

THE POLYNESIAN.

"PRO BONO PUBLICO."

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1840.

The arrival of the Brigantine Rosa, from Manila, has excited some curiosity, the vessel being built upon a principle which appears, according to theory, as faulty as it is extraordinary; but her performances and admirable qualities as a sea-boat, set at nought all the established notions and make her a sort of naval paradox.

The Rosa with a beam of less than seventeen feet, a length over all of nearly one hundred and twenty, and a depth of nine, combines qualities which may be sought in vain, in vessels constructed upon the plan which is supposed to be the only rational one. The object of her builder, it is said, was to evade the measurement duties in Siam, where it is well known the charges are more exorbitant than even in China.

We understand that during the Rosa's passage from Manila, by way of the Caroline Islands, some important rectifications of the geographical positions of the islands have been made by her commander, an account of which may be found in another place.

We learn from a letter received by a friend, per Harlequin, that the French Corvette Danaide, which has been expected for some weeks past from the Coast of California, will not be here until August or September. She will probably visit all the ports on the Coast before leaving there.

The king and his suite sailed on Saturday last, in the schooner Clarion, for Maui. It was their intention to remain here until the arrival of the Exploring Squadron. But as this is an event which cannot be counted upon with any degree of certainty, they wisely turned their steps homeward, having nothing in a political point of view, to require their presence here.

We are informed that about 50 specimens of birds collected in the Oregon country and stuffed by Mr. E. O. Hall in the course of his late visit to that interesting region have been presented to the Cabinet of the Sandwich Island Institute.

From the Port Philip Patriot.

THE EGLINTON TOURNAMENT.

(Concluded.)

The toll-keepers on the different roads must have made a capital job of it the first day, as we have heard that even the vehicles on the ground were estimated at 1,200. The second would have been equally good had the weather been favorable.

During the early part of Thursday the weather continued dreadfully wet, but it got better occasionally. In the mean time the crowds of people flocked to the tilting ground, which was dreadfully cut up. It was well known, however, to those who thought of the matter that it was impossible to get on with the Tournament, the armour being all wet and rusty, and every article of dress that had been worn the preceding day completely soaked through. Understanding that many of the people from the surrounding villages were assembling, the Earl himself rode out to the spot, and afterwards to Kilwinning and other places, to inform the people how matters stood. His Lordship stated that it was impossible to go on that day, but on Friday, wet or dry, the tilting would be proceeded with. At every place which he visited, the Earl was received with the loudest cheers, for his attentive condescension, and every one was more loud in his praise than a-

nother. The splendid ceremonial was spoiled by the weather, but his Lordship's desire to amuse the public was a subject of unqualified eulogium. It may be mentioned here, that the Great Pavilion erected at so much expense, and decorated with such magnificence for the Ball and Dining-room, was on Wednesday evening, discovered to be totally unfit for the purpose—the rain having made its way through the canvass at every point. This was, of course, another severe disappointment. The principal use this costly edifice could be put to on Thursday was to clean the armour in. During the after-part of that day it was dried a little by numerous stoves, and many of the ladies and gentlemen perambulated up and down it. It was also the scene of some capital sport in the afternoon, when the weather became fine. In the presence of the Queen of Beauty, with a whole galaxy of other charming women, and men of high rank, there were various tilting matches on foot, the combatants being dressed in mail. There was also some exceedingly fine fencing with the stick and broadsword. A regular set-to with the sticks betwixt Prince Bonaparte and a very fine young gentleman, Mr. Charteris, afforded much amusement; but the young Prince only came off second best, as he afterwards did with the broadsword, in four or five splendid slapping bouts with Mr. Charles Lamb. Here the combatants were completely encased in mail, with vizors down. Had it not been so, and had the match been one of life and death, the poor Prince would have had no chance with his opponent at this weapon, which seems to be indigenous in the hands of a Briton. The combatants were, of course, rewarded with the hearty applause of all present, amongst whom we observed the Duke of Montrose, Lord Belhaven, Sir Charles Lamb, Mr. Charles Stirling, Mr. Jernynham, &c. &c. There was a grand ball in the evening. It was about ten o'clock when they began to assemble; and in the course of two hours the halls were crowded with the most elegant assemblage, almost the whole of them appearing in splendid fancy dresses. Waltzing and quadrilles soon afterwards commenced, and were kept up with great spirit. Lady Seymour waltzed with Lord Eglinton. We are most willing to allow that her Ladyship is a Queen of Beauty, and we are gallant enough to do so, although her Ladyship had not been set down as such in the bills of the day; but we may be allowed to express an opinion, that there was no lack of Queens of Beauty at either the ball or around the tilting ground—indeed, we have very seldom seen such a display of fine women, not a few of whom belonged to the "west country" and the banks of the Clyde.

The splendour and variety of the dresses were quite dazzling. The Spaniard, the Italian, the Greek, the Turk, the Gael, the Indian, and dozens more were duly represented with every variety of British dresses, except the hoop, from the time of Charles II. downwards. The female nobility, in their gorgeous robes, had a most fascinating appearance while the Queen of Beauty herself moved along with easy, graceful, yet dignified mien. The dancing was kept up till an advanced hour on Friday morning. The band of the Queen's Bays, and a quadrille band (we think Mr. Thomson's) were in attendance.

On Friday, the whole population of Irvine was in a pleasurable state of excitement, from the promise which the elements held out that genial weather would at last lend its influence to the display of the Tournament. About two o'clock, the procession marshalled in front of the castle; the weather by this

time had become so warm, clear, and cheerful, that almost all were disposed to forget the sufferings of Mirk Wednesday, in contemplation of the brilliant scene before them. The armour of the Knights, and the gaudy attire of their squires glittered in the sun, and altogether, the procession to-day was as unlike the previous one as possibly could be.

On Friday, the procession received a welcome accession from the ladies resident in the castle. Lady Seymour, the Queen of Love and Beauty, took her place in the procession, and was most enthusiastically cheered along the entire route. Her ladyship was most brilliantly dressed, and the trappings of her palfrey created scarcely less interest. Among the lady visitors were recognised Lady Montgomerie; Lady Jane Montgomerie; Lady Charleville; Miss Macdonald, and other ladies to the number of nine, who were on horseback, their palfreys each were attended by a page, and the Queen of Beauty's train was borne by her Majesty's pages, who rejoiced to be employed in such a cause. Next in point of attraction was a squadron of female archers, who also joined in the procession. These, to the number of sixteen consisted of the titled damsels at present residing at Eglinton. They were most beautifully and uniformly dressed for the spectacle. Above a robe of white silk or cotton, there was a tunic or jacket of green silk velvet, lined with rich fur. The turbans were also of silk, of the colour of Lincoln green. They too were trimmed with fur, white as unshined snow; and even the sandals partook of the national sporting colour of green. Along the whole line of the route, the cheering was most enthusiastic, and Lord Eglinton came in for his full share of these plaudits, which he acknowledged in the most courteous manner.

After due preparation, it was announced that the Knight of the Gael (Lord Glenlyon) and the Knight of the Black Lion (Viscount Alford) agreed to meet in the lists. The contest was a very good one, and eventually declared in favour of the Knight of the Gael, who slivered his lance against his opponent.

The herald then announced that a tilt would take place between the Knight of the Golden Lion (J. O. Fairlie) and the Knight of the Griffin (Earl Craven.) In the first tilt, both lances were touched but no serious damage done. In the second tilt, the Knight of the Golden Lion touched the lance of his opponent and in the third tilt the Knight of the Griffin broke his lance near the hilt, and victory declared in his favour. The tilting of these Knights was much applauded from the coolness and intrepidity of their proceedings.

It was then announced that the Earl of Eglinton would tilt with the Knight of the Rose (J. O. Lechmere).

In the first course they missed. Ditto the second. In the third course, Lord Eglinton broke his lance in capital style, and was rewarded by the applause of the Queen of Beauty and the Public.

Succeeding this tilt, the herald moved opposite the seat of the Queen of Beauty and after repeating "O yes," three times, announced that an Unknown Knight had challenged the Knight of the Dolphin. (Earl Cassillis.) This created considerable excitement, for it was understood that the Unknown would be a German prince of fame and fortune; but the challenger did not appear, and the challenge dropped. It was then announced that the Unknown Knight not being ready, the Black Knight challenged the Knight of the Dragon (Waterford). In the first, both missed; second ditto; in the third, the Black Knight splintered his lance, and gained the palm.

In the next tilting, the Knight of the Dolphin (Earl Cassillis) challenged the Knight of the Griffin (Earl Craven). First course, both missed; second ditto; in the third, Earl Cassillis hit his opponent, and was declared the winner. No lances were broken.

The Knight of the Ram (the Honorable Captain Gage) then challenged the Knight of the Swan (Honorable F. Jerningham.) Three courses were run without a single hit, and it was then officially announced that the match was undecided.

The Knight of the Red Rose Mr. Lechemere) then entered the lists against the Knight of the Griffin (Earl Craven.) Three tilts were run, without however, the splintering of a lance, and the Griffin was declared the winner.

The last course was between the Knight of the Red Lion (J. O. Fairlie) with the Knight of the Burning Tower (Sir F. Hopkins.) In the first they slightly touched; in the second, the lance of the Red Knight was shivered. A third bout was tried, and was a miss; and finally the palm was adjudged to J. C. Fairlie, Esquire.

During the tilting, of which the above is a summary, the young noblemen and gentlemen were actively engaged in what is called running at the ring—that is placing the ring suspended by a rope, and allowing all parties to take a tilt at it, for the purpose of removing it, when the steed is at full gallop. The Earl of Eglinton was one of the most successful competitors in this department.

The tilting at the ring was followed on Friday with much heart and activity. The ring is suspended from a cord nearly on a level with the horse's head, and taking a start, perhaps thirty yards distant, the Knight or Squire urges his horse to the gallop, and the triumph consists in bearing away the ring on the point of a spear. Lord Eglinton was successful above all others in this manly exercise.

As a termination, the total number of Knights rebelled themselves, and being started from the respective ends of the lists, they struck at each other with their swords in passing. Only one or two cuts were given; but in the case of the Marquis of Waterford and Lord Alford, instead of moving on after a blow or two, the pair wheeled round their steeds and commenced hitting in real earnest. This was conceived to be part of the performance by the spectators—but it was no such thing; and Sir Charles Lamb, who dashed up between the combatants, had quite enough to do to separate the pair.

A splendid ball and banquet was held in the evening, and Lord Eglinton announced that the tilting would be carried on with all spirit the following day, should the weather permit. The amusements in the field were not finished till after 7 P. M.

DOMESTIC DUTIES.—So entirely do human actions derive their dignity or their meanness from the motives by which they are prompted, that it is no violation of truth to say, the most servile drudgery may be ennobled by the self-sacrifice, the patience, the cheerful submission to duty, with which it is performed. Thus a high minded and intellectual woman is never more truly great than when willingly and judiciously performing kind offices for the sick; and much as may be said, and said justly, in praise of the public virtues of women, the voice of nature is so powerful in every human heart, that could the question of superiority on these two points be universally proposed, a response would be heard throughout the world, in favor of woman in her private and domestic character.