

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

NEW AND INTERESTING WORK.

"Six Months in Italy" is the title of a work which has lately appeared in Boston from the pen of GEORGE S. HILLARD. The author is an eminent lawyer of that city, who, amidst pressing professional avocations, has found time for the pursuit of letters; proofs of which he has given in various contributions to periodical literature, distinguished by the richness and refinement of their style, their wide range of observation, and their elevated tone of criticism.

Some few years since he paid a visit to Europe; and the fruits of it, or of a part of this tour, he now gives to the public under the rather unpromising title of "Six Months in Italy." In the present state of the world, when the power of steam has enabled the tourist to put a giraffe round the earth in almost as short a time as Puck, of fairy memory, was able to do, the press teems with six months' and six weeks' speculations of travel-mongers, destined, most of them, to live as short a time as that consumed in their composition.

The book before us is not of that class. However short may have been the period of the author's personal observation, the work is clearly the result of a much longer preparation. On every page of it he bears the marks of a rich and various scholarship, a philosophical spirit capable of penetrating and fairly estimating the character of foreign races and institutions, with no common power of critical analysis on the great topics of literature and art. Few men are so well accomplished for the difficult task which Mr. Hillard has undertaken.

After a few preliminary pages occupied with Lombardy, the tourist arrives at Venice, that sea-born capital so dear to the imagination of the Italian for the grand historic recollections of the Middle Ages, and still so interesting to English readers for the way it holds over the imagination in the realms of poetry and romance. All that is most worthy of a stranger's notice, the stately architecture of the city, its marble churches and palaces, with their long galleries of pictures; its noble public works, its arsenal, its bridges, its canals, its sad-colored gondolas, its picturesque and motley population, blending together the civilization of the East and the civilization of the West, all are depicted with those brilliant and animated touches that show the hand of a master.

On the paintings of the splendid Venetian school Mr. Hillard is diffuse. Indeed the paintings of Italy receive a large share of his attention throughout the work; quite as large, some readers may think, as is desirable. Yet how could a book be written on Italy without an ample notice of that art which, in a manner, constitutes the intellectual expression of the nation; the form in which the genius of the nation has most fully and most successfully been exerted? One might as well pass over the schools in a notice of New England, or the theatres in a notice of Paris.

It is true the tourist of the picture-gallery too often wanders with a mere catalogue of names, or at best by such a barren display of the technicalities of art and such cheap criticism on the styles of the different schools as may be easily picked up in less than six months' tour in the country. Such is not the case with Mr. Hillard, who brings to his work a mind endowed with a keen sensibility to the beautiful, and a judgment ripened by a careful comparison of the best models of art. Instead of wasting his strength on the mechanical execution, the material of the picture, he seizes the intellectual expression, and, taking it as the interpretation of the artist's character, he passes to the consideration of the peculiar attributes of his genius. Thus, in the course of the various works brought under review, he has rendered an eloquent but discriminating homage to the merits of the great Italian masters, such as is not easily to be found in works even professedly devoted to the arts. If his judgments may be thought sometimes delivered with too unhesitating an air, he at least is always ready with a good reason for his faith, showing throughout an acquaintance with the true principles of art. Even those who may differ from him in some of his conclusions will admit that he has been guided by a generous spirit of criticism, which, far from fastening on blemishes or on paltry details in his subject, directs his attention to what is most worthy of admiration, by this very proceeding showing a true relish for art, and his capacity to enter fully into the spirit of the artist.

Leaving Venice, Mr. Hillard took the usual route of travellers, passing in such places as had most in them to invite the attention of an intelligent visitor. At Florence he found of course abundant occupation in the study of her magnificent collections and in her beautiful environs. Such a traveller could not pass lightly by the birthplace of those kindred spirits in the sister arts of poetry and sculpture, Dante and Michael Angelo. It was Rome, however, the city of recollections, that furnished a theme most grateful to the pensive, contemplative spirit of the traveller. With feelings equally removed from the extravagance of Eustace and the cold and caustic temper of Forsyth, he surrenders himself with a generous enthusiasm to the genius of the place. As he wanders amidst its hoary ruins, he sheds the light of learning around them, unobscured by pedantry; while his plastic imagination, calling up the visions of the past, clothes the dry skeleton of its remains in all their primitive majesty and beauty. Here, too, he finds abundant scope for criticism in the collections of the numerous churches and palaces, above all the Vatican, so rich in the masterpieces of Raphael. But he finds ample time for speculation on other subjects than those connected with art. Nowhere do we recall so animated a picture as he has given of the occupations and amusements of the pleasure-loving Italians, of the Carnival in particular, entering into the saturnalia with joyous spirit worthy of a modern Roman. Then comes a glowing picture of the Campagna, that tract of desolate beauty spread out around the fallen city like a winding-sheet, on which nature has scattered her sweetest wild flowers. Finally, we have a disquisition on Roman agriculture, altogether too elaborate a composition to have been concocted in his six months' residence in the country.

Naples, with its sunny climate and glorious landscape, where nature has done so much and man so little, was a theme well suited to the powers of a writer possessed of so warm an imagination and so lively a sensibility to natural beauty. Her beautiful bay, her mountains, her promontories, the whole line of her magnificent coast, as seen lighted up in the glowing atmosphere of the South, are all painted, as far as words can paint, with a coloring as warm and as true to Italian nature as that of Claude.

In Mr. Hillard's descriptions of natural scenery there breathes a purity of sentiment, observable even in his descriptions of this soft, voluptuous climate, so intoxicating to the senses and so fatally propitious to the Sybaritic indulgence of the inhabitants. The same healthy moral tone is visible in his numerous criticisms on art; on those works, especially, thrown off by a wild and wanton imagination, in which the critic is sure to find some redeeming point on which to fix the attention of the reader, to the exclusion of those grosser attributes which serve only to stimulate the senses. This elevated moral tone, sweet and natural as it is, and allied devoid of austerity and affectation, gives an inexpressible charm to his work, and most prove, in the long run, no less than his literary merits, the means of commending it to public favor, and a conservative element to secure it from decay.

We have not time to follow our author further in the course of his rambles, or rather of his speculations, which take a range as wide and various as the objects that present themselves to his eye. He has particularly bestowed much pains in exploring the social habits and condition of the peasantry and poorer classes of the Italians, and in discussing the operation of their political institutions. In doing this he has more than once endeavored to throw light on the subject by a parallel between the Italians and ourselves. Yet no two nations would seem to be more dissimilar: the one, after twice running its career of glory, seems now to be drawing its mantle around it, as for a long repose; the other, in the normal

ing of promise, gathering up its youthful energies and preparing like a giant to run its course. The very dissimilarity of their position, in the contrast it suggests, furnishes the best means for a comparison.

The English character has afforded another parallel by which to illustrate the Italian—a subject elaborately discussed in his second volume. The skill with which it is treated shows the author's power of seizing the physiognomy of a nation and transferring it with great force and felicity to his canvass. It is rare that the English traveler has sat for his portrait to so faithful a hand.

The work concludes with a notice of some of the most important writers who, from the time of Petrarch, have portrayed, with more or less minuteness, the condition of Italy. The author's commentaries on his predecessors suggest some original and quite striking views of their characters as writers; and, as most of them were persons of high position in the republic of letters, the observations have additional interest, and form a welcome contribution to our stores of literary criticism.

The plan of Mr. Hillard's book is a novel one. It is neither a *manuel du voyageur* nor a literary or philosophical disquisition on the country. It is something compounded of all these, and for that reason perhaps better suited to obtain a large and lasting popularity than if devoted to one or other of the subjects exclusively. On many of the pages we meet with foot-notes, which, to our thinking, are out of place, at least to any great amount, in a work like this. In a professed historical work notes may be of service to the writer as affording him the means of making critical remarks which in the text would break the thread of the narrative, and also of introducing matter occasionally, which, from its familiar character, might fall too much below the dignity of the true historical column. But Mr. Hillard's book is on too familiar a plan itself to admit of this; and it is, moreover, too rambling and discursive in its style to plan to suffer from the intrusion of any epistolical matter into the text. Where there is no story, there is no thread of interest to be broken. In nine cases out of ten it would be better, instead of thus awkwardly resorting to notes at the bottom of the page, to have incorporated their substance in the body of the text.

The style of the work with many a reader of epicurean refinement, who attaches more value to the form than to the *fond*, will constitute its greatest charm. It is in writing what the Corinthian capital is in architecture, the most luxurious and finished form of expression. Full, flexible, and harmonious, it is rich in exuberance, but with nothing in it tawdry or meretricious. The poetic fancy of the author overflows in similes which sparkle along his pages—serving, however, the perfection of a simile, to illustrate quite as much as to adorn. Mr. Hillard is a master of language, and employs his many-colored epithets with the skill of a great artist. The transparent flow of his diction reflects, as from a mirror, every hue of the scenery through which he passes. This easy fluency of expression may suggest the idea of facility of composition, leading the reader to suppose that it must have welled out, as it were, spontaneously from the fountain of the author's mind. But the elaborate finish of the performance refutes the supposition. Boileau boasts somewhere, in allusion to the soft and flexible composition of Racine, that he had "taught him to write with difficulty." "*Facile versu, hic costant tenet pena.*" Easy verses that cost so much labor, says a modern Italian bard, condensing the idea happily into a line. This elaborate artifice might be charged by a querulous critic as a blemish on Mr. Hillard's style of writing. It may remind one of the cultivated English landscape, the parks and the lawns, smoothed with the roller, shaven from the scythe, with almost every dried leaf combed away from their surface, giving the turf the gloss and smoothness of velvet, until the traveller sighs for something, were it only a bit of ragged rock or broken fence, to vary the monotonous beauty of the scenery.

But instead of dwelling on such trivial faults—the greatest of which would seem to be the want of fault—the better to adopt a more generous criticism, and turn to what is worthy of admiration in these volumes. It has not been our purpose to write a panegyric. But the perusal of the work, which has revived the faded recollections of other years, has given us such sincere delight that we have been desirous to commend the perusal of it to others. Of one thing we cannot doubt: while the book, in obedience to its title, supplies the reader with such a lively picture of modern Italy as may serve the purpose of a temporary amusement, it is destined, by its stores of solid instruction, its curious criticisms, and the beautiful forms in which they are conveyed, to take a permanent place among the classics of American literature.

THE NEW AMERICAN MINISTER IN ENGLAND.

FROM THE LIVERPOOL COVERT.

The Liverpool American Chamber of Commerce forwarded an invitation to the Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN, the new Ambassador to the United States to this country, immediately after his arrival in England. The following reply has been received from him, from which it will be seen that he is not able to accept the invitation at present. It will be seen that Mr. BUCHANAN's letter contains somewhat fully into several questions of interest. It is as follows:

UNITED STATES LEGATION.

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 5, 1853.
SIR: I have had the honor to receive the resolution adopted on the 20th ultimo by the American Chamber of Commerce at Liverpool, inviting me to a banquet to be given by them, as a mark of respect and welcome upon my appointment as Minister of the United States of America to England, and requesting me to name a day when it will best suit my convenience to attend.

While highly and gratefully appreciating this honor, I regret that it is impossible for me, with a due regard to my public duties in London, to say when, if at all, their kind invitation could be accepted. I feel, therefore, constrained respectfully to decline it. In doing this, however, I beg to assure them that no man in either country estimates more highly than myself the commerce conducted between Liverpool and the United States; and no man more ardently desires that it may long continue to extend itself in peace and prosperity, and to confer mutual benefits upon both nations.

The period in the world's history seems at length to have arrived when mankind have discovered that narrow selfishness and restriction upon foreign trade must surely defeat their own object, and when selfishness itself is enlisted in favor of a liberal policy. The philanthropist at the same time rejoices in the knowledge that the mutual dependence which commerce creates between nations is a sure prevention of war, by rendering peace the interest of all. For my own part, I firmly believe that the unsettled questions known to exist between Great Britain and the United States, judged alone according to the value of the material interests involved, are not worth six months' suspension of the trade between the two countries. It is therefore to be greatly to be regretted that these questions should be speedily, honorably, and finally adjusted, and that hereafter both nations should enjoy a smooth sea and a cloudless sky for friendly competition in all the pursuits calculated to enlighten and benefit the human race. The greatest revolution, so far as the interest of commerce and manufactures is concerned, which has ever been commenced among men is that now apparently in successful progress in China. Should this terminate in opening a free access to that vast empire of three hundred millions of human beings, the United States and Great Britain will have a harvest presented before them which, even with all their energy, enterprise, and resources, they will scarcely be able to reap. Then will a noble and generous rivalry also spring up between them which shall contribute most effectually to promote the cause of Christianity, civilization, and freedom among this ancient and strange people.

With sentiments of great respect, I remain your obedient servant,
JAMES BUCHANAN.
WILLIAM BROWN, Esq., M. P., Chairman, &c.

A DISTRESSING CASE.—A case more melancholy than that so recently recorded occurred in Baltimore on Friday morning. Mrs. Bourne, a married lady, residing in Granby street, has been for some time laboring under a depression of spirits, amounting to destruction of intellect. Yesterday morning she administered to her five children, and took some herself, a quantity of chloroform, not by inhalation, but by drinking the liquid. The consequence was the death of the oldest child, a boy aged about seven years, and the very serious illness of all those who partook. Dr. Tharp was soon in attendance, and did what he could for their relief, and up to a late hour yesterday evening no further deaths had occurred, and there were prospects of recovery.—*Sm.*

CONVICTION FOR CARELESS DRIVING.—William Walker, a free person of color, has been convicted of manslaughter in Charleston, South Carolina, for causing the death of the child of Cornelius O'Sullivan by carelessly driving his dray.

THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

Reminiscences of a Septuagenarian Retired Officer.

OSWEGO, SEPT. 26, 1853.

The propriety of giving an education to any of the youth at the public expense had been long questioned on the floor of Congress, and under that assumption, and the danger of "standing armies in time of peace," the United States military school was deemed by a large party to be an unconstitutional establishment, and the Academy at West Point had well-nigh died by neglect in making timely appropriations for its support. This neglect had produced a species of apathy in Congress, until the campaigns of Gen. Scott and President Taylor in Mexico had demonstrated the utility, nay indispensable necessity, of that institution. From that day the efforts to destroy the school have ceased in Congress.

The Military Academy at West Point owes its origin to the sagacity of WASHINGTON. The last letter written by him was addressed to Alexander Hamilton on the 12th of December, 1793, two days before the death of Washington; that letter commends earnestly the subject of a national military school. To prepare in peace for the exigencies of war had occupied the thoughts of Washington, especially at the cantonment of Newburg in 1783. At that time he consulted those military minds about him, in whose judgment he had relied, as to the best means of preserving a memory of the experience in the war just then closing, and also to provide for a school to teach a portion of the youth of the country the elements of war in time of peace. Among others Gen. Jared Huntington, of Connecticut, wrote in reply his opinion—the letter is now in transcript in the hands of the writer of this—that "West Point, on the Hudson, was a suitable site for a military school," and also "for an arsenal and storehouses to receive the arms and other trophies of the war then closing." After the peace of 1783 and during the Confederacy provision was made by Congress to retain a small number of troops to keep in order the fortifications on the frontier. Early after the organization of the Federal Government President Washington advised Congress, in 1794, to provide for professors in the arts and sciences to instruct the young officers and cadets of the corps of artillery. Books and apparatus were accordingly provided and sent to West Point, and then one regiment of artillery was marched to "the Point" in order that its subalterns might be instructed by the elder officers of that corps, two of whom, Col. Rochefort and Major Rivoli, had been educated in the schools of France. Like other young aspirants, the subalterns often imagined themselves to be too far advanced in knowledge to submit to the drudgery of a school; about which time, to wit, 1795, the "old provost"—the incontinent academic edifice at West Point—looked free and was consumed, with all its contents of books and apparatus. Congress did not repair this loss, nor did it respond to the recommendations of Washington to that effect, as found in the plans of Knox and McHenry, his ministers. In the succeeding administration of Mr. Adams a small provision was made by law, of 1798, to increase the number of cadets and to form a corps of engineers. But the principal military objects of Mr. Adams were directed to the resistance of the aggressions of France and to the organization of the "right arm of our national defense"—a navy; and it was not until the advent of Mr. Jefferson to the Presidency that a revival of the school at West Point was essayed, in 1801.

The cause of not promoting Col. Williams was somewhat political, but *far more* spiritual. He was a Federalist of the Washington school, but his good sense had excluded politics at West Point, by infusing into the minds of the cadets the just ideas of their national character—a blessing that has descended with time at West Point. But of the spleen above alluded to, Col. W. had been one of the thirteen who tried Gen. Wilkinson; that body of men had been slandered by —, as being partial to Wilkinson. This slander had been nourished by a narrow prejudice, and had influence in the promotion of gentlemen at the opening of the war of 1812; but of that we need say no more just now, but proceed.

In the year of 1801 Gen. Dearborn, the Secretary of War, had concentrated at West Point the few cadets of the army to receive instruction from Professor Baron, who introduced the black board at the school. He was a learned mathematician, and had been the class-mate of Charles Hutton, the celebrated teacher at the Woolwich Academy, in England. The result of Mr. Baron's essay had convinced Mr. Jefferson that the academy required a military superintendent, and a happy selection was made in the person of Major Jonathan Williams, the then inspector of artillery and fortifications, and who, as Mr. Jefferson said, combined many of the personal and scientific qualifications of Dr. Franklin, and he was a kinsman of the Doctor, and had been the agent of the United States in France during the embassy of Franklin. His association with the Doctor gave him facilities to inspect the military schools of France. This advantage, in after days, enabled Major Williams to prepare elementary works on artillery and fortification for the use of the school at West Point. At the close of the year 1801 the Major took charge of the school. The general knowledge of this accomplished gentleman, his polished manners, and a liberal hospitality had combined to add his devotion to the success of the school. In the following year of 1802 the institution was improved and extended in its organization by law of Congress, and in the fall of that year the school had commenced to send forth its graduates. But unhappily a party arose in Congress that spoke of doubts of the constitutionality of providing for the academy. The War Department became apathetic in reference to West Point, and Col. Williams became dissatisfied and retired from the academy and the army. However, at the instance of Mr. Jefferson, the Colonel resumed his commission, and endeavored to infuse confidence and favor towards the academy among members of Congress. The institution advanced slowly until the approach of the war of 1812, when the Government declined to give Col. Williams that rank in the army to which his merits entitled him. The cause of this neglect need not be recounted here; suffice it to say, they were never justified, and the neglect caused Col. Williams to resign his commission. The benefit of this gentleman's exertions at West Point was evinced in the number of "its sons" sent forth to aid in the "second War of Independence," every one of whom received brevet honors for their services; many of them fell in battle. These evidences of the usefulness of elementary instruction in the art of war had moderated the opposition of Congress, and appropriations had given permanency to a few plain academic buildings at West Point. Yet the fostering aid to the institution which had been contemplated by Washington was tardy in its application. At the close of the war of 1812 the pecuniary credit of the Government had become so questionable that Treasury notes could not be used to sustain the academy. The institution came to the verge of disbandment. During this emergency a chief engineer received from the Executive an authority to negotiate a loan to sustain the academy, but that officer could not find among the moneyed institutions of New York a willingness to advance the requisite sum of money. In this exigency that officer met a patriotic citizen, Mr. Jacob Barker, and informed him of the inability to negotiate the requisite loan. Mr. Barker requested to know how much would be required to sustain the academy, and was informed that \$65,000 would meet the objects desired, and to liquidate some debts that had been incurred. Whereupon Mr. B. authorized the engineer to draw on him for the amount in subdivided sums weekly, by which means the Military Academy was saved from disbandment. Had it been then disbanded the tone and temper of the times may have long delayed its reorganization. This act of patriotism on the part of Mr. Barker deserves a niche in our history; it was also a disinterested act, for Mr. Barker was not repaid his loan for several years, and when repaid by the Government he received only the ordinary legal interest on the loan. Enough for the present.

EARTHQUAKE AT SEA.—The *Lady Franklin*, Holmes, which arrived at Queenstown on the 13th of September from Akrah, reports having felt a heavy shock of an earthquake, which made the ship tremble all over, on the 11th August, in lat. 17° N., lon. 27° W.

ARMY ORDERS.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 26, 1853.

I. The following movements of troops are ordered by the Secretary of War, and will be carried into effect in the manner hereinafter directed:

1. The companies of the 1st Artillery, (B, G, E, and H), at Forts Myer and Meade, to exchange stations with the companies of 24 Artillery, (C, G, E, and K), now at Forts Monroe, Virginia, and Moultrie, South Carolina.
2. Companies C, G, F, 1st Artillery, from Baton Rouge and Camp Twiggs to the Rio Grande, to report to the commander of the 8th Department.
3. Company D, 1st Artillery, from Barrancas barracks to Fort Capron, East Florida.
4. The four companies of the 24 Artillery, now in East Florida, be posted, one at Barrancas and one at Baton Rouge barracks.
5. The six companies of the 3d Artillery, (A, D, G, H, I, and K), now at Fort Sullivan, Preble, Constitution, Independence, Adams, and Trumbull, to concentrate in the harbor of New York, and proceed to the Pacific division, via Cape Horn.
6. Light Company C, 3d Artillery, from Jefferson barracks, to Fort Gibson, C. N., to leave before the arrival at the former place of the recruits, &c., from Carlisle barracks.

7. The three companies of the 4th Artillery, (C, E, and I), now at Fort Wood, Milford, and Washington, to take post, one at Fort Hamilton, New York, and two at Fort Independence, Massachusetts.
8. The privates of the 2d Infantry to be transferred to companies of other regiments serving in California, and the officers and non-commissioned officers to come to the Atlantic coast to recruit their companies.
9. The headquarters of the 1st Artillery to be at Fort Monroe, Virginia; of the 2d at Pensacola, Florida; and of the 4th in the harbor of New York.
10. Brevet Lieut. Col. John Monroe, Major 2d Artillery, to be assigned to the command of the troops in the Peninsula of Florida.

One of the Majors of the 3d Artillery to be assigned to duty with the companies of that regiment serving in the Eighth Department. The other field officers to accompany the regiment to the Pacific division.

11. It is further ordered that the following named posts shall be abandoned and turned over to the proper Department: Forts Sullivan, Preble, Constitution, Adams, Trumbull, Washington, New Smyrna, East Florida, and New Orleans barracks; and that the commands of the First, Third, and Fourth Military Departments be suspended.

The particular companies of the 1st Artillery to go respectively to the posts of Forts Monroe, those of the 2d, to go to Forts Myer and Meade, Barrancas and Baton Rouge barracks; of the 4th, to Forts Hamilton and Independence; and the field officers of the 3d, to serve the companies of the 1st Artillery to be immediately reported to Division and General Headquarters.

The movement of the companies, and the headquarters of the 2d Artillery to Florida, will be made under the direction of the commanding officer of the regiment, so as to arrive at their respective stations by the 15th of November next.

On being relieved by the companies of the 2d, the companies and headquarters of the 1st Artillery will proceed to their stations at Forts Monroe and Moultrie.

The movements of the troops in Florida, and the transfer of the companies of the 1st Artillery to Texas, will be made after the close of the sickly season at the South, and under the direction of the general commanding the Western Division, who will also give the necessary instructions for sending the companies of the 1st Artillery to the four Military Departments.

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel John Monroe will relieve Brevet Brigadier-General Thomas Childs in the command of the troops in the Peninsula of Florida on the 15th of November.

The commanding officers of Forts Washington, Milford, and Wood will, on the 15th of November, take post, and proceed with their companies to the stations which shall be designated by their regimental commander.

The commanding officer of the First Department, and those of Forts Sullivan, Preble, Constitution, Independence, Adams, Forts Hamilton and Moultrie, will, without delay, evacuate those posts and with their companies report to Fort Columbus; whence, except the field officer to serve in Texas, they will proceed as soon as practicable, via Cape Horn, to the Pacific Divisions. The Colonel of the Regiment will receive further instructions for his government from these headquarters.

Officers on leave of absence, or under orders to join, belonging to the companies of the 3d Artillery ordered to the Pacific, will forthwith repair to Fort Columbus.

The general commanding the sixth department will give the necessary orders, and the commanding officer of light company C, third artillery, to Fort Gibson, by such route as he may consider best.

On being evacuated by their present garrisons, Forts Sullivan, Preble, Constitution, Adams, Trumbull, Milford, Washington, New Smyrna, East Florida, and New Orleans barracks will be taken charge of by the Quartermaster's department. Fort Wood will remain in charge of the engineer department.

On receipt of this order, the command of the first, third, and fourth departments will be suspended. The Colonel of the 4th Artillery will repair to the headquarters of the regiment of this city.

The General commanding the Pacific division will, on the receipt hereof, make such arrangements (by transfers, breaking up companies, or otherwise) as the Government will allow to send immediately to the East such of the officers and non-commissioned officers of the 2d Infantry as can be conveniently spared to report to the superintendent of the general recruiting service in this city. The remaining officers and non-commissioned officers will be sent with similar orders as soon as they shall be relieved by the 3d Artillery.

The musicians and privates of the regiment will be transferred at such time and to such companies in California as the division commander may designate.

The necessary supplies and transportation will be furnished by the proper departments.

By command of Major-General Scott.
L. THOMAS, Asst. Adj't-General.

CRIMINAL LIABILITY OF RAILROAD AGENTS.

At a recent term of the Oyer and Terminer for Dutchess county, New York, the presiding Justice, BARBOUR, called the attention of the Grand Jury to the principles of law relating to railroad disasters, and insisted on the strict enforcement of the law in every case of disaster.

1. That the engineers, conductors, and other persons, through whose negligence or want of care a human life is destroyed, are *individually and personally* liable to indictment and punishment for murder or manslaughter.
2. That the engineer, being the person who actually sets the train in motion, is *primarily* liable; but that the conductor may also become liable with the engineer, if he orders the train started improperly; though such orders will not justify or excuse the engineer for starting or running in a way to expose his train to collision, &c.
3. That in matters where human life is involved there are no questions as to principle or agents; but every individual must watch over his own conduct, and see that it is prudent and careful; and he cannot fall back upon any authority as a justification or excuse for causing the death of a human being.

That the "Tragic" of the superintendent of a railroad is the rule by which all inferior officers and agents are to be governed in running their trains, and that whenever, by deviating therefrom, an accident occurs, it is occasioned by the "wrongful act, neglect, or default" of all who participate in causing such deviation, and they are to be held to an individual, personal accountability for such act.

That engineers and conductors are bound to be familiar with the "Time Table," and to regulate their conduct accordingly; and whenever an engineer is required to run a train at a specified time, he is bound to do so, and in case he finds it impossible to reach the next station before a train is due there, he should switch his engine off from the track and wait until the expected train has passed.

That, considering the great responsibility of their positions, and the awful consequences of a departure from a safe course, the law must exact from those who have the control and management of passenger trains the utmost skill, care, and diligence.

EDGEHILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
Princeton, N. J.

THIS Institution, under the supervision of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, will commence its next session on Wednesday, November 23d, 1853.

The location is retired and healthy, the grounds extensive, and the buildings large. A carefully selected library is attached to the school, and will be increased from time to time, as the interest of the pupils may require.

In the teaching department the Principal will be aided by thoroughly competent assistants. No pains will be spared to afford every facility for a thorough preparation for college or for business life.

The moral character and religious instruction of the pupils is an object of especial solicitude and labor, and all the arrangements of the school are made with reference to the formation of good habits and the inculcation of correct principles.

The School Year begins on the first Wednesday of November, and is divided into two sessions of twenty-one weeks each. Vacations in the month of April and August.

Terms \$225 per annum, payable half yearly in advance. For further particulars apply to
sep 10—8538 Rev. L. W. CATTELL, Principal.

FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 15, 1853.

London life, in the scenes which it daily exhibits and the events which its journals every day record, presents so many things of a directly contradictory nature that we can scarcely imagine what would be the decision of a traveller who was taking notes upon this great metropolis, with a view of constructing a representation of its condition, the social and moral character of its people, and the nature of its legal and municipal enactments, as deducible from their administration. Let us take a glance at the proceedings of the Police Courts, as exhibited by yesterday's proceedings.

Our traveller would scarcely believe the record which testified that a thief, who stole two cod fish and three haddock, was punished by a year's imprisonment and hard labor, whilst a wretch who made a murderous attack upon a police officer, which placed his life in danger, was mulcted 10s. He would read, however, in the same column, that the enlightened magistrates of London, in the middle of the nineteenth century, punish the pilfer of eighteen pence with penal servitude for four years, whilst a brute, who half murders a woman, is "staggered" at the severity of a sentence which dooms him to six weeks' hard labor. He would next find that the man who appropriates about two pence of flour pays for such appropriation by four years' penal servitude, whilst a ferocious brute who bites and kicks policemen, and tears the clothes off their backs, has the choice of either paying £3 10s. for his amusement, or undergoing imprisonment for six weeks. Can we doubt what would be the conclusions our traveller would arrive at? Could he hesitate to determine that Englishmen were a people who valued property above all other things, and were careless to a strange degree about human life, or at least human pain? He would look upon the English as a blood-thirsty nation, caring little about suffering or death, but a great deal about money; and would conclude, not without a shudder, that so long as an Englishman preserved his property he cared little about protection to his person. He would be reminded of the old anecdote in *Jos. Miller* of the sailor, who, when threatened by the highway-man that "if he did not deliver up his purse he would blow his brains out," replied, "fire away; I would rather be without brains than money."

All that can be urged against such conclusions would be that they are unavailing whilst the daily police reports narrate such an award of punishments as we have recorded. Might not a file of any of the daily papers be brought in support of the traveller's conclusions still more strongly? We think the people of London ought to do something, not only for the sake of common humanity, but for the vindication of the national character, to wipe off this stain, and prove to the world and posterity, by an alteration of the laws, that the Englishman of the nineteenth century had a better knowledge of the relative value of life and property than might be inferred from the present administration of the penal code.

We have great hopes that the opening of the new "Great Exhibition," which will certainly take place next year, will be a memorable epoch in the history of popular culture; that it will be a more efficient corrector of public morals and manners than any penal code, however formed and however administered, could possibly be; that it will prove a most successful experiment; and that, being so, it will have its representative in every metropolis, and probably in every great city in the civilized world.

It is no mean honor to England to have set this great example of catering for a nation's amusement in an enlarged, a national, and a truly worthy way. It was, indeed, high time that such an experiment should be set on foot. The theatre, very frequently a questionable and always an expensive combination of amusement and instruction, is practically no more. One by one nearly all the feasts and festivals, the merry-makings and fairs have died out. There is an almost more than puritanic dearth of amusement, for the dearth is not one of principle merely, but it arises from the incapacity to derive pleasure from the old sources. The gin shop and the tavern reap from a certain class the harvest of this indifference and joylessness. This apathy is too apt to result in profligacy, and both are too deeply rooted in the mental habits of thousands to be removed by any but somewhat startling means. Rome, when she had reached her height and almost excess of civilization, met the popular cry for exciting amusement by gladiatorial fights and shows of men and beasts destroying and devouring each other. SPAIN, at the present day, provides ball-fights for her people. *Enutes* and revolutions have been—may we hope their day is past!—the safety-valves of FRANCE; whilst the novelties and abstractions of pseudo-philosophy serve a like purpose for the morbidly thoughtful and inactive GERMANS. Your often-recurring elections and frequent State and town meetings prevent too great an accumulation of *ennui*. ENGLAND alone has no broadly-recognised source for the wearisomeness of perpetual war. The gin shop affords to too many of the laboring classes a most mischievous remedy. DICKENS, THACKERAY, and one or two other popular writers have a wide, but not wide enough, sphere of beneficial action. Political agitation, owing to the want of education and adaptation, through unpreparedness, has neither so safe nor so general an application as it has with you; nor do Englishmen, as a general rule, possess the *capacitas verborum*, the "gift of the gab," nearly so plenteously as their transatlantic cousins do. The Literary Societies and Mechanics' Institutes too often sink into ineffectual dilettantisms. There is nothing in England to compare with the gladiatorial shows of Rome, the ball-fights of Spain, French revolutions, or German philosophy, in the way of palliatives of national *ennui*. It is to be hoped that the noble work which is going on at Sydneyham will furnish this effectual, wholesome, and permanent desideratum.

The money market and the harvest, the cholera, and the Russia and Turkey dispute are yet the great agitating questions here; and well they may be, for prosperity, plenty, health, and peace are the four principal supports of all that is dear to man, either individually or nationally. To say that any of these great elements of happiness are at present perfectly out of danger would be asserting too much. And first, of that great criterion of commercial prosperity, the money market, the returns of the Bank of England show:

Circulation.....	£22,465,945	Decrease.....	£310,360
Public deposits.....	4,701,208	Decrease.....	16,013
Private deposits.....	1,017,313	Decrease.....	116,043
Discount advances.....	14,546,194	Increase.....	715,250
Coin and bullion.....	16,500,098	Decrease.....	