

## THE SALE OF THE GREAT EASTERN

In a recent number (September 8th) we illustrated this Leviathan steamship being towed to her last berth in the Mersey, and gave a summary of her unfortunate thirty years' career. The hull and fittings were sold last week by auction at New Ferry, Liverpool, the sale lasting five days, and concluding on Saturday. Fair prices appear to have been obtained—the total receipts being \$8,000/—among the buyers being shipowners and merchants from all parts of the United Kingdom and abroad. The dismantling of the great vessel will begin in a few weeks' time, and is expected to take some eighteen months to complete. The vessel was purchased by the vendors, Messrs. Bath and Co. of Liverpool, for £8,000/.

## THE PARRELL COMMISSION

RESUMING our chronological record, the opening incident of the proceedings on Tuesday, November 20th, was the reading by Sir Richard Webster of certain extracts from a newspaper called the *Kerry Sentinel*, belonging to Mr. Edward Harrington. In these extracts the Court was declared to be "the creation of the Government and of the *Times* conspirators," and the judges were charged with showing partiality. Next day, as Mr. Harrington declined to adopt the advice of his counsel, Mr. R. T. Reid, and offer a humble apology, he was adjudged to pay a fine of £500/ to the Queen. One of the witnesses the Tuesday was Mary Hickey, the widow of Cornelius Hickey, who had been caretaker of an evicted farm near Castleisland. In June, 1882, as she and her husband were returning from market, he was shot at, dying afterwards of his wounds. Mrs. Hickey is a typical Kerry peasant woman, in her neat white cap, and voluminous blue cloak. Next day, Norah Fitzmaurice, a bright-looking, well-dressed girl, with large thoughtful eyes, was examined. Last January her father was murdered in her presence at Lixnaw, and it was her evidence which procured the conviction of the murderers. This conduct on the part of the poor girl is, in Kerry (unlike murder), an unpardonable crime, and ever since Miss Fitzmaurice has been subjected to bitter persecution. One of the most instructive witnesses who has hitherto appeared before the Commission Court was Mr. Maurice Leonard, the agent of Lord Kenmare, who at great length, and aided by a number of documents, gave a history of the origin of the troubles on that estate. All was peace and quietness till the Land League made its malignant influence felt. This witness was cross-examined by Sir Charles Russell with all the skill he could command, but his evidence remained practically unshaken. George Curtin, a brother



Mr. George Curtin, brother to Miss Lizzie Curtin, whose father was murdered.

of Lizzie Curtin, gave evidence to show how the family were treated after his father's assassination, and the conviction of one of the murderers. The people on the road shouted after him (the witness) "Murderer" and "Informer;" and their servants were beaten and compelled to leave their employment. Michael Harris, a sergeant in the Royal Irish Constabulary, gave evidence that he arrested the two men who were tried at Wicklow and executed for the murder of James Fitzmaurice. On Friday, a large part of the sitting was consumed by the examination of District Inspector Huggins, of Castleisland, and there was much reading aloud of official reports of outrages, which the idlers, who frequent the Court in hopes of hearing something sensational, voted to be intolerably dull. After luncheon, however, they got a laugh out of Sir Charles Russell, when he lost his temper over Inspector Huggins, and



David Huggins, Head-Constable, connects Moonlighters with the League

exclaimed in menacing tones—"Do you mean to tell the *jury*, sir?" The next witness, Mr. James Techan, an innkeeper and cattle-dealer at Tralee, caused much hilarity by the boastful way in which he spoke of his own wealth, and the contempt he expressed for some of the spouters at the meetings. He said he was losing a hundred pounds by standing in that box. No doubt he spoke the truth. Let the judges take the hint, and cut the proceedings short.

## A MOUNTAIN MULE BATTERY

OUR sketch represents the Mountain Battery lately formed at Aldershot, in action on Caesar's Camp during the recent manoeuvres.

The chief difference between Mountain and Horse and Field Artillery Batteries is, that in the former the guns, carriages, and ammunition are carried on mules, instead of being drawn by horses. The gun is made in two pieces which screw together, each piece forming a mule's load, a third mule takes the carriage, a fourth the wheels, and a fifth the axle-tree, elevating gear, &c.

The smartness and celerity with which the whole can be put together, and the gun brought into action, is truly astonishing.

The mules are about thirteen and a-half hands high, and their loads average from twenty-two to twenty-four stones—loads which they make light of.

These Batteries can accompany Infantry over any kind of ground, but they specially excel on mountain tracks, thick jungle, heavy sand, and in close country where wheels are useless. Sir Frederick Roberts selected nothing but Mountain Batteries to accompany his force on his celebrated march from Cabul to Candahar, and five of them were recently put under orders for the Black Mountain Expedition.

The gunners are chosen for their physique and activity, and, being dressed in a very workmanlike kit, they compare very favourably with any corps which has come under our observation.—Our engraving is from a sketch by Major L. G. Fawkes, R.A.

## H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES

WE have much pleasure in reproducing the most recent portrait of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, drawn by Mr. Henry Van der Weyde in pastels. Having received the commands of Her Royal Highness to attend at Marlborough House, the artist in a few sittings produced the likeness we now publish, which may fairly be considered one of the most successful ever made of the Princess. One is disposed to hope that the impetus given to the charming art of pastel-drawing by the exhibition at the Grosvenor Gallery, and not less so by the gracious patronage afforded by Her Royal Highness, may result in the revival of that at one time popular art. Towards the end of the eighteenth century, when John Russell, R.A., wrote his "Elements of Painting in Crayons," both that artist and his predecessor, Francis Cates, R.A., were, as pastellists, in this country what the somewhat unfortunate Carrera Rosalba was to Italy. Mr. Van der Weyde, in his portrait of the Princess, has not adopted the method sometimes employed by artists of mixing a siccative with his pastels, but has laid on the colours pure and simple; with the result, we cannot help thinking, of producing greater brilliancy and force of effect. Her Royal Highness is represented attired in evening dress, with festoons of magnificent pearls around the neck. We are glad to find that Mr. Van der Weyde, without neglecting the art of photography, to which he has rendered such signal service, is again resuming his pencil, and we look forward to seeing before long many more works of equal merit from his studio.

## THE HONG KONG HIGH-LEVEL TRAMWAY

THE lower terminus of this tramway is in St. John's Place, Garden Road, and the upper is at Victoria Gap. The total length of the road is 4,660 feet, and the difference of altitude between the two points is 1,207 feet. The ascent and descent are each made in nine minutes, both cars being connected by the same rope, which encircles a revolving drum in the engine-house. The steepest gradient is 1 in 2, there are eleven short bridges which cross mountain-streams and gullies, and the motive power consists of a pair of horizontal engines with multitubular boilers, each of forty (nominal) horse-power. They are contained in a building at the top of the Gap, as shown in our smaller engraving. On the right is the Peak Hotel, and in front the steep and winding road leading to the Peak. The other view is taken a little below the bridge over the Kennedy Road. The line passes under the Aqueduct or Bowen Road. From the Gap there is a splendid view over the harbour, the city of Victoria, and the bright blue sea beyond. The Chairman of the Tramway Company is Mr. A. Findlay Smith, the resident engineer Mr. J. F. Boulton, and the constructor Mr. James Anderson. We condense the foregoing from the *Hong Kong Telegraph*.—Our engravings are from photographs sent by Mr. Kenneth M'K. Ross.

## DISEMBARKING THE ROYAL SCOTS AT DURBAN SOUTH AFRICA

DURING the disturbances in Zululand, last July, the Royal Scots stationed at Wynberg, Cape Town, were called upon to assist in the expedition against the natives, and the Union R.M.S. *Spartan* was engaged to convey them from Cape Town to Durban, Natal. The steamer was speedily made ready, and some 600 to 700 men and officers embarked, with two field-guns, their horses, and other military accoutrements, the voyage being accomplished in three days. Disembarkation at Durban used to be a matter of great difficulty, and sometimes danger, but the Harbour Board have constructed several large lighters, and passengers are now conveyed to the port in a comfortable steam tug. As, however, the tug is small, and would hold only a few persons at a time, two lighters had to be used for the troops, and this valuable cargo of warriors had to be carefully let down in lots of four in a large wicker basket. The sketch, which is by Mr. Dennis Edwards, of Cape Town, represents the basket being lowered from the steamer to the hold of the lighter, with four soldiers laughing and joking at the novelty of the position.

## INAUGURATION OF A STATUE TO THE SHAH AT TEHERAN

IN October last a statue of Nasr-e-Din, Shah of Persia, by a native sculptor, was inaugurated with much ceremony in a park situated just outside the walls of Teheran, where the annual races are held. The ceremony was attended by the Diplomatic Body, and all the high functionaries of State, and was followed by a lunch sumptuously served in tents. The Shah himself was present at the unveiling, which was hailed by trumpet flourishes and artillery salutes, the Persians saluting as the counterfeit image of their sovereign came into view. The illustrations of the Shah's statue and the racecourse are from photographs by Abdulla Mirza. The remainder are from sketches by Dr. Morel, of Teheran, and represent some figures in the crowd. One shows the Court poet, who, in an emphatic tone, is declaiming verses in honour of his sovereign. He was a picturesquely young man, with lively black eyes and thick eyebrows. He wore an ample Cashmere garment, and standing on a Kurdish carpet, had taken off his shoes as a sign of respect to the subject of his muse. Next we have a very different personage—one of the Shah's runners—of whom there are about a hundred, and who run before the Royal carriage or horse, when the Shah drives or rides. They wear a curious kind of headgear of black velvet fantastically embroidered with silver, and surmounted by imposing plumes. They carry silver sticks, and bear on their breasts a silver tablet, showing that they belong to the Shah's household. Their costume is red, ornamented with silver, white stockings, and black leather shoes. During the *fête* brass vessels were placed about the grounds of the park, filled with iced sherbet, at which the public could drink freely—each vase being presided over by one of the household retainers, in a brilliant uniform of crimson and silver, and wielding an imposing wand of office.

## "BUMPING THE VICAR"

LAST Ascension Day the ancient custom of walking the parish boundaries was observed at Bisley, near Woking, Surrey. After a short and appropriate service, a procession was formed at the church shortly after 9 A.M. The Rev. J. Cater, Rector, wearing cap and gown, and carrying the parish map, was followed by two boys with flags, as well as by the churchwardens, overseers, and about thirty other persons, some being armed with spades for use when required. Several of the party were successively bumped (according to the traditional idea that this would fix the boundary-line in their memories), and some resisted the ordeal so strongly as to return home *minus* several buttons. The Rector came in for his share with the rest, but took matters more philosophically, submitting quietly to being bumped against an old barn-door. In the evening the party sat down to an excellent supper at the Fox Inn; short and lively speeches, interspersed with songs, were made by the Rector and others. Bisley Church is an ancient stone edifice dating from the twelfth century, when it was built by the monks of Chertsey for the convenience of pilgrims visiting St. John the Baptist's Well, which is a few yards from the church. The water of the spring is impregnated with iron, and was much resorted to by sick persons.

## A CRUISE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN ON BOARD THE STEAM-YACHT "VICTORIA," X.—ALGIERS

WHERESOEVER the French migrate *cafés* of all denominations spring up in abundance. Algiers is no exception. Sketch No. 1 represents such a one overlooking the Square Brison, perhaps the best part of Algiers, filled with military officers discussing with gesticulations and shoulder-shrugs the news of the day. The ring of raised voices, the clatter of cups and saucers, and the rattle of passing vehicles are in direct contrast to the peaceful inactivity of (No. 2) the yard of the Railway Terminus. Presumably it was low-water at the time—no train, incoming or outgoing, due—and peace and quietude reigned around, of which the swarthy outdoor porters had not failed to avail themselves. By and by, when a train composed of green and chocolate carriages and a black engine comes clanking over the turntable in the re-echoing, cavernous station, they will awake, and show themselves as eager for a job as the sharpest of the "hangers-on" who frequent our English railway stations.

## A TRIP THROUGH THE VOSGES

FEW people as they dash past this picturesque district on their way to Switzerland or Italy, have any idea what lovely nooks and corners are to be found hidden in the blue and hazy mountains, and what wealth of economical and interesting excursions is contained in the district. Our sketches will give some idea of these. They were taken at and around Howald, Gérardmer, and other places familiar to some British and continental tourists. The first sketch shows a vault in the chapel of the Abbey of St. Ovilia, built in 680, on the St. Ovilienberg. The sketch beneath depicts a passage in the same convent, which is inhabited by nuns, who afford hospitality to visitors. The nuns, who show great kindness to all travellers, even though they are apparently Protestants, may not receive money, but visitors may give a donation to the convent.

In the passage there is a very old carved stone of the time of the foundation of the Abbey; the female figure is probably the first Abbess, and the man a bishop. The Roman Celtic natives of the country were Christians long before the German tribes, who had driven them out of the plains of Alsatia; they built a long wall covering the top of the mountain for miles, which is still known as the Heidenmauer, to keep the heathen invaders back. The Roman origin of the wall is evident by the way the stones are fastened together. A huge rock of peculiar shape, the Wachstein, lies in front of the wall, and is shown in one of the sketches. It appears as if it had been cut by human hands, and from it is obtained a splendid view of the eastern slopes of the Vosges—the plains of Alsace dotted with towns, the Rhine in the distance, and the Black Forest in the background forming a splendid panorama. Two sketches illustrate the ruins of Bernstein, which also overlooks the plain, and is built above Schleitstad. The omnibus illustrated runs from Münster to Schleitstad, and from there to Gérardmer; the small ruin at the bottom of the page is that of the Castle of Ortenberg. The donkeys portrayed belong to Gérardmer, and the remaining sketch shows the *schlitté*, which is used to bring the timber down from the hills into the valleys. The trunks of the trees are cut into pieces the length of the *schlitté* or sledge, and are drawn by the woodmen over a rough timber track. Owing to constant friction this becomes as smooth as glass, and the *schlitté* runs down at a high rate of speed. The man has difficult work to guide it, and it frequently seems as though he would be crushed by his load, for he has to lean against it with all his weight. When he has deposited his load safely below he carries back the *schlitté* on his shoulder for a new cargo.

## "THE WORSHIP OF THE SWORD IN JAPAN"

See pp. 577 et seqq.

## "THAT UNFORTUNATE MARRIAGE"

A NEW STORY, by Frances Eleanor Trollope, illustrated by Sydney P. Hall, is continued on page 581.

## AN INDIAN PRINCE AT HOME

THE Maharajah of Darbhanga, whose territory lies on the frontier of Bengal and borders the Nepal Terai, is among the premier nobles of British India, and one of the wealthiest and greatest princes of the Indian Empire. The Maharajah is in religion a strict Hindoo, and boasts of an illustrious Hindoo lineage of princely rank from the earliest Mogul times, the first prince having received his "raj" from the great Akbar himself, but bears the character and possesses the acquirements, the tastes, and the "form" of an accomplished English gentleman. Though still young—he came of age in 1879—he is one of the most respected Indian statesmen, while his reputation is no less as a philanthropist, his recorded contributions to public works of utility, to charities, and similar objects of benevolence, amounting at the present time to half a million sterling. Indeed, while his published accounts show an expenditure of £6,000/- on purely Hindoo ceremonies and charities, they also exhibit sums of £7,000/- on free dispensaries for his villages, of £9,000/- on free and aided schools, £20,000/- on public charities, £20,000/- on account of remissions of rent, and £18,000/- on famine relief, drainage, and other public works. In the Jubilee Year the Maharajah was nominated a Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire, and to celebrate the event he distributed £10,000/- in various forms, and remitted to his tenants one-eighth of their rent to enable them to wish long life to the Empress. The Maharajah was the first to make a loyal offer of help to the Government on the occasion of the Penjdeh incident, when a war with Russia was thought probable, and placed £10,000/- at the Viceroy's disposal to form the nucleus of an Indian Patriotic Fund to be applied to the relief of the widows and the children of soldiers killed or wounded in the campaign. The Maharajah, who was presented to the Prince of Wales during his visit to India, not only contributed £50,000 rupees to the Imperial Institute, but wrote a letter to the other Princes of India on the subject. He has also taken part in Lady Dufferin's work by erecting a Hospital for Women. The Maharajah, who speaks English fluently, was selected by Lord Ripon to serve on the Viceroy's Legislative Council, and was reappointed for a second term by Lord Dufferin. The Maharajah's new palace, of which we give illustrations, was completed in 1883 at a cost of £100,000. It is handsomely furnished in the English style—the

Grand Durbar Hall and the three large drawing-rooms being especially richly decorated. The Maharajah, however, is particularly proud of his library, which is stocked with all standard works, and Mudie has a standing order to send out every month all new works as they appear. The extensive gardens have been well laid out under the superintendence of an English gardener, Mr. Maries, and our illustrations include views of the Deer Park, the Rhinoceros Park, the Bridge, the Temple—all situated within the palace grounds. The temple is of white marble brought from Jaipur. The Maharajah has a stud of about a hundred horses, with some well-bred English teams and pairs, in which he takes much interest. He is reckoned one of the first sportsmen of India; near the Nepal frontier he owns some of the finest tiger haunts imaginable, and last year entertained Lord Dufferin at several grand tiger hunts. The stables, coach-houses, &c., are fitted up in the most approved English style, while an English stud-groom forms a prominent personage in the establishment.—Our illustrations are from photographs by Messrs. Bourne and Shepherd of Calcutta.

"THE DEVELOPMENT OF RAILWAYS IN ENGLAND."—With reference to our Supplement on this subject, published October 13th, Mr. Robert Stannard, of the Barnstaple and Ilfracombe Railway Works, Barnstaple, North Devon, writes as follows:—"The scene represented in the woodcut entitled 'Competition of Locomotives at Rainhill, 1829', is somewhat misleading. The 'Sanspareil', shown on the off-line in the woodcut, never came out of the yard at all, being unable to get steam up, for some unexplained reason, although on the previous day she had done six miles an hour; she was allowed an extra quarter of an hour, but it was all to no purpose. The 'Novelty', the engine immediately behind the 'Sanspareil', broke her steam-pipe and side-rod, and, after spinning about the line for some time, got off the rails and fell over on her side, where she lay till the 'Rocket' had finished her trial, so that practically the 'Rocket' had a walk over. During the trial she drew two trucks of ten tons at fourteen and a half miles an hour, and then a coachful of passengers at twenty-seven and a half miles an hour. Mr. M'Dermott adds to his account of the competition the following: 'This same "Rocket", long after it had been superseded by heavier engines, on one occasion ran four miles in four and a half minutes.' This is a mistake. Mr. M'Dermott evidently has in his mind's eye the case of the 'Northumbrian', a later engine, which actually did four miles in five minutes. Although but a boy at the time, I was present with my father at the Rainhill competition, and rode on the 'Rocket'."



POLITICAL.—In the course of Lord Hartington's frank and able speech to his constituents at Haslingden, he made a very weighty and significant statement in regard to Unionist policy, past and present. Replying to Mr. Gladstone's charge of withdrawing from the declaration made by him years ago that he was ready to give to Ireland as large a measure of self-government as might be claimed by England and Scotland, Lord Hartington said that this implied offer was in the nature of an alternative to the demand for Home Rule. The offer was refused by the Irish party with scorn, and its members resolved to extort Home Rule by attempting to make the government of Ireland impossible without it. This having been, and being, the case, Lord Hartington gives it as his deliberate opinion that, to quote his own words, "we shall be well advised in hesitating to extend large new local powers and local liberties to the people of Ireland until we get some guarantee that the authorities that are to be constituted will not simply become legalised branches of the National League, which has exercised so baneful a tyranny in Ireland." Mr. Gladstone, in a letter to one of his innumerable correspondents, characteristically describes this statement of Lord Hartington as one in which "he appears to make the astonishing demand that the Irish people shall abandon all national aspirations before it can be permitted to receive a decent system of local or county government."

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, a Scotch representative Peer, who has been a very active supporter of Conservatism in Scotland, will, it is expected, succeed the late Sir Anthony Musgrave as Governor of Queensland.

SIR CHARLES WARREN'S SUCCESSOR in the Chief Commissionership of Metropolitan Police is Mr. James Monro, C.B., who succeeded Mr. Howard Vincent as Director of Criminal Investigations, and resigned last summer his office of Assistant-Commissioner of Metropolitan Police. Mr. Monro was previously a member of the Bengal Civil Service, and among the posts which he filled in India was that of Inspector-General of Police in Bengal.

"AS YOU WERE," seems pretty much the result of the stiff contest at the election of the new London School Board between the supporters and opponents of the policy of the last Board. It is computed that the "old policy" party will have a majority of nine in the new Board. Among the new members are such extremists as Mrs. Besant, who was returned at the head of the poll in the Tower Hamlets, Mr. Conybeare, M.P. (Finsbury), and Mr. Stewart Headlam (Hackney). The Hon. Lyulph Stanley has been returned by Marylebone, and Sir E. H. Currie by the Tower Hamlets. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the old Board, the Rev. J. R. Diggle and Sir R. Temple, are members of the new one.

A WARRANT has been issued at Tralee for the arrest of Mr. E. Harrington, M.P., for having taken part in the proceedings of a suppressed branch of the National League, as well as publishing a report of them in his newspaper, the *Kerry Sentinel*, and for having incited persons to join the Plan of Campaign.—The Irish Farnell Indemnity Fund amounts to nearly 20,000*l.*

MANY WELSHMEN of a social grade sufficient to place them on Boards of Guardians and Highway Boards, and to lead them to become candidates for County Councils, are still, it seems, ignorant of English. It was on their behalf that a deputation of Welsh M.P.'s, in an interview with Mr. Ritchie, asked him to procure the execution of an official Welsh translation of the Local Government Bill. He promised a favourable consideration of the novel request.

A DEPUTATION, representing 50,000 members of insurance societies in connection with the London and North-Western Railway Company, urged in an interview with the Home Secretary the retention in the Employers' Liability Bill of the power to contract out of it, so as not to break up these societies, the working of which had been very beneficial to the company's employees. Mr. Matthews explained that he had introduced a clause into the Bill expressly to favour the existence of such societies after the measure had been passed.

THE DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND died on Saturday, after a short illness, at Stafford House, so often and kindly allowed by her to be the scene of meetings, concerts, and entertainments for charitable objects. She was the daughter of Mr. John Hay Mackenzie, of Newhall and Cromartie, and was born in 1829. In 1849 she married the then Marquis of Stafford, who became Duke of Sutherland in 1861, and in the same year she was created Countess of Cromartie (among other dignities) in her own right. From 1870 to 1874 she was Mistress of the Robes to the Queen.

OUR OBITUARY includes the death, on just completing his eighty-fourth year, of Sir David W. Barclay, ninth baronet, who saw military service in the 90th Foot and as Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of Mauritius, of the Legislative Council of which island he was for some years a member; in his seventieth year, of Major Purcell O'Gorman, M.P. for Waterford City 1874-9, who previously, in the 90th Light Infantry, served with some distinction in the Crimean campaigns; at the advanced age of ninety-two, of the Rev. Dr. Okes, since 1850 Provost of King's College, Cambridge (in which town his father had been surgeon in extensive practice), from 1823 to 1850 successively an assistant-master and lower master at Eton, Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge 1851, an editor of the *Musa Etolensis*, a staunch Conservative in politics and in matters academic, though always a supporter of an extension of the range of studies; in his fifty-sixth year, of Mr. William G. Pedder, Secretary of the Correspondence Department of the India Office 1879-87; and of Mr. Stephen Reay, for the last twenty-two years Secretary of the London and North-Western Railway Company.

Land Purchase Bill at the very point where it had been interrupted by the appearance of Mr. Sheeby fresh from the presence of the pertified Jeremiah.

This has been the principal incident of the week in Parliament, the rest of the time being occupied with drumming away in Committee on the Land Purchase Bill, a stage reached long after midnight on Tuesday. On Wednesday the Report stage was taken, leaving the third reading for Thursday. As for the Employers' Liability Bill and the Wheel and Van Tax Bill, they were on Tuesday postponed till Supply would be completed, and on Wednesday the Wheel Tax Bill was finally abandoned. It is now pretty clear that the energies of the House will, through what remains of the long Session, be concentrated on Supply.



THE WESTMINSTER PLAY this year will be the *Trinummus* of Plautus, and will be performed on December 13th, 17th, and 19th.

BEECHOVEN'S MOONLIGHT SONATA furnishes the subject of an opera now being written in Paris. The great master is the hero of the plot.

A NEW BOULANGIST JOURNAL comes out in Paris on December 2nd, the anniversary of the *Coup d'état*. It will be called *1789*, and will be under the superintendence of M. Laisant, General Boulanger's henchman.

THE ROYAL CAMBRIAN ACADEMY OF ARTS has just closed its sixth annual exhibition at Plas Mawr, Conway, North Wales, after a most successful season. There were 8,000 visitors, exclusive of season-ticket holders, and the sales amounted to 1,715*l.*

THE CHINESE seem at last beginning to appreciate the railway which they once so fiercely opposed. The country people find that they can send their vegetables to Tientsin, while live fish are shipped up from Taku in tanks, so that the upper classes despatch their servants with pails of water to meet the train and bring back the fish alive.

THE ABNORMAL MILD WEATHER OF THE PAST WEEK has had a brightening effect upon many flower gardens. In one garden at Bromley, Kent, with an exposed aspect, the following flowers were in bloom on Sunday: roses, sweet peas, mignonette, cornflowers, wall-flowers, primroses, polyanthus, annual chrysanthemums, and everlasting flowers, while a mountain ash was putting forth its leaves as in early spring.

THE INTENDED WATERLOO MONUMENT IN BRUSSELS to be erected in memory of the English dead progresses very favourably. The Belgian Committee have now closed the fund, and Count Laalaing, who will execute the memorial, says that the money collected will be ample. Altogether contributions came from 406 British residents in Belgium, and 1,254 subscribers in Great Britain, while the British Government gave 500*l.* A working Committee has been formed to arrange the details, under Lord Vivian, British Minister at Brussels.

THE WORKS OF THE COMING PARIS EXHIBITION progress so satisfactorily that the head officials declare confidently that every French department will be ready, and absolutely complete, by the opening day, May 5th, 1889. The ordinary admission fees will be one franc during the day and two francs in the evening, except on Sunday, when only one franc will be charged. Season-tickets will cost 100 francs (4*l.*) for the ordinary public, and 26 francs for members of the various committees. Meanwhile, the various designs for the diplomas and medals are being exhibited at the Paris Hôtel de Ville. There are 150 sketches, mostly poor, and showing no great originality. The Eiffel Tower appears in many of the designs, and visitors are highly amused at one sketch representing a crowd of inventive geniuses, the centre figure being a man in Roman costume with a little locomotive tucked under his arm.

THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN which occurs on New Year's Day opens the year in most interesting fashion for American astronomers. It is very rare for an eclipse to take place on that date, and no similar case will happen again before 2121, while the last one was in 1862. The eclipse will be total only in the North Pacific Ocean and the Pacific States. The duration of totality will be 2 min. 3 sec.—a minute shorter than usual in such phenomena. As the American Congress refused any funds towards official observations, the work will have to be done by private enterprise, but numerous parties are arranging stations and making their plans. Some will photograph, others sketch, others write their impressions of the eclipse, while others again will search for the planet Vulcan, which is supposed to exist between the sun and Mercury. The Lick Observatory sends several parties, Cambridge follows suit, and many foreign astronomers are coming over for the occasion. It is to be hoped that they will achieve better results than during the eclipse of August, 1887. Unfortunately, the event occurs during the rainy season on the Pacific coast, so that the chances of a clear sky are small.

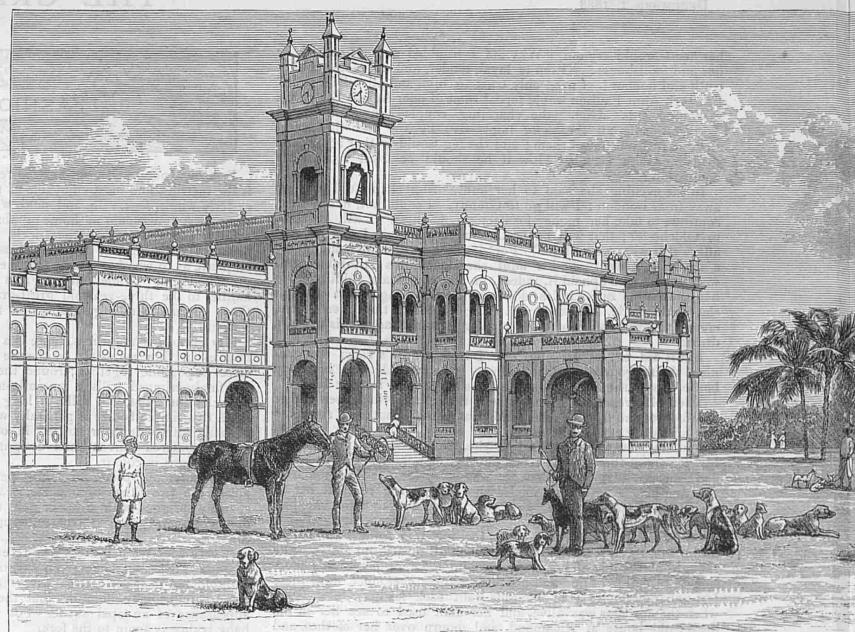
MR. AND MRS. CHAMBERLAIN suffered much from the zealous reporter, both before and after their marriage. The newspaper men hunted them down even to the vessel in which they sailed for England, trying to supplement the minute details which they had gleamed since Mr. Chamberlain arrived. No sooner had he landed, than the *New York Herald* announced "that the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain was blessed with the prettiest day of the autumn to renew his devotions to the bride-elect," and described his English breakfast of tea, bread and jam, and a soft egg or two. Then the happy pair went out "under smiling skies" to pay visits, after the American fashion of engaged lovers. Mr. Chamberlain, "being got up in his Sunday best for the promenade," His new gloves, shining silk hat, smoothly-fitting frock-coat, and thick cane with silver knob were all duly chronicled. The journal noted triumphantly that he was so eager to join his fiancée that he forgot the inevitable orchid. Even the fact that the lovers were breathless on climbing up hill is not forgotten, nor that their heads rested close together in enthusiasm over the scenery. The new Mrs. Chamberlain is always exquisitely but plainly dressed, never wearing a low bodice. She has the reputation of having gone through three Washington winters with fewer gowns than any lady of her acquaintance, yet looking quite as well. At the wedding breakfast there were two cakes—a pound-cake for the bride, and a fruit-cake for the groom.

LONDON MORTALITY declined last week, and 1,409 deaths were registered against 1,619 during the previous seven days, a fall of 210, being 370 below the average, and at the rate of 17*l.* per 1,000. There were 133 from measles (a decrease of 11), 20 from scarlet fever (a decline of 11), 41 from diphtheria (a fall of 3), 19 from whooping-cough (a decrease of 2), 1 from typhus fever, 15 from enteric fever (same as last week), 1 from an ill-defined form of continued fever, 18 from diarrhoea and dysentery (an increase of 2), and not one from small-pox or cholera. Deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs numbered 287, a fall of 87, and were 198 below the average. Different forms of violence caused 43 deaths; 36 were the result of negligence or accident, among which were 11 from fractures and contusions, 8 from burns and scalds, 2 from drowning, and 14 of infants under one year of age from suffocation. There were 2,772 births registered, against 2,606 during the previous seven days, being 12 above the average.

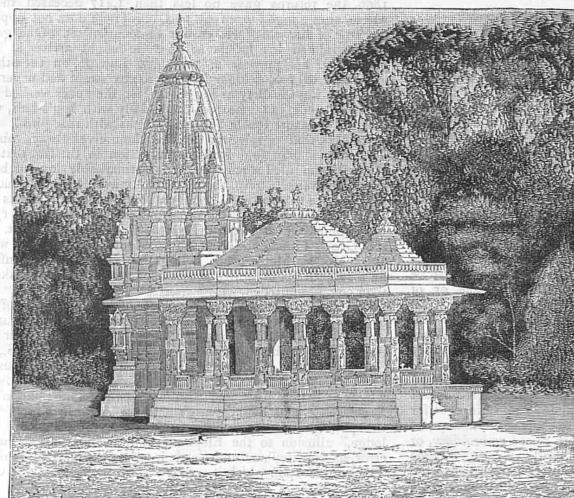
South India  
honey queen



THE MAHARAJAH



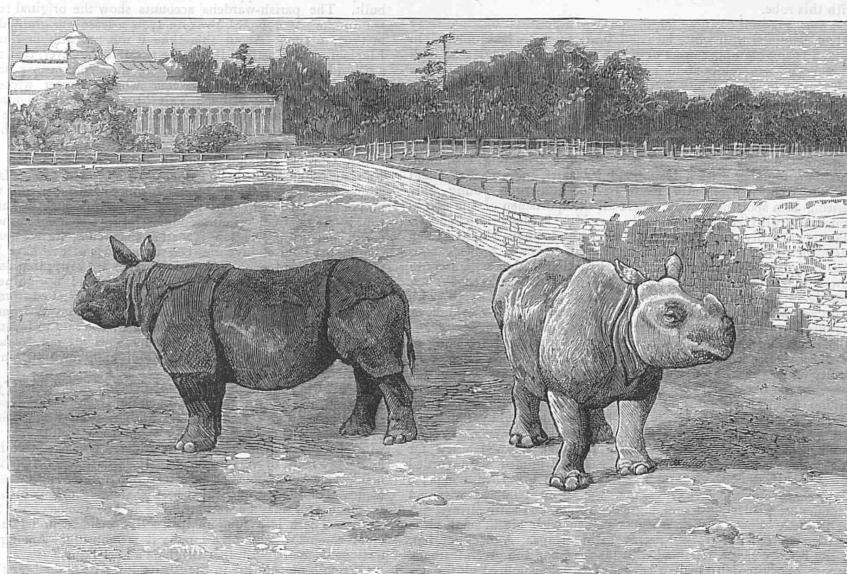
THE MAHARAJAH'S HOUNDS ON THE PALACE-LAWN



A MARBLE TEMPLE IN THE GROUNDS



A VIEW IN THE GROUNDS

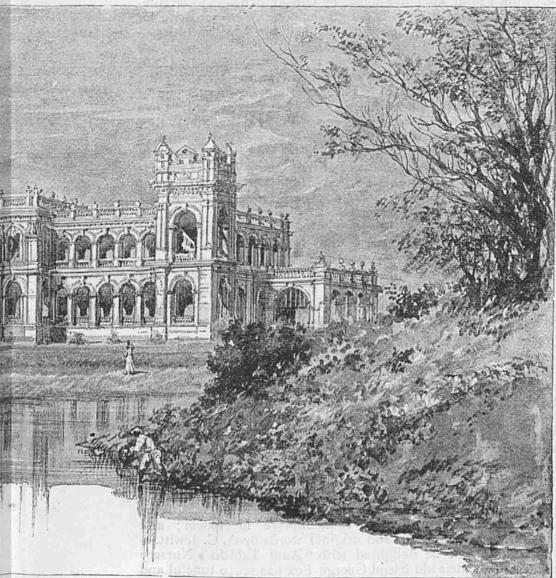


THE RHINOCEROS PARK



THE FRONT OF THE PALACE AND GROUNDS OF THE MAHARAJAH OF DHAR

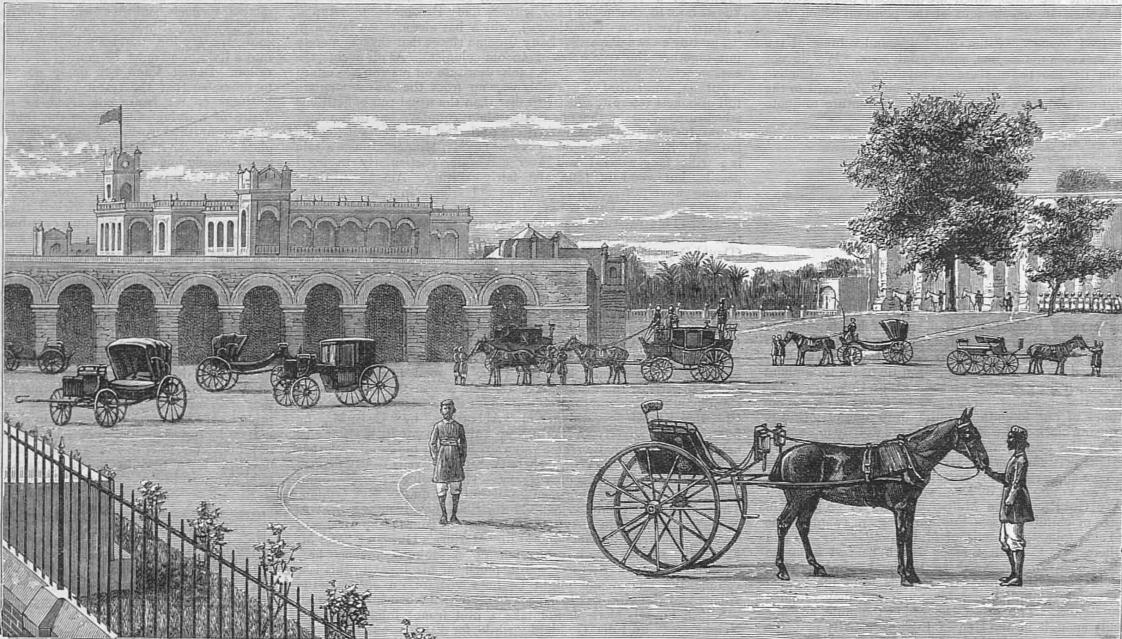
AN INDIAN PR



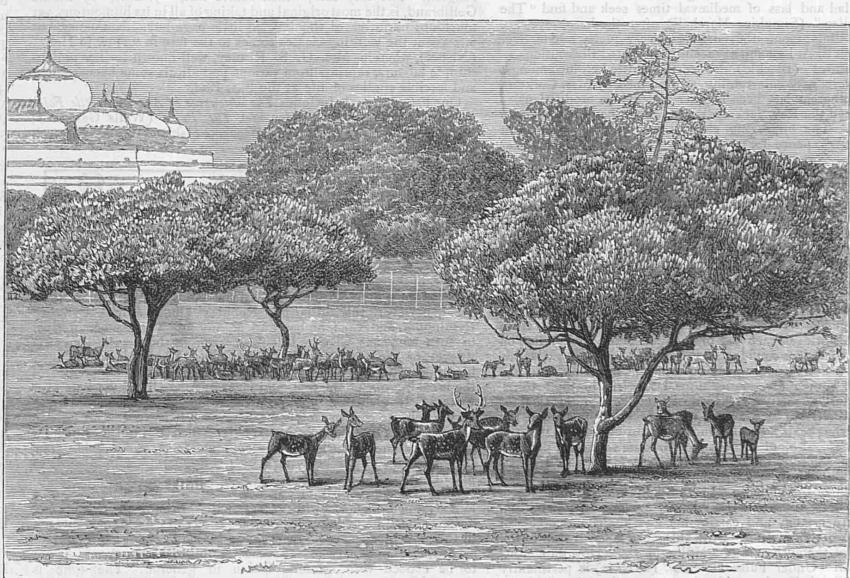
THE PALACE

PRINCE AT HOME  
ARBHANGA, K.C.I.E., IN THE PATNA DIVISION OF BEHAR

THE FOUR-IN-HAND, WITH THE MAHARAJAH ON THE BOX



THE STABLE YARD



THE DEER PARK