

LITERATURE AND THE ARTS.

ONE SAVED! called out a dis-... of course, and the hoarsely... addressed only to the people in... stately audience in the dining-... the last flash from the black... as the storm died away in... ed by a far-off thunder-peal;... heavy feet became stiffer and... was a silence, until Mr. Corbet...

I must write the news to... a better telegraph—of course... did he do without delay... garden came over to... the message. It's a shame... behind-hand with the tidings of... why, it concerns him almost as... of the young dog! He's Rupert... of course he bears my second...

dear boy! I shall write to him... Corbet, in the gentle, almost... she usually addressed her in-... will wish him, Geoffrey, t... responded the family chieft... were now awkwardly busi... materials. "The sooner he turns... and that beggary High Dutch... milled interjected Mrs. Corbet... smoke, and beer, and meta... and buyish quarels, the better,"... able Geoffrey. "It was cheap... afford no better training for the... pped but a few years back the... the Guards, or to Oxford... fine among pipes and snuff, and... all the buffooneries of Birchen... one of your girls, take the... necessary. My hand shakes so... guide it."

glad we shall be to see him" ... Frank voice, as she seated her... prepared to write; and Florine... mild expression of delight at the... brother's arrival. It was... rough and erige, and bend before... she kept a wary eye on the... father's temper, and was cautious... if to any statement of opinion... odious detectives say to the prisoner... against her... the message which the Honour... and with which old Hoakins... presently set out on his weary... to quote his own words... that the missive might fly on... to Hildesberg. At Claye... evening passed gloomily away... the family who spoke... was Mr. Corbet, and he... him while still beneath the hired... her his humble fortunes... was loquacious, grumbling... had wine, and the... with a secret zest of... of temporary character of all these... Then, when he had sipped his... his chair was wheeled into... and dozed, and bragged, and... over his coffee and Curacao, till...

when at last the hour came for... when Mr. Corbet, in his chair... off by the much-enduring Richards... ment, which had once been in... the frailty of Fanny's power, been... his own crippled corner, been... room for the Honourable Geoffrey's... som, and that occupied by her... on the first floor. Why was it... that the family who spoke... had written on her gentle face... that, clasping her thin hands... sed her eyes towards heaven? ... ere the murmured words that fell... lips. "I do pray, ever and always... these words, my dear, my dear... of heart. My boy, my boy—dear... in, spite of all—it is for him... that I fear. This seeming benefit... which lifts him at once to the high... would deem him so well fitted, may... there has been peace... time—and now—I feel as though... too, with spirits depressed by the... day, so full of death and the... sed, and rest, and their very... the introduction of the new... country, and Mr. Olypham, having... a steamer, the Peruvia, for the purpose... the English colonial... authorities placed such difficulties in the way... of the embarkation of the people that he was... to return to Callao. A second venture to... Chinese port was no more successful, and the Peruvia... was on her voyage back to Callao when adverse winds... and some casualty caused her to seek refuge in Yoko... hama in distress, and the last news of Mr. Olypham... was from that port.

THE ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PERUVIAN SENATE.—The *Peruvia Star and Herald* says: That Don Manuel Pardo, President of the Peruvian Senate and ex-President of Peru, was assassinated on November 16, 1878, in the Senate Chamber, in Lima, Peru. The assassin was a man named... Pardo had always been the champion of Constitutional government. He recently fell under suspicion as being opposed to the present Peruvian Administration, who preferred that he should live out of the country. He was accordingly ordered to leave Peru, but on the opening of the present Peruvian Congress was elected President of the Senate, and returned a few weeks before his death to take that place in the Legislature.

PERU AND THE CHINESE COOLIES.—While North America, like our Australian Colonies, resents the immigration of Chinese coolies, South America is prepared to welcome them with open arms, and a treaty has been entered into between Peru and China by which the Government of the latter country consents to the emigration of its inhabitants to Peru provided they are properly treated there. The Peruvian authorities entered into a contract with Mr. Olypham for the introduction of the desired immigrants into the country, and Mr. Olypham, having chartered a steamer, the Peruvia, for the purpose, set out to Hong Kong some months ago; but the English colonial authorities placed such difficulties in the way of the embarkation of the people that he was... to return to Callao. A second venture to... Chinese port was no more successful, and the Peruvia... was on her voyage back to Callao when adverse winds... and some casualty caused her to seek refuge in Yoko... hama in distress, and the last news of Mr. Olypham... was from that port.

REPUTATION OF LORD BRACONSFIELD.—A deputation, including several members of Parliament, assembled at Downing-street to present to Lord Braconsfield an address, contained in a casket of silver ornamented with gold, from British residents in California. A letter, however, was read from the Prime Minister, postponing the presentation on account of the illness of the noble peer. His lordship said: "A terrible calamity has fallen upon our country. An English Princess, one of the most noble-minded and most gifted of women, endeared to the people of this country by her rich intelligence and her life of perfect domestic bliss and duty, has fallen a victim to the terrible disease which has already ravaged her health, and which she met by her devotion to her children." Mr. Puleston, M.P., Mr. Torr, M.P., Alderman Cotton, M.P., and Mr. Corry, M.P., said a few words expressing sympathy with his Majesty and the Royal Family, and concerning the course taken by the Prime Minister under such painful circumstances. Mr. Montagu Corry said he would communicate to his lordship the sentiments which had been expressed. The presentation was accordingly postponed to some time to be appointed by Lord Braconsfield.

THE BLUE RIBBAND OF SMITHFIELD.—The great annual gathering at Islington attracts all classes to the metropolis, for agriculture now employs many hands and engages many heads. Advantage is taken of this to hold meetings of various agricultural societies more or less connected with live stock; and the Smithfield Club Show is looked forward to as a general rendezvous. Large as the hall is it has a wonderfully crowded appearance, the variety of agricultural implements and appliances on exhibition shows that the inventive genius of the modern mechanic is anything but dormant. Although the club has passed its eighty-first year, it is still vigorous and powerful; and we congratulate Sir Brandrich Gibbs as Honorary Director of the show, and Mr. S. Sidney as Secretary of the Agricultural Hall Company, on the signal success which has attended their labours in carrying out the arrangements of the exhibition. The Prince of Wales, who visited the show before the judges was over on Monday, inspected the various exhibits, and congratulated the officials on the excellence of the stock, and the increasing prosperity of the club. His Royal Highness, who witnessed the competition for the Champion Prize, was among the first to compliment Mr. Richard Stratton on his great success in carrying off for the second time the Blue Ribband of the show. —See Stock Journal.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS VOTES.

In the division in which the Government policy was called in question, the first of the present session, the Liberals who voted with the Government were Mr. W. H. Foster, Mr. H. A. Herbert, Sir Nathaniel de Rothschild, the Marquis of Stafford, Mr. Waller, and Mr. Yeaman. Mr. Loebuck and the following Home Rulers were in the same lobby: Dr. Brady, Mr. Owen Lewis, Mr. Arthur Moore, Dr. O'Leary, and Dr. Ward. Mr. Joseph Owen, Mr. Samuda, and Mr. Torrens, who on some previous occasions have supported the Ministry, neither voted nor paired. The majority of the Home Rulers who voted, including Sir Joseph McKenna, Sir Patrick O'Brien, Major O'Beirne, Mr. Denis O'Connor, The O'Connor Don, Mr. O'Donnell, Major O'Gorman, Mr. O'Reilly, and Mr. O'Shaughnessy went into the lobby with the Opposition. The members of the late Administration who voted in the minority were Mr. Baxter, Mr. Bright, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, Lord F. Cavendish, Mr. Childers, Mr. Dodson, Mr. Grant Duff, Mr. Forster, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. W. H. Gladstone, Mr. Goschen, Lord Richard Grosvenor, Sir W. Harcourt, the Marquis of Hartington, Sir Henry James, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugess, Mr. Law, Mr. Shaw Lefevre, Mr. Lowe, Mr. Otway, Mr. A. W. Peell, Dr. Lyon Playfair, and Mr. Stansfeld, the leaders being Mr. Adam and Lord Kennington. Mr. Fitzwilliam, the new member for Peterborough, voted with the Opposition. Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam, the member for Malton, was present in the lobby of the Government who voted in the minority was Sir Alexander Gordon. The number of the majority—328—was the same as on the 8th February last, when the Vote of Credit was carried. The number voting in the minority was then 124, giving the Government a majority of 204. On the 3rd of August, Lord Hartington's resolutions were rejected by 338 to 195—a Ministerial majority of 143. The majority of 101 on Saturday morning was the lowest yet secured by the Government in any of the great divisions upon their Eastern policy.

A CURIOUS POINT OF LAW.

A somewhat curious point of law has been recently raised. An action has been brought against a police officer for wrongful arrest, to which he has pleaded that he was acting in the discharge of his duty, and was consequently not guilty in contemplation of law; and, secondly, that he acted upon reasonable information, and in the best exercise of his discretion. The plaintiff hereupon administered interrogatories asking him from whom and under what circumstances he had received the information which led him to make the arrest, and the other day the question was argued in full court whether an interrogatory to this effect was admissible. Mr. Justice Field allowed it, on the ground that, although an officer of police, the defendant was yet, like any other defendant, bound to answer any question that did not criminate himself. In the other hand, it was urged very strongly that information given to a police constable in the discharge of his duty, or ought to be, privileged, and that if it were made public the efficiency of the force would be impaired, and the public service would suffer. The Divisional Court, consisting of the Lord Chief Baron and Mr. Baron Pollock, have referred the matter back to Mr. Justice Field, taking care, at the same time, not to impugn the grounds of his determination. They have decided that the interrogatory ought to be disallowed, not as being improper in itself, but as being prematurely put. Whether the question might be asked of the defendant in the witness-box their lordships are not prepared to say, but they are satisfied that it cannot be asked as a more preliminary to the action itself. On the whole, it is questionable how far the police, who have of late shown a tendency to act in a very high-handed manner, are entitled to the privilege of this kind. A constable who admittedly exceeds his duty must take the consequences, and can hardly pretend that, like a Minister of State, he is bound to keep the matters of his department a strict secret. Sir Richard Mayne would have made short work of any such pretence.

HEAVY FALL OF SNOW IN SWITZERLAND.

There has been no such fall of snow in Switzerland for many years as during the past week, not even during the winter of 1870-71. Traffic is greatly impeded, the omnibuses are running as sledges, and from the Jura to the Alps there is one almost unbroken mass of snow.

COMPULSORY DESTRUCTION OF MISTLETOE.

In certain districts of the Rhine provinces police regulations have been issued ordering the destruction every year of all mistletoe found upon fruit trees. The parasite must be removed each season by February at the latest, on pain of summary punishment. Evidently the mistletoe enjoys by the law the same privilege of the German empire, and the issue of an order for its destruction just at this period of the year seems strange, indeed, to English readers, who are just preparing to do full honour to it in connection with the approaching Christmas festivities.

DISORDERLY HOUSES IN CHELSEA.

At Westminster Police-court, London, John Isaacs, Lamont-road, Chelsea; Adolph Carrory, Margate-terrace; Albert Abbott, Limerston-gate; James Mockridge, Shalcombe-street; Arthur Gardner, Gertrude-street; and Annie Ashley, Ashley Salter, Kingsland-road, Lamont-road, all in the parish of St. Luke, Chelsea, were charged on warrants with keeping disorderly houses. In opening the case, the counsel stated that the recent prosecutions in Chelsea had not had the desired effect, and the neighbourhood was getting as bad as ever. The cases of Isaacs, Abbott, and Carrory were very bad, Carrory having no fewer than three of these houses in one terrace. Evidence as to the character of the houses having been given, all but Carrory and Ashley pleaded guilty, and the whole of the prisoners were sent for trial, but in £80 being required for the men and in £20 for Ashley. Abbott was not called, and Isaacs was allowed out on his own recognisance, as he was suffering from dropsy, and it was deemed unsafe to send him away in the van.

COST OF THE CITY POLICE.

A statement of the estimated expense and income of the City of London Police Force for next year has been issued by the Corporation. The expenses are set down at £100,075. The salaries of the commissioner, surgeon, receiver, and other officials amount to £4395, and the wages of the 825 men of the force to £68,991. The superintendent has £8 17s. 7d. per week; the 14 inspectors' wages vary from £2 2s. to £3 1s. 6d.; the 14 station-sergeants and 12 detective-sergeants received £2 11s. 3d.; 34 sergeants, £1 19s. 11d.; 30 other sergeants, £1 16s. 10d.; 300 first-class constables, £1 12s. 3d.; 201 second-class constables, £1 8s. 3d.; and 129, £1 5s. 7d. Forty-eight plain clothes officers have an extra allowance of 5s. per week, and an additional sum is given them in lieu of uniform. The 137 constables employed in regulating the street traffic have also a small addition to their pay, and each man in the force is allowed 3s. per month for boot money. These extra allowances amount to £2148, and the clothing of the force cost annually £4331. For the superannuation of officers the public pay £6400; lanterns and oil cost £310 per annum, and the infirmaries necessary £680; the rents of police stations amount to £2327, and rents, taxes, coal, gas, and repairs, £5600. The whole estimated expenditure is £100,075. As regards the income, a police rate of 5d. in the pound on the assessable rate of the City (£3,156,660) after deducting 6 per cent. for poundage and deficiencies brings in £2,918,177, and the Corporation of London contributes £23,888; the fines and penalties imposed by magistrates under the Police Act amount to £240,000, and for watching the bridges, the Corporation pays £765. The constables living at police-stations pay, as rent, £1891. Sixty constables are engaged on private duty at the Bank, the Post Office, the railway stations, and elsewhere, and for their services £2775 is received annually. The estimated income is £294,075, and the deficiency of £70,000 is provided for by a surplus of assets on another account.

CITY OF GLASGOW BANK.

The creditors of Mr. Adam Curran, of the Lee, met in Edinburgh, when it appeared that as he was a holder of £2460 City of Glasgow Bank Stock the liquidators had lodged a claim for £500 per share, making a total £1,230,000. Mr. William Scott, partner of Innes, Wright, and Co., was examined in Bankruptcy before Sheriff Murray at Glasgow. He gave, in answer to the trustee, particulars of the large transactions in which the firm engaged, and their dealings with the City of Glasgow Bank. He was further examined by Dr. A. B. Macgregor for the liquidators, and by his own agent. At the close the sheriff granted an adjournment, and also issued a commission for the examination of Mr. Innes Wright, a director of the bank, now in prison. Mr. Scott, on leaving the court, was apprehended by Superintendent Boyd, of the Glasgow police, under a warrant from the Procurator Fiscal, charging him with abduction, or theft, of £24,000, the proceeds of bills received for discounting in 1876 from Glen, Walker, and Co. He was conveyed to the central police office and locked up. The Crown officials have completed the preparing of the indictment against the directors of the City of Glasgow Bank. It will be served upon each of the accused on the 31st, and the trial is fixed to take place in Edinburgh on the 20th January. Permission has now been granted to the agents of the prisoners to examine the books.

The examination in bankruptcy of Henry Taylor and Sons, Glasgow, took place before the sheriff at Glasgow. The senior partner of the firm, William Taylor, was one of the directors of the City of Glasgow Bank, and a commission has been granted for his examination in prison. Henry Taylor, son of the bank director, stated that the business had been in existence since 1835, and he was not indebted to the bank then, but as his father's and uncle's credit £40,730. At 1st January last there was at the debit of the prisoner's account £11,933, and there was a surplus of assets over liabilities of £31,800. His father was an original shareholder of the City Bank, and became a director in 1871. The firm was not indebted to the bank then, but in 1873 they got some temporary advances. These were all repaid within a short time. In October, 1874, they began to get advances, which were not repaid before others were received; and at the suspension of the City Bank the firm owed the bank £24,900, which included £9300 interest. In 1875, when the advances increased somewhat, his father took certain scrip stock shares belonging to himself and firm to the bank, and gave them to Mr. Stronach, the manager, to be held by him, and to show that no other advances were being got on credit. These shares still belonged to the firm, they never got recommended bills, and had no speculation outside their business. Since last year they had sustained £28,000 or £29,000 of loss. Since the stoppage of the bank there had been about £45,000 of their bills receivable that had not been unpaid owing to the suspension of the bank. They sustained losses with Hay, Son, and Co., and their bills ranked on the estate for about £18,000. The state of affairs showed the firm's liabilities, including debt to the bank, to be £139,923, and assets £23,995; the assets of partners were—William Taylor, £15,412; and Henry Taylor, £1020. The examination was adjourned.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

RECALL THIS CAUSE MISSION. I am in a position to communicate to you, says the special correspondent of the Standard, a most important piece of news. The statement of Sir S. Northcote (in reply to the question of Sir H. Harcourt) that the English Government had recently had reason to doubt the sincerity of the Russian Mission to St. Petersburg, has occasioned grave comment at St. Petersburg. People thoroughly understood the significance of Sir Stafford Northcote's language, and public opinion was decidedly opposed to any needless provocation being given to the Russian Government. The Russian Mission to St. Petersburg has been in active communication for the last ten days, Count Schouvaloff having, as I positively know, distinguished himself by his sincere labours for the preservation of a good understanding between the two countries. A great danger to the peace of the world now comes forward to be at length been removed. The admirable firmness of the English Cabinet has reaped a legitimate victory. The Russian Mission to St. Petersburg has been formally and officially recalled. I am also in a position to add that the English Government has decided to evacuate those portions of European Turkey which are still occupied by her troops. Thus the approaching Christmas season may be heartily welcomed, as bringing with it a better assurance of the preservation of the peace of the world than any reasonable persons could well have entertained a month ago.

THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

In the French Senate M. Waddington, in reply to a question, said he was glad of the opportunity it afforded him of explaining the foreign policy of France. That policy had not varied since the close of the Congress. It was embodied in the instructions given to the French plenipotentiaries at Berlin. They were to defend the interests of France, to maintain peace, to do nothing to compromise French neutrality, and to avoid all engagements concerning the future. These conditions had been scrupulously respected, and France left the Congress as free as she entered it. She had constantly supported the execution of the Berlin Treaty. No doubt there were some who were not satisfied with the result, but they must soon be settled. With regard to Greece, M. Waddington said, in the action which France had initiated to secure for that country a sufficient frontier she would not be isolated, but would act in concert with all the Powers.

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—MR. PAYNE

held an inquiry at Guy's Hospital, as to the death of Eliza Gray. It appeared that on the 2nd inst., she was one of the passengers on a train to Gravesend and returned by the 7.50 p.m. train. On reaching Northfleet, about ten minutes to nine o'clock, as she was getting out of the carriage, having one foot on the platform and the other on the step of the carriage, the train suddenly moved on and she was thrown to the ground, her thigh being broken. She was removed to the hospital, where she died. Only one official of the South-Eastern Company was examined, and he admitted that the train was late and that one of the officials, but which he could not say, started the train before the passengers had time to get out. It was through this that Gray and several of the other passengers fell in getting out. The jury returned a verdict that the death of the deceased was accidental, and that they were of opinion that there had been gross neglect on the part of the railway officials in not allowing sufficient time for passengers to alight.

WEDDING GIFT FROM FAIR ISLE TO THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Some time ago the inhabitants of Fair Isle sent to Mr. Thomas, sheriff of Orkney and Shetland, the following articles, to be transmitted to the Duke of Connaught as a present on his approaching marriage—viz., a smoking cap, a yachting cap, a pair of knickerbocker hose, a muffler, and a pair of gloves, all wrought in the colours and patterns peculiar to the Fair Isle hosiery. The Duke's acceptance of the islanders' gift has been announced to the Sheriff in the following letter:—"Aldershot, 27th, November, 1878. Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., stating that you have been deputed by the inhabitants of the Fair Isle to forward for the Duke of Connaught some specimens of the peculiar native industry of the place as at present on the occasion of his Royal Highness's approaching marriage. I am directed in reply to state that I have been most gratified to be touched by this mark of kind feeling towards him; and that while accepting a gift so graciously given, he trusts that you will take an early opportunity of conveying to the inhabitants of the Fair Isle his Royal Highness's most sincere thanks for the loyal and kindly remembrance of his approaching marriage.—I have &c. (Signed) W. G. BRASSFORD, Comptroller and Treasurer."

A SERIOUS CHARGE.

In the Common Pleas Division of the High Court of Justice, before Lord Coleridge and a special jury, the case of Lovering (Trustee of Kino's), the Commercial Union Assurance Company was heard. It was an action upon a fire policy for £3000, and compensation was claimed for loss in consequence of a fire at the premises of Mr. Kino, a tailor and outfitter, 322 High Holborn. The question raised was whether or not a fraudulent claim had been sent in, and whether the fire was caused by the connivance of Mr. Kino. The Attorney-General, Mr. Grantham, Q.C., and Mr. Moulton appeared for the plaintiff; and Sir H. James, Mr. W. William Q.C., Mr. Mathew, and Mr. Hollans for the defendants. Mr. C. S. Beecroft, a valuer, said he valued the damages done by the fire. Sir Henry James concluded his speech for the defendants, and proceeded to call their evidence. While the first witness was under examination, the Attorney-General, who had been out of court, returned, and said that during the trial his client had called his attention to some suspicious circumstances, yet the charge was so serious that he (the Attorney-General) did not think it well to withdraw from the case. At the present moment, however, there had been discovered circumstances that convinced him that he ought not to keep this matter up any longer, and therefore he would consent to the jury finding a verdict for the defendants. Mr. Kino in June last negotiated an arrangement with his creditors to pay 20s. in the pound by instalments, and he represented that he had stock at Newington Causeway to a certain amount. Some question had been raised as to two sheets on the stock-taking of December, and these two sheets had been discovered to have been inserted into the account of the stock at Newington Causeway. On this being discovered he felt bound to yield to the suggestion of his client, and consent to there being a verdict for the defendants. Lord Coleridge entirely approved of the course which had been taken. Of course no imputation whatever was put upon Mr. Lovering, the nominal plaintiff, or upon the gentlemen professionally connected with the case, for they had only endeavoured to do their best for the general body of the creditors. A verdict was then returned for the defendants, and a similar verdict was given in an action upon another policy effected with the Commercial Union Assurance Company. Upon the application of Sir H. James all the documents were ordered to be impounded.

SINGULAR WILL CASE.

Mr. Benjamin Harper, a gentleman residing at Harrogate at the time of his death, which took place on the 29th of January, 1872, left behind him personally and realty to a considerable sum. The testator was a coal merchant, and his property was contained in three testamentary papers, which came before the President of the Probate Division. The suit concerning them was brought by the eldest son and heir-at-law, who disputed his father's soundness of mind when executing the last of these papers, a codicil of January, 1872. His first will was executed in December, 1865, having been drawn by a firm of solicitors at Harrogate. In 1871 the senior partner of the firm took instructions from the testator for another will, which was duly made and executed and retained by him at the office of the firm, Messrs. Knarborough, unknown to his partners at Harrogate, entirely through inadvertence. On the 18th of January, 1872, he again took instructions from the testator for a codicil, and forwarded them to the head office at Harrogate to be neted upon. The will to which this was a codicil was really that of the testator's father, and in consequence of its existence the will of 1865 was treated as the one to which the codicil applied, and recited in it with the alterations which were required. Substantially, the two wills of 1865 and 1871 were identical, a small bequest of about £100 being withdrawn in the latter will for a provision for the benefit of children. The widow was appointed executrix, and the will was duly admitted to probate shortly after the testator's death, and has been acted upon up to the present time, the mistake having been fully explained to the apparent satisfaction of all parties. From some unaccountable cause the eldest son now comes forward to set aside the codicil on the ground of his father's unsoundness of mind when executing it. Mr. Idewick, Q.C., and Dr. Tristram appeared for the defendant upon whom the issue was. The plaintiff was not represented by counsel, but by his solicitor only, who applied for a postponement prior to the hearing without supporting his application by affidavit. The application was refused, and on the proof of the above facts the Court at once pronounced for the will and codicil, with costs against the plaintiff.

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FACTS AND FACETS.

WHY is anything reconsidered accounted "probable"?—Because it is considered a gain. "A WINDING-UP CASE."—A watch. COUNTRY SHAREHOLDERS.—Ploughmen. A SUNSHADE.—An eclipse. WEA is the best thing for deacid-lock?—A skeleton-key, we presume.

A CALIFORNIAN philosopher extracted from a schoolboy the following reply to the query, "How is the earth divided, my lad?" "By earthquakes, sir."

A GENTLEMAN who has just furnished his house, writes to us to say that he finds mud waters don't answer.

WHAT inmates of the deep—or suppose we say the shallows—make most stir in the world?—The oyster.

A SMALL boy hearing his parents speak of a soprano who sang in their church, asked what it was. His father said "a soprano, my boy, is a lady who is up in all four corners puts her arms round his neck."

HARLEY WIMPOLE, in the Christmas holidays, wishing to get as soon as he could from Paddington to Shoreditch, unfortunately got hold of a cabman who did not know London well. The end of it was that poor Harley was driven—to distraction.

A RESIDENT in the city of old maids and mustards, while on a visit to Newcastle one day, went into an hotel and asked the waiter for a plate of beef. The waiter, seeing him dip his fingers into the salt cellar, quietly drew his attention to the salt spoon, when the stranger, turning round, said, "Dis those things as that fowl of salt to eat it with a spoon?"

LORD BRIDPORT, when he commanded the Channel fleet, was called the "Whiting Catcher," from his being so often in port. At a dinner given by the Mayor of Plymouth, he said, "Captain Town-bridge, I suppose you have no objection to fill a bumper to the health of the commander-in-chief?" "Not any," replied the captain; "but hand me a claret, for I am quite tired of drinking him in port."

LEIGH BRUGHAM, proverbial for his gallantry to the fair sex, was pleading in a jury case before the late Lord —, and his client, happening to be a female, and defender in the action of the name of Ticker, he commenced his speech in the following humorous strain:—"Ticker, my client, the defendant, my lord. The audience, amazed with the oddity of the speech, were almost drawn into hysterics of laughter by the judge replying—"Ticker, my yourself, Harry, you're better able to do than I am."

A DUCHESS read somewhere that money doubled itself by compound interest every fourteen years; if it was put carefully away and left untouched. The guileless Hollander at once dug a hole in the cellar and buried \$4000 packed in a tea cask. This was fourteen years ago last Wednesday. On that day he dug up the cask, and found the money had doubled itself, with the confident expectation that it had increased to \$8000. His disappointment was great; and, when his friends interview him now, he expresses the opinion "Dem arithmetic is day at a lie!"

"STANDING ONE day at the corner of a street in a town in the West of Ireland," writes a correspondent, "my attention was attracted by a passing funeral procession. The deceased, judging from the long line of carriages and the multitude of Irish following the hearse, must have been a fine old Irish gentleman, and, being curious to know on whose account this great parade was being made, I asked an Irishman standing near. 'Who is dead?' he inquired, he replied, 'I dun know; but, whoever he be, he jabs, he may well be proud of his funeral.'"

TOWARDS the close of the Indian famine, when subscriptions were being raised for the relief of the sufferers, a couple of worthies were seated over a glass in a quiet pub in the village of Birtley, when the following conversation was heard:—"Wey, Gordie," said one, "they say they want ten million sterling to send to the starving Hindoos." "The other, who was a gamekeeper, after a little deliberation, replied, "Ten million starlings! Nowt but osh, man! I'd take all the men iv England to catch them money!"

A FEW years ago, a young man, conversing with a Methodist local preacher, declared it to be the easiest thing in the world to preach a sermon; and his friend, in order that the youth should not want an opportunity offered him of being put to the test, Sunday at the Pelling. The offer was accepted, and on the appointed morning the young man made his appearance in the rostrum, his friend the local preacher occupying a pew near at hand. All went well up to the sermon, but with the announcement of the text, the would-be preacher showed signs of being in difficulties. After repeating his text thrice, he leaned over the pulpit railing, and in a pitiful voice cried out to his friends, "Spence, man, a's sick!"

SOME time ago, a man who had succeeded in obtaining work at Seghill Colliery, applied to a blacksmith for tools, with which he was supplied after giving satisfactory replies to various questions put to him. The stranger's name, and was told "Dinnin' Shute." "No, hinny," he replied, "as a workman, but tell me thy name." Again the new workman replied, "Dinnin' Shute," and in a soothing tone the blacksmith said, "Wey, man, alive, a's not good, a's a's axi' thee canny. 'Whas de thee call thee?" "Wey, man, a's tell'd thee my name, said the stranger, "it's Dennis Shute." "Oh," said the blacksmith, "a's see no, as thou' thou was tellin' us to speak law down!"

IT is a common practice in certain parts of Scotland for one of the relatives of the deceased person to assist the gravedigger at the funeral in covering the grave. One occasion Saunders, as the gravedigger was called, was thus occupied on one side of the grave, and a cousin of the deceased on the other. This person was drawing some very affecting signs, and turning up the white of his eyes in an exceedingly sad manner; he said that it was a holiday in honour of the patron saint of the town, and that all the congregation were assembling in the church in order to listen to the new sermon he was expected to deliver. The poor friar had brought only one sermon with him, and that was already delivered. What was he to do? He got into the pulpit, and looking very solemnly round the church, "My brethren," said he, "certain malignant persons have said there was hereby in the sermon I delivered to you yesterday; and in order to show how false is this accusation, I propose to deliver it to you all over again."

A FAMOUS nobleman once called on Dr. Abernethy, the great English physician and surgeon, with reference to an inflamed eye. My lord, after waiting an hour for Abernethy to get through with a number of charity patients, whom he never left to attend upon the highest nobleman, began the conversation by saying:—"Doctor, I wish you would examine this eye; I fear some deadly mischief is at work here." "If you will sit there in my patient's chair, and let me do the talking, I will soon find out what is the matter with you." A few sharp questions, and the doctor concluded the interview with the following words:—"Your difficulty is not where you think it is, in your eye, but—pointing his finger at the patient's enormous stomach—"it is there, in your kitchen. Of course, when the kitchen is out of order, the garret and all the other rooms in the house are likely to be more or less affected. Now, all you need to do, is to clear the kitchen, and the garret will require no special purification. Your lordship must do so as the famous Duke of Wellington did on a well-known occasion—cut off the supplies, and the enemy will leave the citadel."