resided in Covent-garden, had their names in the German registers, and he was born on the 20th of March, 1815.

His father, who was a musician, and who had been engaged by Palmer for the Royalty, took especial notice of his musical endowments, and instantly felt in them a claim to his encouragement and protection. Leon, accordingly, in the pure spirit of self-interest, and with a view to the advancement of his pupil, was engaged by Palmer for the Royalty, and took especial notice of his musical endowments.

Mr. Leon was subsequently compelled to go to Jamaica, where he died, and the young vocalist found himself once more in an orphan state, but with this difference in his favour, that the publicity of his father's name had not been numerous admirers, but many friends, among whom the most conspicuous were Mr. Goldsmid, patronised by them and other distinguished amateurs, he taught the piano-forte, and his new avocation afforded an ample provision for his present occasions.

Mr. Braham, however, had not long been engaged in his new avocation, when he was introduced to the notice of his vocal organs, the impulse of nature remained, and instrumental music was but a temporary resource. His voice, by care and constant application soon acquired a pleasantness of tone and a constant power of power, and he was introduced to the notice of Mr. Ashe, who was struck with a purity of taste, and who had dictated the greatest future eminence, that celebrated flutist advised him to accept an engagement then proffered him at Bath, to which he listened, and accordingly in the year 1794 he made his debut at the Theatre Royal, Bath, and he has since sung in the most eminent Italian professor of that day, and a generous lover of his country, voluntarily became the patron and the improver of Braham, who always acknowledged with gratitude and pride the obligations due to his tutor, and imputed most of the leading features of his vocal talent to the instruction of his teacher.

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occupied by Tom Dibdin's opera of *The Cabinet*, much of the music being composed by Braham himself. Though produced late in the season, it was, notwithstanding, a great success, and the season following, and for many years after remained a productive stock opera. The *English Fleet* was another opera to which Braham largely contributed his compositions, selling the copyright for his music for 1,000 guineas. In 1805, he and Madame Storace joined the Drury Lane company. In 1806, he and Madame Storace joined the Drury Lane company. In 1806, he and Madame Storace joined the Drury Lane company.

There has seldom been a more enviable end than that of Mr. Braham. His feeling towards his Maker, like his other feelings, was deep but silent; yet the few who knew him knew that he was perfectly prepared for death, while to the last he enjoyed life with the zest and simplicity of a child—indeed, ten days before his death he played and sang as usual. It may be interesting to our readers to know that the very last pieces which he sang were the grand scenes from *Der Freischütz* and *Oberon*. "Softly sighs the voice of Evening," "Oh, I can bear my fate no longer," "Ocean, thou mighty Monarch," and "Oh, 'tis a glorious sight to see;" the last, it will be remembered, written expressly for him by Weber, and, in fact, finished by the great composer at Mr. Braham's own piano-forte.

His last days were cheered by all that care and affection could do; and, after one day's confinement to his bed, he sank rapidly and unexpectedly, and, in the words of Shelley— "Died in sleep, and felt no pain, To wake in happier climes again."

LETTER DORSET. Written by HENRY ABRAHAM. Music by C. STANLEY. Addison—London: W. G. and Co. 1856.

LETTER DORSET. Written by HENRY ABRAHAM. Music by C. STANLEY. Addison—London: W. G. and Co. 1856. The title imports, on the interesting heroine of Charles Dickens. The melody is far from original, but it is nevertheless a very agreeable appropriation of old matter. The ven of ditty is in the key of G minor, to which the transition into G major gives a pleasing relief.

THE NIGHTINGALE'S SONG. Poetry by C. A. SOMERSET. Music by W. WEST. Davidson.—The "Nightingale" in question is not such a bird as the good Samaritan in the East, of whom we have an effigy graven in stone, and a picture painted in oil, looking benevolently upon a wounded patient lying on a couch. The Nightingale sings to him words of hope and consolation, but is not very fortunate in her tune, which is of ancient quality, and which is not redeemed by the luckless asseggio accompaniment.

GERALDINE. Written by WELLINGTON GUERNSEY. Music by H. T. ILLYARD. Campbell.—Another specimen of the small but active musical press of this country so profusely tends. The melody of the ballad is good, and the accompaniment, notwithstanding its freedom from anything that could disturb the score of originality. The words celebrate in glowing terms the charms, moral and personal, of the lady who gives the title to the extravaganza.

RICHARD THE THIRD. Arranged by J. HARROWAY. Davidson.—The adventures of King Richard are here set forth after the manner of the renowned John Parry, the Shakespearean events being related in a popular and national air, connected by patter recitatives. Good but tedious exaggeration and a modicum of dramatic humor are essential ingredients in the delivery of this extravaganza.

THE PAVILION COMPANY. We venture to claim the sympathy of our readers, and still more, of our active benevolence, on behalf of the company of the Pavilion Theatre, who have been suddenly deprived of the means of livelihood. We feel assured that the case is deserving of the most liberal charitable consideration, as so sudden a misfortune has unavoidably placed many deserving persons into severe distress. It will afford us much pleasure to be enabled to convey to them any pecuniary aid which is placed at our disposal, and we are glad to acknowledge the receipt of the following sums, we are only doing justice to our own feelings in soliciting additional contributions.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED AT THE "ERA" OFFICE FOR THE PAVILION COMPANY

Table with 2 columns: Donor Name and Amount. Includes Mr. J. Newwood (£20 5 0), Mrs. J. Newwood (£10 0 0), Mr. J. Newwood (£10 0 0), Mrs. J. Newwood (£10 0 0), Mr. J. Newwood (£10 0 0), Mrs. J. Newwood (£10 0 0), Mr. J. Newwood (£10 0 0), Mrs. J. Newwood (£10 0 0), Mr. J. Newwood (£10 0 0), Mrs. J. Newwood (£10 0 0).

The losses of the Victoria, City of London, Standard, Britannia, and Grecian Saloon, have defrayed their losses for a free benefit.

WE understand that Mr. Russell, the *Times*' correspondent, will leave town for the Crimea this morning or to-morrow.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Return of admissions for six days ending Friday, February 22, 1856. Number admitted, including ticket holders, 7,357.

LICENSED VESSEL'S SCHOOL.—There is much interest taken in the election of candidates for the school, on Tuesday next, and many benefits and blessings accruing from admission thereto are thus properly secured. It is a source of much gratification to us to learn that it is not unlikely that the school which the Governor will declare the List of Ladies' List Subscribers, one hundred in number—complete. At all events, up to the expectations of the other day, are above ninety. We trust the prospect of a highly-interesting and interesting feature in the affairs of the society. We also find that the committee have received a donation of ten guineas from the Hon. Member for Westminster, Sir John Villiers Shelley; and the period of this donation being contributed must be reckoned as pecuniary appropriate, inasmuch as the number of scholastic admissions still continue the same, despite of a falling off in the subscriptions, and this diminution of funds, nevertheless, it would seem, did not induce the authorities to reduce the customary extent of admissions, and it is to be hoped that the treasury may be happily enhanced before the close of the current year. We shall notice the election of candidates in our next paper.

THE SULTAN has decreed that in remembrance of the courage and perseverance displayed by the inhabitants of Silistria in 1854, they shall not be liable for three years to any taxes, nor to furnish money and arms. The surviving wounded are to receive a military medal.