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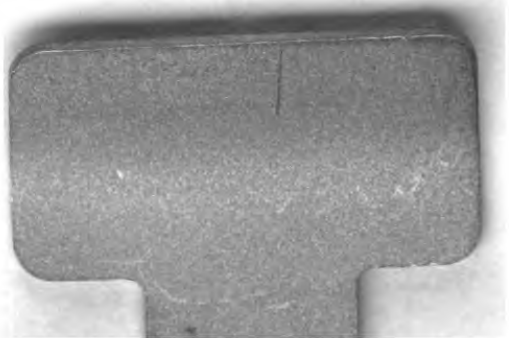
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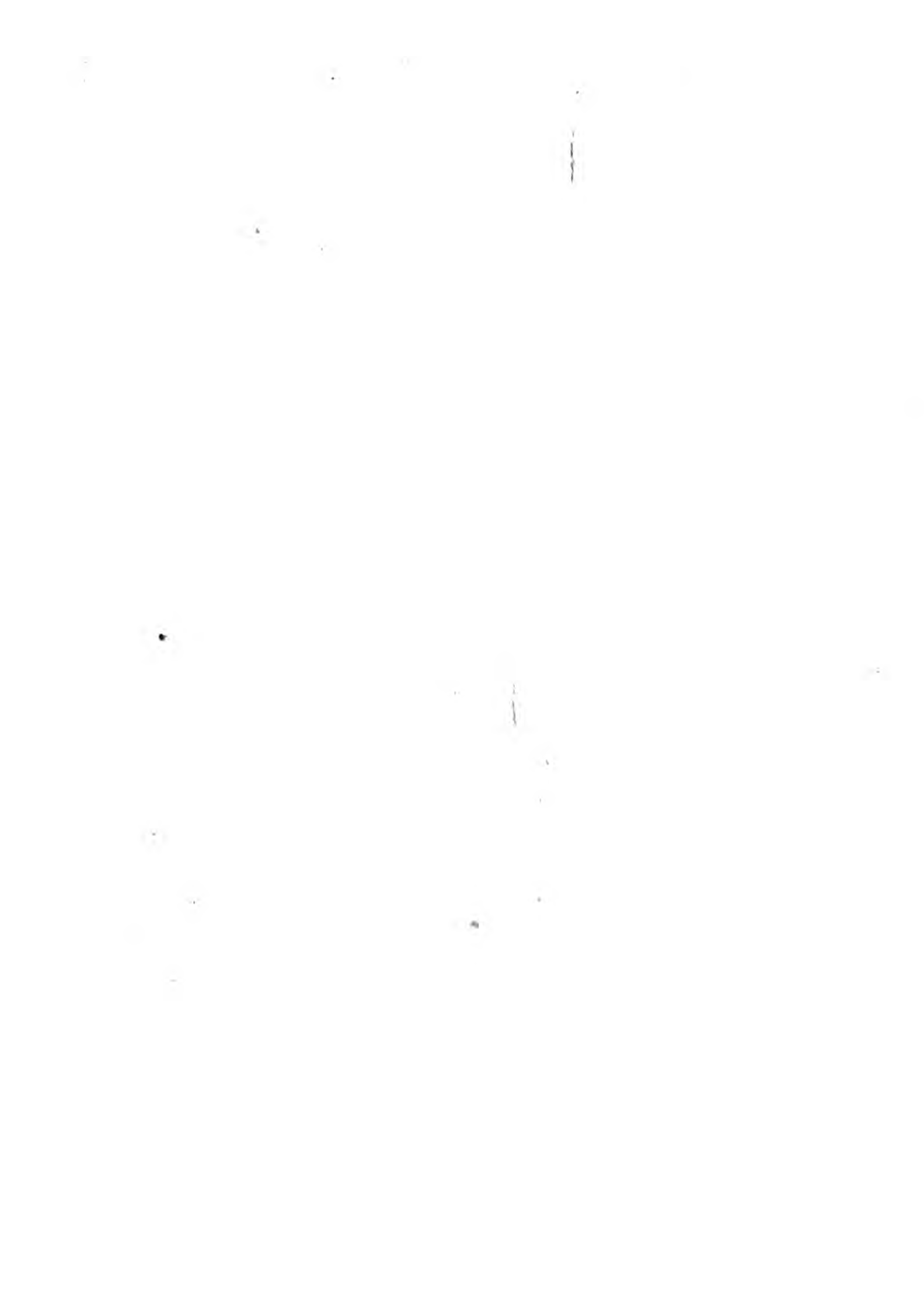




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ILLUSTRATED



Men Maidens and Ma
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BY

JOHN ASHTON.

WITH THIRTY-FOUR CONTEMPORARY ILLUSTRATIONS

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MEN, MAIDENS AND MANNERS A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

CHAPTER I.

JANUARY.

THE last century was, indeed, one of wonders! One scarcely knows where, or how, to begin chronicling them. No matter what turn, the marvels of that hundred years are simply astounding. The population, for instance—which a hundred years since was almost impossible to get at with certainty, as the first regularly conducted census was not taken till 1801. We may assume, at all events, that the population of Great Britain and Ireland was smaller a century ago than it is now when it stood at 15,717,287. Our last Census taken was in

the numbers were 53,067,495. This does not include the subjects who have left their parent shore, to go to India, America, Australia, and in fact all over the world, nor does it embrace troops in service abroad, travellers, or sailors at sea. A hundred years ago our Colonies were unknown. The vast continent of America, and the enormous extent of Canada, were not inhabited, as now, by man. India was only just being nibbled at. The wonderful force of steam, principally known through the medium of Papin's Digesters, was dreamed of the mighty giant which it has since become—no longer a novelty, having reached its apogee, and commencing to yield to its more known, and subtler rival, Electricity, about which the good folks of the last century thought that it was identical with lightning, for had not Benjamin Franklin demonstrated that fact? But they did not know how to apply the force, or make it subservient to man's uses. Galvanism was not known, and the voltaic pile was introduced in 1800. Literature, Art, and Science have made wonderful strides; in fact, in the latter it is hardly possible to keep pace with the discoveries in any branch. A voyage round the globe is now a holiday trip; and every nook and corner of the globe is being explored and ransacked by the ubiquitous Briton.

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Our great-grandfathers stayed at home; the means of inland were very rude, almost all journeys being made on horseback, the roads were something awful. There was nothing to tempt one to take a sea voyage, for the ships were small, and very high out of the water, which made them roll fearfully, and of such a build for speed, that a voyage to India took best part of a year to perform. A few young gentlemen of the upper classes went the "grand tour," as it was called, upon the continent, visiting France, Spain, Italy, and Austria; but seldom going outside of well-defined limits. Our great-grandfathers never were in a hurry, they had no trains to catch; telegraphs and telephones were unknown, there was little speculation, and of the fever of the Stock Exchange they were almost entirely ignorant. Those engaged in trade lived, as a rule, in their place of business; and began work early in the morning, and finished much later than our merchants do. Then long letters were written, and a man had a long day before him, and not too much to do. Men did not make the colossal fortunes of modern times, but they plodded away and amassed a competence after a life's work, which was not too much to be contented with their lots, and were certainly as happy as we are.

Dress in January, 1787, was decidedly more picturesque

present time, as we see by the accompanying illustrations. In the lady's hat we recognize the fact that Gainsborough was still alive ; and both



gentleman and lady are depicted as adopting the foolish fashion, then in vogue, of wearing two watches. We have seen, during the present and the past two years, some remarkably *bouffée* costumes ; but the caricature shown on p. 5 exceeds even the curious

fashion now in use. The hat and course, exaggerated ; but otherwise are as then worn. The gentleman is dressed, having his wig clubbed, a



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was yielding to the head-dress of the Macaroni; and he
him the redoubtable cudgel, which was then "quite
the thing," both in England and France.

January, 1787, opened with very cold weather. The frosts on the Continent had been intense; the Danube, near Vienna, having been frozen over



nearly caused a famine; and, in Denmark, many perished
rigour of the winter. In Scotland and Ireland, and in
England, storms and gusts of wind were more violent and

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than had been experienced for many years previously, and more wrecks than usual on the coast, involving great loss of life.

Whilst on this subject, it may be mentioned that the earth last year had their counterpart—*in petto*, in 1787—for we read on January 6 a shock of earthquake was felt in the parishes of C Strathblane, near Glasgow. A brook, on which was a mill, became dry; in several places doors that had been locked, were open; and, at Netherton, the houses shook so violently that the people sought safety in fields; but no damage was sustained. The shock was also felt at Kilpatrick, Killcam, and Tintray.

Politically speaking, things were much as they are now. Great Britain is pursuing her policy of aggression—vide *Morning Chronicle*, Jan. 1854. “At the present period, when the maritime powers of Europe are striving for the prosperity of their States on the basis of commerce, each of them is anxious to incline the balance in their own favour. Russia (too high to stoop) would ward to send her fleets to India by the Cape of Good Hope, and to enter into a competition with the nations more favourably situated) has discovered herself a route formerly known to the Romans and the Germans. She now makes her ships descend by the Volga to the Caspian Sea, and

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chants endeavour to draw towards them the merchandise of northern provinces of the Mogul Empire. The beautiful Guilau have already become the objects of their speculation. Empress Catherine II. will doubtless, on the first revolution, be mistress of those rich countries."

With France, under Louis XVI., we were good friends ; and in 1763, a Convention was signed between England and France, and in 1786, a Treaty of Commerce between the two nations, which was concluded at Versailles, September 26, 1786. And, on January 23, 1791, the *Droit de Mort* was abolished in France, as far as it affected the subjects of England and Ireland. This was a right, by virtue of which the sovereign could dispose of the property of an unnaturalized foreigner who died in his dominions.

Ireland, of course, was in its chronic state of disturbance, and the refusal of tithes—(*Morning Chronicle*, January 19)—"Dublin, January 19, 1791, account of the refusal of tithes in the north is an alarming circumstance. Yesterday's post we learn that it is not confined to one parish, but has spread much farther, several others having followed the example, and a considerable exertion is made to render the opposition to the payment of tithes universal throughout that province. The outrageous among

of the south carried not so serious an air of mischief, because the of payment was confined merely to the lower order of the people when we find some parishes entering into systematical resolutions north to pay no tithes whatever, matters wear a more rigid aspect. A lucky circumstance, however, that the sitting of Parliament is immediately at hand, to adopt proper measures for applying a remedy to

In 1787 there was a great shaking of dry bones anent the slave trade and Clarkson, Hoare, Wilberforce, Granville Sharp, and others exerted their utmost to abolish this infamous traffic ; and, on January 13, 1787, chairman of the committee for relieving and providing a settlement for the black poor, had an interview with Mr. Pitt, when he laid before him the proceedings of the committee, with which the Minister expressed his satisfaction. Two ships, having as many indigent blacks on board as could be collected, sailed that day for Sierra Leone, in order to form a settlement. Needless to say that this act of benevolence was treated as a political caricature. Nothing is sacred to the satirist.

Now for a few things social. Take for instance, on January 13, 1787, a cockney hunt in the true cockney style entertained all the boys and girls in the vicinity of Pancras. At ten o'clock about four brace of w

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were put into a stable in that neighbourhood, and from eleven to twelve two they were turned out one by one, and hunted by beagle to the sport and satisfaction of several gentlemen from Newgate Road, etc., who set out early from home to partake of the chase. A good dinner, and a bottle at the Adam and Eves, [Hampstead and Euston Road, then a celebrated public-house, and the gardens], closed the diversions of the day, and Dian's palanquin to light the hunters home by midnight."

In the *World*, under date January 11, is the following:—
of the name of Stott, who live at Wookey, being equally captivated by the charms of a female of Wells, the daughter of a Mr. L. Both brothers paid their addresses to her, when the elder brother, perceiving the younger manifested a partiality for the younger, declared that, unless she would accept his hand, he would hang himself. The tender-hearted mother, to prevent so melancholy a catastrophe, promised to gratify the younger, and they were accordingly married on Tuesday se'nnight; but soon found themselves so much deceived in each other that, in the end, last, the husband actually sold his bride (with her own approval) for a crown to his brother, to whom he, that evening, delivered her.

round her neck, in the presence of a large party, at a public-house, purchase-money contributed towards the expenses of a convivial

Their ideas of cricket varied from ours, for a match for which the Duke of York, together with many of the nobility, was played on Christmas Eve, 1786.

The police of that time was scandalous, and the men then fully alive to the fact ; thus, in the *Morning Chronicle*, January 2, adjacent St. Paul's Churchyard :—"The lamps along the palisade which skulk many a plunderer, are thinly scattered, and, from the feeble light they give, are no better than so many farthing candles when the wind is high, are often blown out ; and it is a notorious fact there is not one watch-box from Ludgate Street to Watling Street on this side, or from Ludgate Street to Cheapside on the other ; so that, once in half an hour, a watchman is never seen, and then he vanishes a few yards till he turns up some passage, and is lost." And in the Court of Aldermen, held January 31, the Sheriffs were instructed on the Secretary of State, and ask him to have the prisoners condemned to transportation removed from Newgate, as that jail was so crowded that the health of the other prisoners was endangered.

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CHAPTER II.

FEBRUARY.

THIS month opens with gratulations on the state of trade, with hopes of the satisfactory working of the new Commerce with France ; and we read in the *Morning Chronicle*, February 18, three articles of wool, metals, and coals, the British have a pre-eminence over the French ; and that they have will soon become the commencement of the competition which our manufacturers now look for. The French have, at all times, experienced success in obtaining materials to constitute the fabric of their cloths. They have thought it worth while to run all the hazards of smuggling from England. Their iron-works, of every description, are infinitely more complete and useful than ours. As to coals, they have none in their dominions." But this was written a century ago. Since the introduction of Free Trade and foreign bounties, *nous avons changé tout cela*

time they were cock-a-hoop at the trade they were going to. British-manufactured broad-cloth was to undersell the French in the markets, by twenty-five per cent.; and they pointed out that the three large cloth mercers in London had in either of their shops more cloth than was in the whole city of Paris. The French Revolution and subsequent long war with France rudely dispelled these Alnasclars.

The homely old King was very popular with the people, his simplicity delighted them—there was nothing “stuck-up” about him; he was a regular “John Bull,” and, in the country, and at Windsor, he was always among the people, clad very simply—very seldom wearing anything more than the Windsor uniform, which was a broad-skirted frock coat of blue cloth, with scarlet collar and cuffs; a dress which, somewhat in shape, is still retained at Court. Many were the anecdotes told of how he found out how the apples got into the dumplings, etc. The following belongs to this month of February, and, whether true or not, found its way into all the newspapers:—“His Majesty greatly delighted himself with the appellation bestowed upon him of ‘Farmer George.’ At dinner at Newnham, the seat of Lord Harcourt, he related an anecdote which took place in the neighbourhood of Windsor. Walking

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one morning he met a fellow driving a flock of very fine Majesty, struck with their appearance, asked him if they were his. 'No,' said the fellow, churlishly. 'Where are you going?' 'To Farmer George's,' said the fellow. 'Farmer George,' said the other, 'who is Farmer George? I thought I knew every farmer in the neighbourhood.' 'Why, don't you know Farmer George, mun?—he lives in the great house (pointing to the Castle); they call 'un the King, but he is nothing but Farmer George.' The King laughed, and wished him good-day."

Farmer George's wife was not liked by the people in general, and it got into their heads that she was parsimonious and avaricious—her extravagances were abhorrent to the populace, who would rather have seen the heedless profusion of her spendthrift son and heir. He, by the time he was just then in very evil case, feeling the pinch of his prodigality, had had treble his income he still would have been in debt; and he, who had managed to get dipped to the extent of £100,000, besides £50,000 expended on Carlton House. Credit was very low, and he was obliged to go to his father for parental advice and relief—a fact which was speedily taken hold of by the satirists, and an etching, by Ki

published, entitled "The Prodigal Son," in which the Prince is depicted in rags and tending swine. Nay, the same artist drew and Mrs. Fitzherbert (who was married to him December 21, 1795), an etching, called "The Lover's Last Shift," in which Mrs. F. is mending his only pair of breeches, which he has taken off, to enable her to do so, whilst he, out at elbows, is engaged in mending a sheep's head—for to such a dainty they were supposed to have been—and also is occupied in rocking a cradle. Why this should be clear, as there was no issue by his marriage with Mrs. Fitzherbert. A paper stuck against the wall says that "A-begging we will give you royal garters display only the word "Honi."

A full account of the Prince's debts was laid before the King, who refused to help him; so the Prince dismissed his court, and his establishment to that of a private gentleman, ordered his horses to be sold, the works at Carlton House to be stopped, and such part of his household necessary for his personal use to be shut up. On February 17, 1795, he was initiated into the fraternity of Freemasons, at the Star Chamber, Pall Mall; the Duke of Cumberland assisting as Grand Master, and the nobility being present.

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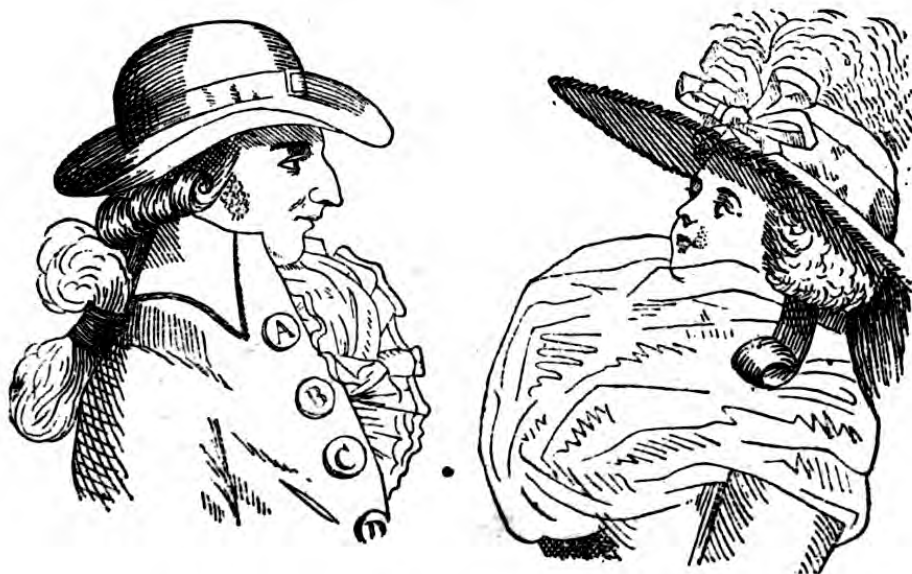
The silver coinage had been for some time past in a very low state, and orders had been given for a large recoinage—which was completed on February 5, part of the order for £75,000 worth of shilling and sixpences was delivered at the Bank from his Majesty's Mint, which was then in the Tower.

February 4 should ever be a day memorable in the annals of the American episcopacy, as on that day were consecrated Dr. Prevoſt, as Bishop of New York; and Dr. White, as Bishop of Philadelphia. Both these men were natives of America and inhabitants of the places where they derived their titles. They formed the nucleus of the present American episcopacy, and all subsequent consecrations have emanated from them and their successors. Their consecration took place in the Chapel of Lambeth Palace, and there were present the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the Bishops of Bath and Wells, and Peterborough. As Republicans, would not adopt the style of lord or lordship, but they even be called "Right Reverend Father in God;" but, in the simplicity, would only be addressed as the Right Reverend Doctor, of, etc.

About this time a proposition was mooted that shops should

but the general feeling was so much against it, and the agitation was so great, that it came to nothing.

This month there occurred a very singular case of contagion which is well worth noting. On February 15, at a cotton mill



Hodder Bridge, in a cotton mill, a girl put a mouse in the mouth of another girl, who had a dread of mice. The girl immediately was seized with convulsions, which lasted for four hours. On the next day, three more girls were similarly seized; on the following day more. This created a panic, and the mill was shut.

It was thought that these strange attacks might possibly be owing to something in the cotton. On the 18th, three; and on the 19th, two more were attacked by this strange malady, making in all twenty-one. Of these, twenty-one were young women, two girls, and one

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symptoms were—anxiety, a feeling of strangulation, and very convulsions, which were so violent as to last, without intermission, from a quarter of an hour to twenty-four hours, and to require the assistance of four or five persons to prevent the patients from tearing their hair and dashing their heads against the floor or walls. A doctor from Preston cured them by means of electric shocks; and on the 20th they were sufficiently recovered to have a dance, and the next day all but two or three were at work.

The fashions, of course, had not much changed since last month. Still, there were points
in



in costume which the caricaturist could lay hold of, as we see in "The Gentleman and Hen Pouters," where the gentleman's frill and the lady's hair are particularly protuberant. The gentleman's hair is *à la Macaroni*, which was sometimes carried to an absurd extravagance. A caricature shows us a fashionable lady taking "five o'clock tea." She has a black boy, her cat, and her parrot; and is, as named, "The Gentleman" (after a play so called). And a third gives an exaggerated picture of enormous muffs then in vogue, worn even in the theatre.

The *Morning Chronicle* of February 13 gives the following story of a wedding:—"A cause is instituted in the Ecclesiastical Court against the minister of a parish. The ground of complaint is a

A Saturday
or two ago, a
young couple
sent notice to
this reverend
divine of their
intention to
be married



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an hour, they took the liberty of sending to remind the parson. He returned for answer that he knew his duty, and what was a for performing the ceremony. He never attended, however, gregation was assembled, and it was time to begin the church. disappointed couple then solicited to be married in the face of gation, which he obstinately refused, and told them they must Monday. In consequence of this disappointment, some w between the parties, the man refused to fulfil his engagement. unhappy fair one, disappointed in so tender a point, is now c private mad-house, in a most pitiable and miserable condition.

It is not often we can get a glimpse at what the weather was years ago, which must be an excuse for the following :—“Feb. wet, two : cloudy, fifteen ; fine, eleven. Prevailing winds, N. one ; S.E., four ; S., nine ; S.W., ten ; W., two. Greatest height of thermometer (Fahr.) in shade, 51 deg. ; lowest, 21 deg. Barometer 30·40 ; lowest, 28·80. Rainfall, 1·345 inches. Rose-tree in leaf, honeysuckle, 4th ; butterfly seen, 8th ; gooseberry-tree in leaf, violet in blossom on the 11th ; lightning at five a.m., and thunder at a.m. on the 12th ; crocus in blossom on the 15th ; gnats seen on



CHAPTER III.

MARCH.

MARCH, 1787, held its old tradition: it "came in like a lion" was a kindly, and good lion, and took the form of an annual dinner of a charitable society called "The Ancient Britons," which collected the sum of £600, to which the Prince of Wales (afterwards George IV.) contributed £100. But the traditional weather must have been very cold, for furs were advertised, and it is well worth noticing the prices of the muffs (of which an illustration is given at p. 18) were so high in mind that money was worth—*i.e.* could purchase—more than what it would now. As we know the muffs were large, so were the prices: blue fox, from 31s. 6d. to £10 10s.; natural black ditto, from 10 guineas; and they gradually came down to 4s. 6d. each, or 52s. but these latter were made of feathers.

These notices must, of course, be discursive, if to give ev

much less a history, of a century back ; and therefore the best way to note the facts in each month as far as possible in the order in which they occurred ; and the grave must occasionally be made a little the gay. For instance, on March 1, nine people were hanged at Newgate : Bailey : three for highway robbery, five for burglary, and one named Sophia Pringle, for forgery. This latter had forged a check on an attorney for £100, and her case is principally remarkable for the curiosity displayed by the public, which was so strong that the sheriffs were obliged to keep her in prison, so that she should not witness the execution of her fellow criminals. Fainting more than once, she was dragged to the gallows and was duly strangled, "every one present lamenting her misfortune."

A minor criminal was the celebrated pickpocket, George Jacob, who ranked, in his profession, with Cartouche and Vidocq. He was often seen and attended the Levées at Court, where he despoiled the ministers of their diamond stars, and picked the pocket of Count Orloff, ambassador of Catherine of Russia, extracting therefrom a gold and diamond watch-box, valued at between £30,000 and £40,000. He was detected in the act, and dexterously slipped it back into the Prince's hands, and was not prosecuted for the attempted theft. We get a notice of

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Morning Chronicle of March 2, 1787 :—"The noted Barrington Saturday last, discovered in the following very extraordinary manner. Mr. Mellish's hounds having followed a stag into Lincolnshire, was killed in the fens, and the gentlemen of the chase adjourned to a publick house to refresh themselves. Here they were struck by a man of Barrington, who was regaling himself in a corner of the cotta in a brown frock, and with his hair cut close, in all the style of simplicity. He was called to by Mr. Oliver, of Essex, who had been robbed by him, some time past, of sixteen guineas ; he at first denied it, but he was the person alluded to, but afterwards acquiesced in the charge. The persons who belonged to the hunt were called in to see him, and they might be aware of him should he return to his old haunts, though he had never been there. The people of the house asserted that he called himself a rich merchant (a commercial traveller), and said that he was travelling for orders, and had his bags by his side, and was in all respects a type of the character he assumed. The gentleman by whom he was thus found did not take him into custody, but sent a letter to Sir Sampson Wright, advising him of the circumstance." Barrington, after a very successful nefarious career, was at last caught, and in September, 1790, was sentenced to se-

transportation to Australia ; but, materially helping to quell convicts *en route*, on his arrival at Port Jackson he was made commandant of the convicts at Paramatta, and afterwards chief stabulary force of the colony.

And there was a fool named Samuel Birt, or Burt, who was sentenced to be hanged for forgery, and for whom great interest was manifested. He refused to petition for a remission of sentence until the last moment, when it was made into a *cause célèbre*. "He addressed the Court with an air of studied elegance, lamenting his former unwarrantable conduct, and apologizing for the disregard his feelings had forced him to show to the voluntary mercy of an offended Sovereign," etc., and he got transportation for life to Australia.

A hundred years ago all punishments were, according to the extent of excess of their deserts. Here is one from the *Morning Chronicle* of 1787 :—"A private soldier belonging to the 64th Regiment, now quartered in our barracks [Chatham], who was servant to Lieutenant Smith of the said regiment, in his master's absence stole a pair of his leather breeches, and afterwards offered them for sale to a Jew. The honest Lieutenant Smith gave information of it to an officer belonging to the same regiment."

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then passing by, in consequence of which Mr. Spray's servant was fined, and tried about a fortnight ago by a court-martial, which sentenced the man to receive five hundred lashes, which were inflicted on the wretch, who died the next day, and was buried the day following.

It is sorrowful to chronicle such sad things, but "'twixt generations in those days, there was but a very short step, and the *chronicles* of a past age, with their passing innuendoes, which our modern times can understand or appreciate, are hardly fitted to the tastes. Suppose, for instance, a century hence some one was to read our disgraceful divorce cases! So that the historian's task is not hard, although the outcome ought to be fairly interesting. For instance, is a civil case—as to the liability of the Post Office (see *Chronicle*, March 6–8):—"A verdict was given against Lord C. at the last sitting after term, in which the mercantile and trading community are seriously concerned. His lordship had, at some time, ordered parcels of diamonds to be sent to him abroad by the means of the general post, which were sometimes insured, sometimes not. In all events, a parcel of diamonds worth £1000 was forwarded to him, insured—and never arrived. On these grounds he refused to pay

who sued him for the value, and the verdict was given in the jeweller's favour, as it was considered that posting the diamonds was delivery to Lord Cowper.

In the last chapter the King's homely manners were mentioned. It was meant very kindly, in what we should call chaff. It hurt nobody, and the little satire, if there was any, was chiefly levelled at the royal thrift. In the illustration we find King George and his wife shopping, and if anything could be said bitterly about the royal couple, it would have been said by John Wolcot, whose verses from "Peter Pindar's Ode upon Ode," 1787, are appended to the Engraving:—

"The



A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

“The modern bard, says Tom, sublimely sings
Of virtuous, gracious, good, uxorious kings,
Who love their wives, so constant, from their heart :
Who, down at Windsor, daily go a shopping :
Their heads—so lovely—into houses popping,
And doing wonders in the haggling art.

And why, in God’s name, should not queens and kings
Purchase a comb, or cork-screw, lace for cloaks,
Edging for caps, or tape for apron-strings,
Or pins or bobbins, cheap as other folks?
Reader, to make thine eyes with wonder stare,
Farthings are not beneath the Royal care.”

By-the-way, talking of shopping, there is a very charming illustration, of the same month, of ordinary ladies indulging in that precious luxury. Many may think the costume exaggerated, but really it is so in a very trifling degree. See, for instance, the coiffure and mob cap of the lady in the illustration on next page, which is no more caricatured than from which she is rising.



Sir John Hawkins, who wrote the "Life of Dr. Johnson," and in 1789, gives a very graphic account of London about this time. Of the Rev. Thomas Birch, D.D., he says: "I heard him once he had the curiosity to measure the circuit of London, by a per thereof. The account he gave was to this effect. He set out house in the Strand, towards Chelsea, and, having reached beyond the waterworks, he directed his course to Marybone, from pursuing an eastern direction, he skirted the town, and crossed Islington Road at the Angel. There was at that time no City



passing through I got to Shoreditch Bethnal Green, thence to Stepney recruited his spirit glass of brandy. In ney he passed on house, and took in the adjacent hamle when he became se

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to complete his designs, he must take in Southwark ; this put him but he soon determined on his course, for, taking a boat, he went to the Red House at Deptford, and made his way to Say's Court, where the wet dock is, and, keeping the houses along Rotherhithe to the west, he got to Bermondsey, thence, by the south end of Kent Street, and over St. George's Fields to Lambeth ; and, crossing over the river, he continued his way to Charing Cross, and along the Strand to St. Paul's Street, from whence he had set out. The whole of this circuit occupied him from nine in the morning to three in the afternoon, and, at his rate of walking, he computed the circuit of London at 25 miles." Compare this with our London of to-day, with 441,559 acres ; and a population, in 1881, of 4,766,661 !

A notable feature of this month was the commencement of a *token* or copper coin, which was rendered necessary, for various purposes, owing to the scarcity of small change. It was called the "Penny," and was issued by Parry's Copper Mining Company. This was the first of a very extensive series, I may, perhaps, be pardoned for mentioning that there is a forgery of this coin dated 1784, which was struck before the first one was struck.

Simply as a notice of the somewhat rough manners which the rural districts a century ago, I close this with a paragraph from the *World*, March 29, 1787 :—"A few days ago was married, at Bromley, Mr. W. Walbank, aged eighteen, to Mrs. Burton, w^o eighty-five, he being this lady's fourth husband, and it is now years since she was married to her first husband. A great co^o people attended the matrimonial ceremony ; but, crowding too hastily into the church, they threw the old lady down ; she, however, recovered herself, and, with her stick, chastised the invaders. A barrow being brought to the church door when the couple came, the old lady was forced into it, and her husband being a lusty fellow obliged him to wheel her to the bridal habitation."



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CHAPTER IV.

APRIL.

APRIL the First is licensed for a little foolery ; and, although "d'Avril" nowadays, both in Paris and London, takes the form of a fish filled with bon-bons, yet the old style of mild practical joke has not yet disappeared, and "Oh, you April fool!" may still be heard. A hundred years since, it was just the same, as we find recorded in the story of the joke of the lions in the Tower being washed. Some of my contemporaries may not be aware that the Tower was the Royal Menagerie of England from 1235, when Frederick II. of Germany presented Henry III. with two leopards, in compliment to his coat-of-arms ; and here all the beasts from foreign potentates were kept, till November, 1591, when there were bears—notably one white bear, which had a long chain round its neck, and was allowed to fish in the Thames—and other animals ; but the King's lion was the *pièce de résistance* in the menagerie, and yet his

insulted by being turned into an April 1 joke. It certainly mentioned as a political skit, but it shows that the old hoax that "The Major of the Tower is dead—a vacancy for that venerable waits to be filled up. Mr. Burke has only a promise of being of the wild beasts—tygers, etc., and yesterday he went down ceremony of washing their faces."

Is it true? But in the *World* of Monday, April 2, I read day, at twelve o'clock, their Majesties, accompanied by the Prince and Princess Augusta, came from the Queen's House [now Buckingham Palace] to St. James's, and heard Divine service performed at the Royal Chapel; after which there was a Drawing-room, at which we were etc. On Good Friday there was no Levée, but there was a Drawing-room on the previous day, in Passion Week—Holy or Maunday Thursday. Theatres, however, were shut up, as they have been until lately. It were the complaints that the "players should be obliged to fast for Parliament." But Drawing-rooms and Levées used to be more frequent then than now, as the following list will show. There was a long hiatus—the Easter Holiday; and between the others the King and Queen stopped two days or so in London, and thought

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posting to Windsor, staying a day there for recreation and hunting, and then posting back to London to resume their social duties. In spite of the Easter Holidays, which occupied a fortnight out of the month, there were four Drawing-rooms—on April 1st, 5th, 19th, and 25th; and six Levées—on April 2nd, 4th, 18th, 20th, 24th, and 26th.

Very early in the month it was hinted that a reconciliation might possibly be effected between the King and the Prince of Wales; but it was not yet to be. He was then a young man about town, a veritable “Jessamy,” as we see by his portrait, published in April, 1787, deeply in debt, and living with a fast set; but he was retrenching, and even making efforts to be relieved from his liabilities, as we learn from the official *London Gazette*, April 14-17:—
“Carlton House, April 17, 1787. The Com-
mis-



missioners of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales's Treasury give Notice to the several Creditors who have delivered a Statement of Demands upon his Royal Highness to July 5, 1786 . . . that a Dividend of Nine per Cent. upon the Amount of such Debts will be paid on Tuesday, the 24th inst.," etc.

As the financial position of the Prince was one of the principal topics of the month, I must be pardoned if, in recounting the events, I somewhat dwell upon it. On the 24th, all creditors were paid in full, as promised, all debts under £50 were wiped out, and it was made that at the next dividend all debts under £100 were paid, and the general creditors were to receive a larger dividend.

Audi alteram partem is always a good rule, therefore I quote a paragraph from the *London Chronicle*, April 26-28:—"The Prince's annual income is not more than £62,000, taking the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall, £12,000, which they are now expected to produce, though they have netted more than £10,000. Of this sum he has delivered into the hands of trustees, for the benefit of his creditors, £30,000. Of the £30,000, or £32,000, he is obliged to appropriate £14,000 a year for the maintenance of a state not incident to any private nobleman, w

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no part of his domestic establishment or of his daily expenses. £14,000 the sum of £3500 is paid in pensions properly from the Civil List, and which were saddled on him when he came to the House. All, therefore, that he has to apply to his personal expenses is £16,000 a year. Out of this he has to pay £1000 for the taxes of the House. The indispensable repairs of the palace cost him £1000 a year, and with the inconsiderable residue of £14,000 a year he has to support his table, his household, his carriages, horses, stables (for those belonging to Carleton House), his dress, his patronage of the arts, what was the best part of his former expense, his benevolence.

There was a social question that vexed the souls of the people a century ago, and, what made it none the pleasanter, it was in their pockets. One would think that false coinage would only be used for the higher coins, but there were pitiful rogues then who would use it for the halfpence. At first I thought that these counterfeits were there because they had just come in to relieve the scarcity of copper coinage ; but it was not so ; they were veritable forgeries, and there were found people who acknowledged that they would buy them. It commences, I think, to see, in an advertisement in the *World*, April 3, that "Halfpence taken on terms very advantageous to the public," etc.

In the same paper (April 5) is a paragraph that a new halfpence and farthings was nearly finished at the Mint at the time that it was expected to stop the passing of any base coin. And it seems to have been necessary, according to a somewhat amusing anecdote (*Ibid.*, April 6), "By the law of this kingdom, the receiving or the paying false or counterfeit copper money is felony—that is, any party may be transplanted into the fertile colony of Botany Bay to enjoy the cooling breeze from the Thames, near Woolwich, in the county of Kent [*i.e.* the convict hulks or vessels in which they were confined]. Therefore, let me conjure the fair part of my fellow-subjects, especially such of them as are so delicate that their lily hands may not touch nor their bewitching eyes see halfpence, never to accept of any such coin in the modish way of giving it—viz. wrapped up in paper."

But some of these forgers were occasionally caught ; as we read in the *London Chronicle*, April 21-24, of three men who were caught making, coining, and counterfeiting the current copper coin of the day called halfpence. The prisoners were actually at work, and a large quantity of counterfeit money was seized.

The Warren Hastings trial was dragging its slow length

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among other things which cropped up were the fortunes and returned Indian officials, and, if they were anything like true, have shaken the "Pagoda Tree" to some purpose. The *General* April 7, says: "Public rumour is but a lying jade at best; if it speaks true, there are four gentlemen in England whose fortunes are Impey, Middleton, Hughes, and Cuthbert, each £500,000—in all £2,000,000. There are two brothers of the Cuthberts whose fortunes are equal to the above £500,000—and Mr. Hastings, by all accounts, £60,000." The *World*, April 10, commenting on this, says, "To be added with equal truth, Sheridan, £000,000; Burke, £000,000. Total, £000,000!"

The fashions did not then change from month to month as now, but the hat of Georgina, Duchess of Devonshire, about which the "borough" portrait, and its mysterious disappearance, there was some few years since, seems to me to merit reproduction, as genuine costumes of this period are so very scarce.

With the month of April began the out-of-door amusement. Monday, the 9th, Ranelagh opened its gates to the gay world. It does not seem to have been a success, if we may judge

temporary account of the people who went there :—" Not twenty
No beauty ! No crowding—all smooth and easy, a vacuum
with *ennui* !"

Sadler's Wells,
then in its youth, com-
menced its season.
Its easy access from
the City, where people
then really dwelt,
rendered it very
popular, and it opened
on Easter Monday
with a variety enter-
tainment of gymnastic
Spaniards, "a little
devil" on the tight



Duval) met with anything more polite than the following
Chronicle, April 7-10—Saturday (April 7), in the afternoon,
Miss Staples went to take a walk in St. James's Park, they v

rope, com
dancing,
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In re
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some story
robbery ;
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Birdcage Walk by two genteel young men, who addressed in the following manner: 'Ladies, we are two unfortunate men who have been touched by some gamblers of all our money, and have no means to give us any to supply our necessary wants; therefore intend to deliver us all the money you have in your pockets. May we beg for we must have it;' on which they delivered to them about a pound and silver. They then said—'Ladies, remember that we did not ask for it but you gave it us on our asking you to assist us in our present situation!'"

On April 14 was commenced a piece of mechanical engineering which I do not think has since been applied. Islington Church was thoroughly repaired, and the steeple also sadly wanted looking after. To avoid the cumbrous scaffolding, which would have been generally used to effect the repairs, an ingenious basket-maker, named Birch, had finished a cage for the steeple, composed entirely of willow and other sticks, with a wicker-work spiral staircase inside. This being a new thing, which was much cheaper than the ordinary method, he had previously tried with success at St. Albans. His contract was not large, but so great was the curiosity that numbers came to see it.

was made of sixpence a head to mount the staircase, so that
 over and above his contract, so
 three pounds a day.

On April 17 so noted a prize
 place between Martin and Mend
 must not fail to chronicle it, espec
 Prince of Wales was present. It
 victory for the Jew, who was broug
 triumph to London, with lighted t
 martial music playing "See the C
 Hero comes." Such enthusiasm ov
 of prize-fighters many of us can re
 the case of Heenan and Sayers.

Later on in the month, there wa
 before Parliament to tax shops;
 with such opposition that it came t

The month winds up with a
 dream, which is thus recorded:—"I
 a physician in considerable pra



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occasion to attend a family in the Isle of Wight. Being d
late hour, he took a bed at the house ; but after tumbling ab
hours, he rose, and rung up the servants. He told them that
in vain to sleep ; but that his imagination was haunted with
his wife and children were murdered. No persuasives could p
to stay. He set off—it was a blowing night, and it was wit
culty that he could procure the boatman to take him over.
arrived, and knocked at his door. His wife opened it. He eag
if all was well ? If the child was safe ? And why *she* had
door ? She said the child was perfectly well ; and she had ope
because the servants would not come—they had behaved v
nently to her. He called one of them, and questioned h
conduct. She gave him some pert answers ; but, at length
her knees, she said that he had come home providentially,
her fellow-servant had resolved to murder the mistress a
that they might plunder the house. The servant made the sar
in the morning, upon oath, before a magistrate.”



CHAPTER V.

MAY.

THE newspapers of Tuesday, May 1, 1787, give good accounts of the opening of the nineteenth exhibition of the Royal Academy, then held at Somerset House. Sir Joshua Reynolds was the chief artist, and he availed himself of the privilege of his position by exhibiting a number of pictures, which were, of course, all portraits; the chief one being that of the King of Wales, robing, assisted by a black page. Louthembourg had exhibited the best being a view of Conway Castle; Benjamin West had exhibited "St. Paul at Melita" and the "Inauguration of the Order of the Bath"; Reinagle exhibited portraits; Stubbs painted cattle; Opie exhibited "Murder of David Rizzio," now in the Fine-Art Gallery of the British Museum; of the City of London, Guildhall; Northcote and Cosway exhibited portraits; among the absent artists were Gainsborough, and Flaxman, the latter a man of twenty-three, just gone to Italy to improve his art-education.

From Art to Music is an easy step, and our great-grandfathers were essentially musical. They delighted in chamber music, and so did we, for practising the same. It was wont to be used (most unfavourably reproach by Continental nations, that we were an unmusical people. They mixed but little with us ; but, since the introduction of steam and railways, which have broken down the old barriers to trade, and other nations who have come among us are fain to admit that we are not wrong, and that we are decidedly musical, and that in no manner is our military bands, especially, being sources of delight and amusement to foreigners.

A century ago was decidedly an Augustan period for music. Handel was in England, Mozart had been, and Haydn was coming. Among living native composers we might reckon Arnold, Shakespeare, Linley, and Jackson, whose *Te Deum* is so very familiar to us. The royal family were eminently musical. Queen Charlotte had been taught by one of the Bach family, had been accompanied by Mozart, and she is recorded that "as a performer on the harpsichord the Queen played as well." The King was passionately fond of music, and played the organ ; and, when his blindness, and mental affliction left him

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indeed, he still found some comfort in playing and singing to Handel, whom, as a composer, he absolutely adored.

The King and Queen were very fond of attending the Ancient Music, founded in Queen Anne's reign by Dr. John Pepusch, and held in the reign of George III. at the rooms in Street. At these concerts Mrs. Billington and Mdlle. Mara principally from Handel's compositions, but also from those of Paradisi, Hasse, Pergolesi, Corelli, Graun, Avison, and other concerts the King greatly delighted, and listened in an enrapt—a fact which the caricaturist, to whom, like the *sapeur*, sacred, took advantage of, and portrayed his Majesty no doubt fully, and, certainly, most graphically. In the illustration given we have taken but a portion of the picture, representing the King with Miss Jefferies and Madame Schwellenberg in attendance, the former in the concert being mainly filled in by political figures on different instruments, and making a most fearful discovery, instance, playing on a baby's coral whistle with bells, and a rare

Are we to believe the following feat of gormandizing, which from the *World* of May 4?—"At the Wheel, at Hackingt

Wednesday se'nnight, a fen farmer laid a wager he could eat *two dozen* of penny mutton pies and drink a gallon of ale in half an hour, which he performed *with ease* in half the time, and said he had but a *scanty* supper, and wished for something more; in less than half an hour after he ate a threepenny loaf and a pound of cheese, and still swore he was hungry. The landlord, unwilling to starve his *delicate guest*, set before him a leg of pork, which his voracious appetite gormandized with great composure. He thanked the landlord for his civility; and said, 'I hate to go to bed with an empty stomach.'"

In the Civil War in America
be-



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between the Northern and Southern States, "bounty jumping and obtaining the bounty in several regiments, and then deserting the dignity of a fine art, and in our own military service such a business not altogether unknown; but, perhaps, the champion in this business was one John Hodgson, a soldier, aged twenty-six, who was executed on April 27, 1787, at Rushmere, in Suffolk, for highway robbery. He confessed at the gallows that, within the last six years, he enlisted eight times with different recruiting parties in England, Ireland, and Scotland; that he received, as bounty money, 597 guineas; that he remained with the party more than two days; and that he committed a great number of robberies, by which he gained £236 14s. 8d. He was of an extraordinary character. He kept a regular account of his expenses and disbursements, and died worth eighty pounds, which he bequeathed in transfer to a favourite female previous to his trial. He was punished three times for desertion, and received 350 lashes at Colchester, which he bore without even so much as a sigh."

To turn from one kind of roguery to another, which was common owing to our fiscal system, was very rife, and yet was, or is, looked upon as a very venial offence. Smuggling, like poaching,

affrays which sometimes ended in bloodshed. The smuggling story I am about to relate did not so terminate, but it vividly brings before the state of popular opinion a century ago, as to the popularity of the trade. On May 19 the *Rose* cutter brought a valuable prize to Southampton, consisting of three hundred casks of spirits and a quantity of wine, and tobacco. Nor was this all their capture; they were also taken, no doubt unwillingly, by six men, who had had a desperate fight with the crew of the *Rose* before they were overpowered. They were taken before a justice, and committed to Winchester Jail. But, as they were being conveyed thither in two coaches, guarded by sixteen men, they were met by a man, who blew a horn, whereupon a party of well-mounted men made their appearance upon the scene, their faces blacked and handkerchiefs tied round them. Being armed with a blunderbuss and a brace of pistols, they were more than a match for the escort, and in the confusion that ensued the smugglers disappeared.

In the last chapter the impecunious situation of the Prince of Wales is noted, and, undoubtedly, it formed the principal topic of conversation. It was a state of things which could not possibly last long, as it was a public scandal that the heir to the throne should not only be

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circumstances himself, but heavily in debt. The King could do nothing for he spent his income, and more; nay, in 1802, the nation was obliged to pay his debts, amounting to £990,053. So that there was nothing to be done but to petition Parliament for relief. The King sent a most faithful Commons, regretting the necessity of applying to them for relief, and telling them that he had ordered an extra £10,000 a year to be paid to the Prince out of his Civil List; and the House of Commons voted £161,000 to pay his debts, and £20,000 on account of the war. The Prince promised in future to keep within his income, to pay a dutiful visit to his father, and, for a time, his pecuniary affairs in peace.

We have heard much lately of M. Chauffat, the sleeping man, and are pleased to find that Switzerland has not the monopoly of such cases. People in this country are not behind the continent in their production, and that long before M. Chauffat's existence; for in the *World* of May 25, 1787, we read that, a few weeks ago, at Rossgall, in the county of Donegal, in Ireland, a woman of the name of Frances McBride, after a night's dancing, fell into a kind of trance, or lethargy, in which she continued for ten

eleventh she waked as if from a sound sleep, yawned two or three times, and expired."

Another thing, somewhat in advance of its time, was the discovery of petroleum in England. "Bristol, May 26. Some workmen digging for making a canal, near Coalbrooke Dale, discovered a thick black substance issuing from a fissure of a rock, which, on examination, was found to be a mineral tar, which appears to have all the properties of the natural tar. We hear several hundred barrels of it are already collected, the quantity that issues daily being very considerable."

The Royal family were easily accessible, showing themselves to the public; and, on May 26, the King, Queen, and three elder Princes, visited Whitbread's Brewery, in Chiswell Street. The Queen and Princes squeezed through a small hole in order to stand in the great steam-which would hold four thousand barrels of beer. The King inspected the steam-engine and machinery, and was shown a horse 17 hands high. They all partook of a magnificent luncheon, and went away highly delighted.

Once more, to show the musical taste of the day, the Royal Academy of Musicians organized a series of three concerts of Handel's music.

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minster Abbey, and the first took place on May 28, beginning with an overture to "Esther" and the Dettingen *Te Deum*. Mrs. Mara and Mdlle. Mara (for whom the Continent was bidding highly) were to perform, but, quarrelling between themselves on a question of precedence, only Mara appeared. The King, Queen, and Royal Family were present, and, on the occasion of the third concert, the King was carried away by his feelings that he joined in the choruses. There were a hundred performers, but why they were ill-treated by the King we do not say. At the last rehearsal "the indecent behaviour of the King at the west door of the Abbey when the performance was over is all that is known. They not only jostled the company and plundered the property, but insulted some of the performers who came out with their hats. The King, in particular, had it forced from out of his hand, thrown in the gutter, and kicked to pieces in the street."

The events of the month close with the Prorogation of Parliament on May 30. M.P.'s used to get through their work in those days.



CHAPTER VI.

JUNE,

À PROPOS of this June and its Jubilee, a century ago to commemorate, for George III. entered into the fifty age on June 4, 1787. It was a very quiet affair. Warton Laureate, composed an Ode for the occasion, in which he Chaucer, Spenser, and Dryden sang the praises of their respective and he winds up his lay thus :—

“ Had these blest Bards been call'd, to pay
The vows of this auspicious day,
Each had confess'd a fairer throne,
A mightier Sovereign, than his own !
Chaucer had bade his hero-monarch yield
The fame of Agincourt's triumphal field,
To peaceful prowess, and the conquest's calm,
That braid the sceptre with the patriot's palm ;

His chaplet of fantastic bloom,
His colourings warm from Fiction's loom,
Spenser had cast in scorn away,
And deck'd with truth alone the lay ;
All real here—the Bard had seen
The glories of his pictur'd Queen !
The tuneful Dryden had not flatter'd here,
His lyre had blameless been, his tribute all sincere !”

There were no particular popular demonstrations, other than v on the royal birthday; and even the guns were not fired in London they might disturb the Prince of Wales, who was ill. The Drawing-room and a State ball at St. James's Palace; but, at there were only two dances, and the King appeared most plainly in a half-mourning suit and black silk stockings, his sole ornament the insignia of the Garter. But the Queen made up, by her magnificent costume, for his quietude. She was dressed in a straw-coloured gown and petticoat, trimmed with blonde and silver crape, draped festoons with strings of large pearls, and enriched with circles of diamonds; tassels of diamonds playing also in front of the drapery was relieved by azure-blue ribbons. The magnificence of this

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distinguished by a display of bulrushes in clusters, the heads encircled by rows of large diamonds, producing a beautiful Majesty's cap was a loose bandeau of fine blonde net, ornamented with diamonds.

There were one or two little *contretemps* attendant on this instance, it was customary for the mail coachmen and guards to wear uniforms on that day, and a proud time it was for them. On this especial occasion the British tailor saw his opportunity and the three regiments of Guards were to have new uniforms—straw hats and wages, which not being granted, many of the mail coaches were sent out in their accustomed bravery.

Coming from the Drawing-room, the Duke of Beaufort carried a diamond "George." The marvel is that they were not often worn; the ribbon was then worn over the coat, and the "George" was taken from it, just about where the sword-hilt would come. This diamond was stolen by a swell-mob's-man of the period, one Henry Gentleman Harry, who, on his examination, was marvelled at and collected, even to the verge of effrontery. The magistrate told him "That he was as great a rascal as any in England."

Gentleman Harry, "is language which at once betrays your ignorance of law, your want of respect for the magistracy, and your illiberality as a man ; and if you were you are, and not sitting on that bench, you should meet me as a prisoner for such unparalleled conduct." His Worship, in a most unbecoming manner, then said, "I don't wish to meet you anywhere, for I am afraid you would rob me if you had it in your power." To which the prisoner retorted, "You might make yourself easy on that score, for *you have nothing to lose.*" He was committed for trial, found guilty, and sentenced in September following to seven years' transportation.

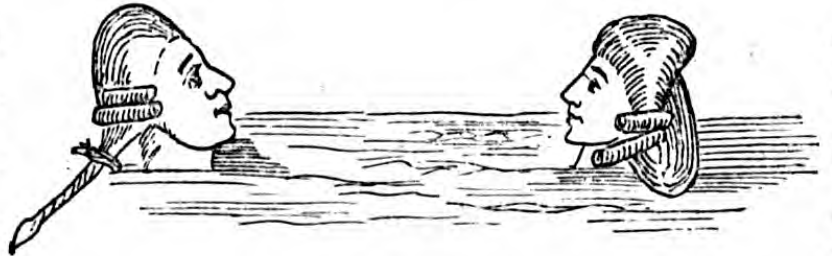
On June 2 was the third musical festival at Westminster Abbey. As we are informed, "The Queen, whose taste and skill in music are equal to her rank in every circumstance, joined in several of the choruses ; as did likewise His Highness the Duke of Cumberland, who likewise beat time judiciously." There is a sad episode in connection with this festival mentioned in the *London Chronicle*, June 2-5 :—"As far as a singing in any circumstance could add a movement to the mind under such a religious influence, it was that of Lord North being led out by his oldest daughter. His lordship seemed greatly emaciated, and, from the large green spots that appeared before his eyes, we fear his sight is totally lost. He was preceded

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North, which at once presented a mingled view of domestic instability of human greatness."

Dr. Graham, the quack, was in great force about this time machinery, his celestial bed, even "the Gentleman Usher God, who, assisted by the High Priestess, will conduct the Gigantic, the Stupendous Goddess of Health, to the Cele (that Goddess Vestina, who afterwards became Lady Har known by her connection with Nelson)—all had vanished, and

of Health and Hymen in Pall Mall was deserted. But the doctor was irrepressible. He



body. The patient had to be buried up to the chin in earth thus for four or five, or even twelve hours at a stretch. invoked female aid, and we have a slight sketch of him taking their bath. He advertised—"N.B. The most violent rain, wind, or cold, will not prevent Dr. Graham, and the

and heroic young lady, from being in the earth every day during of the appointed hours."

It must have been at this time, if there is any truth in the paragraph, that "Poor Dr. G—— met with a whimsical misfortune of his earth-bathing adventures near Chester. Being up to the earth, with two others, a gardener from the ground adjoining made his appearance with a water-pot in his hand, and, observing 'that the springing from the earth should be well watered,' he alternately poured water on the three defenceless heads, to the no small diversion of the spectators."

Very early in the month, Lunardi, of aëronautic fame, invented a life-saving apparatus, and demonstrated its efficacy on the Thames. It was the precursor of the life-buoy, but it had a sort of keel; it was furnished with a compass, and would, at need, contain some provisions. On one occasion he paddled from Battersea Bridge to Chiswick; but, subsequently, he navigated the river lower down, shooting London Bridge at Gravesend. He also exhibited it at the Pantheon, which was the Polytechnic Hall of its day.

Whilst on subjects aquatic, I may mention that in this month

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ago, the "house-boat" was probably invented (*New Town Magazine*, June 20, 1787):—"A waterman, whose name is H has acquired some property, to show his disgust against our accumulation of taxes, has hit upon a singular expedient. He has disposed of a small freehold which he possessed in the vicinity of the Thames, and purchased a west-country barge, in which, with his wife and a large family of children, he resides in the most comfortable manner. He thus prides himself on eluding all taxes, and changes his situation as the weather or other circumstances makes this or that situation more agreeable. He at present is moored off York Buildings, where the neatness of his habitation, the respectable appearance of his wife and children, and the facetious character of the man himself, attract no small number of visitors."



There is a newspaper paragraph in this month which tells a story which happened a short time since, a tradesman in St. James's Street took two necklaces, one valued at two and the other at three thousand pounds, from one of his customers. The lady purchased the former; but on her return home the tradesman discovered that he had lost the other. He made a search of his property, at the corner of St. James's Place he perceived the necklace in the hands of a child about six years old, while she was persuading her to sell it to him for five shillings; but the child refused, saying she would give it to her mother to wear. The necklace was recovered; and the owner made a present of twenty guineas to the mother of the child who found it."

Smuggling at that time was common enough, and was winked at by almost all people, except the customs authorities. Here is a case where a revenue officer did his duty, and the result. On June 14, a boat with not less than one hundred and fifty men, smugglers, all mounted on horseback, laden, were met on the sea beach between Brighton and Shoreham by a revenue officer named Jenden and his assistants, who, of course, were not anything like so numerous. The officer attempted to effect a seizure, and in so doing several received sword-cuts, which were certainly not

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child's play. The smugglers fled, leaving behind them 167 cases and twelve horses, and next morning another horse and several spirits were found.

One smuggler died, and the exciseman was put upon the murder, was found guilty, but received the king's pardon. The defunct smuggler took the matter up, and again instituted a prosecution which, however, was not successful.

On June 20 died Karl Friedrich Abel, the celebrated com-



poser upon the viola or bass viol. He was a galaxy of good music adorned this era, much to form its name. Cramer told a story that before he died of blood, and his physician particularly ordered him to take wine; but finding forbearance in this

him no good, he resolved to have a good "drunk," and was hopelessly intoxicated. Next morning Cramer found him breathing with a voice much stronger, the patient, spitting on his handkerchief, said: "While my doctors gave me white stuff I spit nothing but red; but when I have taken plenty of red stuff, I spit white again. For the future, the wine merchant shall be my only physician."

In this month I must not fail to chronicle an abnormal incident in the population, as narrated in the *World* of June 23. "The following is a remarkable circumstance is a fact:—The wife of a poor man, No. 10, in Little Ayliffe Street, Goodman's Fields, was delivered in the course of last week, of four children, two of which are dead, and two alive; and, on Monday night, the poor woman died in labour. Eventually they all died, were duly preserved in spirits by Dr. Williams of Oxford, and presented by him to the Royal Society.

Almost the last noteworthy occurrence of the month is the discovery of a forged *Gazette*, undoubtedly for Stock Exchange purposes, showing that our ancestors, although they did not enjoy the advantages of the electric telegraph and telephone, were quite as equal in credence to false news to suit their purpose as their descendants. The forgery was never found out, although, as now, the police of that time "had

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CHAPTER VII.

JULY.

“**H**IS Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is expected this day to set off for Brighthelmstone. The Marine Pavilion is now being prepared for his reception.” So says the *World* of July 5 ; but, as a matter of course, he did not arrive at Brighton until nearly midnight of the 6th ; so that the inhabitants were unaware of his coming, and had not begun their illuminations until the next day. I mention this, as it was the commencement of Brighton (or, as it is well termed, London-superior) as we know it. How crude it was then compared to its present appearance may be well learned from the accompanying illustration by Rowland Clendinning, 1787 : “Embarking from Brighthelmstone to Dieppe.” Yet, when the war between England and Dover, it was one of the starting-places for the Continental trade. In the year, especially, it was noticed in the newspapers that more passengers were sent for France from those places than ever was known of at the

previously. Times have changed since then, and any one taking on the Continent in June or July would now be considered unfashionable. Brighton, of course, became the centre of the Prince's friends, Hanger, Morris, *et hoc genus omne*, followed in his train, and their doings are carefully noted in the papers.

An interesting item of news is in the *Morning Chronicle* of July 2, 1787 :—"The Dis-



senters are establishing an University of their own ; a large extensive grounds have been purchased at Hackney for £5000 a wing is to be added, and they have £9000 in hand. An benefactor, who chooses to be concealed, has just sent the

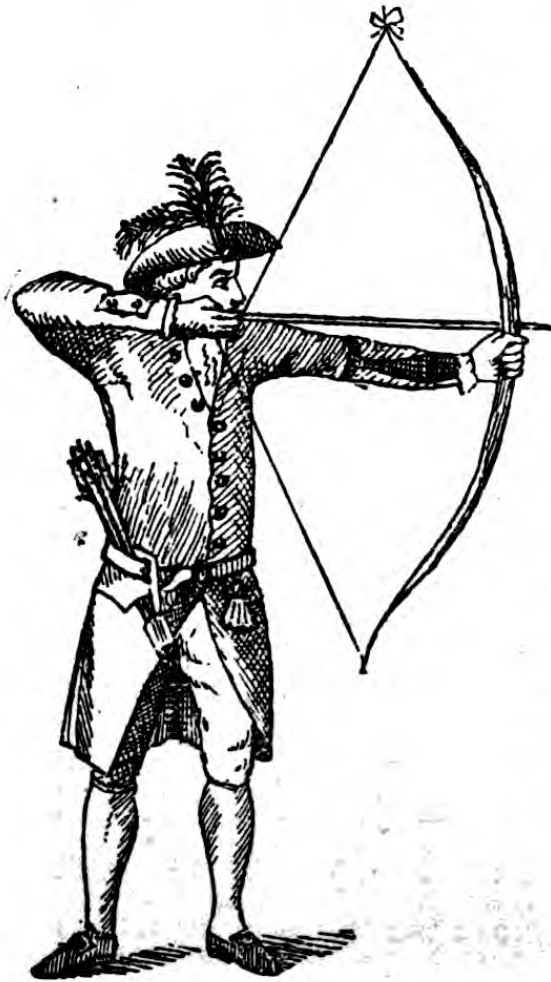
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which their gratitude is expressed in the newspapers. The board, lodging, and tuition, for each session, is sixty guineas are not on the foundation."

Early in the month—*i.e.* on July 4—Sir George Augustus was raised to the Peerage under the title of Baron Heathfield, of Sussex. Our gratitude to him ought to be as vivid as a centenary he kept Gibraltar for us. And no mean man was he. He had been de-camp to George II.; was wounded at Dettingen; and, before the command at Gibraltar, had been Commander-in-Chief of the Army. Needless to say, he was fêted here to any extent when he made his visit to England in 1787.

There was a sport just being resuscitated, which is as popular a month as it was a hundred years since—namely, archery. Ourselves all know the renown of the English archers, until "villainous" revolutionized the use of the bow and made it a mere pastime. At that time it slept; but it began to assert itself, and under some distinguished patronage, as the following from the *World* of July 1887 show:—"Archery, though an exercise not much heard of, yet is in great use. There are some men of fashion who still amuse themselves

way, and want practice only to shoot well with the bow and
Aylesford, Lord St. Asaph, Lord Effingham, Mr. FitzWilliam



are all fond of it. Mr. Haworth,
Lane, is, perhaps, the best shot in

The following hardly reads li
ago, it is too vivid and too modern
might expect to see any morning
—"Cork. On the night of Friday,
seven horses were cropped, and t
close to their heads, in and ne
Court, within four miles of this
again, in the same column of the
paper:—"Dublin. Yesterday mor
o'clock, Mr. Justice Graham, accom
troop of the Green Horse, surpris
James M'Nally, of Rush, who sta
before that justice with treason a
but eluded justice a considerable
to the lawless neighbourhood of R

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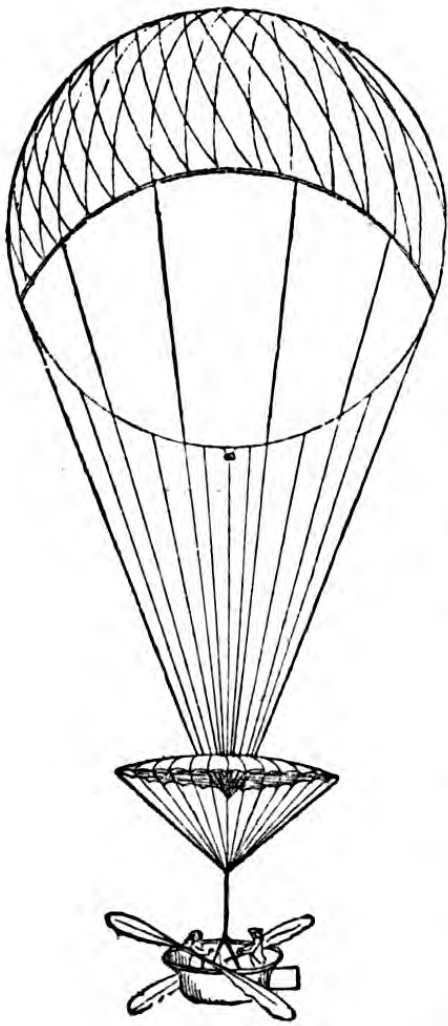
These chronicles of old times must necessarily be various, surprise need be felt if I next notice the germ of the greatest revolution ever known. In this month, John Wilkinson, iron-master at Bradley Forge (whose copper tokens are well known to collectors) built the first boat made of iron to Birmingham, *via* canal, loaded with twenty-three tons of iron. It was about the same dimensions as the canal-boats—viz. 70 ft. long and 6 ft. 8½ in. beam. It was made of $\frac{5}{16}$ of an inch thick, riveted together; but the stern-post was of wood, the gunwale was lined with, and the beams made of, wood. When it drew about eight or nine inches of water. This was the first ironclad runner of all our ironclads, and of the present Merchant Navy of the whole world.

There is mention made of a curious land-tenure, which deserves passing notice. Dr. Thomas Thurlow was made Bishop of Durham on his entrance into his see, he was met by John Erasmus Blackett, Esq., as representative of his brother, Sir Edward Blackett, Bart., and he, according to ancient custom, handed the Bishop the keys, saying, "Sir Edward Blackett, Baronet, now represents the peerage of John Conyers, who, in the year 1063, in the fields of Sockburn

falchion, slew a monstrous creature, a dragon, a worm, or a that devoured men, women, and children. The owner of S reward for his bravery, gave him the manor, with its appu him and his heirs to hold for ever, on condition that he m Bishop of Durham on his first entrance into his diocese after ment to that see." His lordship received and returned th many handsome compliments."

Here is a notice with an old-world flavour about it Yesterday, one Sedgeley, an attorney, of the New Inn, wh back was convicted of perjury, stood an hour on the pillor Street, Covent Garden; after which he was conducted to N he is to be imprisoned two years."

Fishing anecdotes are notorious for their elasticity, but told in the *World* of July 14 which will take some beating se'nnight, at morning tide, one of the largest sturgeons ever came up the river of Ross, in the county of Wexford, Ireland 6 ft. 7 in. from nose to tail, and was of an enormous l On opening the stomach, about twenty pounds weight of c of small fish were found, together with an enamelled



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which were the letters, I.C., 1768." This fish has been cooked after a receipt given in the *Morning Post* of July 25 : "Friday last, a set of Epicurean Viands on one of the largest salmons that has appeared in years, in this or any other kingdom. It weighed 100 pounds, was roasted whole, with three dozen chickens and six large mackerel in the belly."

Ballooning was a novelty, and still remained in the same condition as it was a century ago : not to the measure, it has retrograded, the parachute did not appear, until Professor Baldwin resuscitated the art in those very early days of aëronautics (Montgolfier's first ascent at Paris, August 27, 1783), but he was not afraid to risk his life in one, as we see by the following

Magazine of July 26 :—"A letter from Nancy

informs us that on July 1 Mons. Blanchard ascended with the balloon amidst an incredible number of spectators. In less than three hours he rose to an extraordinary height, and, piercing the clouds, totally disappeared for about five minutes, when M. Blanchard, as he had previously

opened the valve of one of his balloons, which rapidly descending out of the boat, he opened his large parachute, by which he fell one league from the place where he set out. . . . The next day at noon, he promised another ascension ; but, the wind being too strong, he took up a little dog in a basket, about three thousand feet high, and his parachute, opening, let it down with ease, unhurt." The illustration is from a contemporary print, and gives a good idea of the parachute.

Here is a specimen of the manners of the times :—"A very humorous circumstance is said to have happened, lately, in the Strand, near Charing Cross. Two ladies of considerable distinction stopped their carriage at a jeweller's ; one of them only got out. The coachman remained at the causeway. Some gentlemen wanted to cross to the other side of the street, desired the coachman to move on a little ; the fellow would not ; refused ; the gentlemen remonstrated, but in vain. During this time the lady came to the door of the shop, and foolishly ordered the coachman not to stir from his place. One of the gentlemen, without consulting her, opened the coach door, and, with boots and spurs on, went into the carriage. He was followed by his companions, to the extent of their view, the exposure of the lady within, as well as the lady without. To

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jest, a party of sailors coming by observed, *in their way*, that thoroughfare, why might not they go through, as well as the which the whole party actually did. The lady had some difficulty into her carriage, as a mob was soon collected to enjoy the scene.

The following paragraph treats of a little episode of the kind which varies slightly from the common ruck of highway robberies of those days since, as two gentlemen and two ladies were returning from about three o'clock in the morning, near Lambeth, they were assailed by three men, armed with large club sticks, who jumped out of a dark place, knocked down both the gentlemen, and would have robbed the ladies, but the cries of the ladies had not brought assistance, on which they got into a coach and made their escape. This attempt was made within the view of a watch-box, where a watchman was leaning over the door. With great difficulty, was prevailed upon to ring the alarm bell, and when he had done, it was too late to apprehend them." They should have been dealt with those Irishmen who are described in a letter from Dublin. "There is a sort of club at a place south in the vicinity of the Strand, who have made it a practice to discharge pistols at a card table, and with the ace of any colour, to keep the hand in practice for

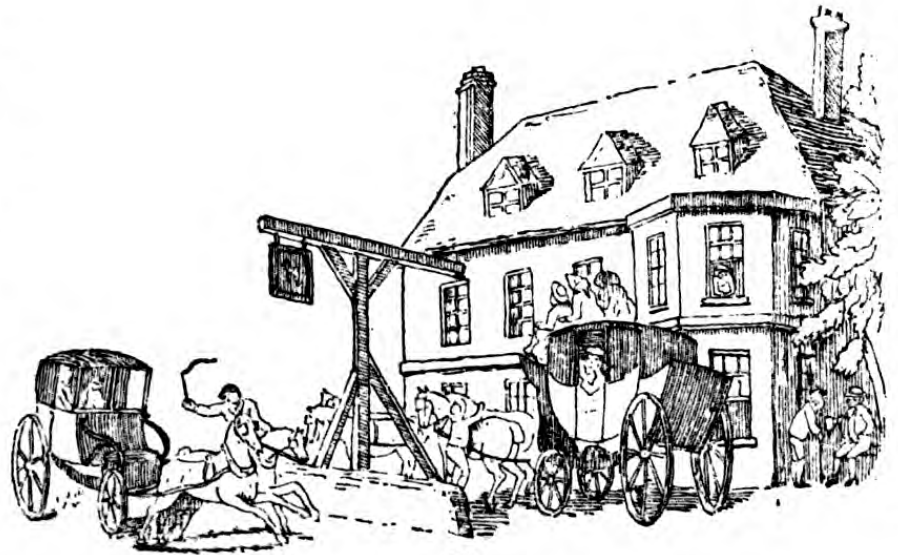
one time or other, their man. One day in the course of one of these bloods, seeing one of his comrades often fire very far from the mark, offered to stand a shot, for a wager of ten guineas, that he would double his distance, which might have been about sixteen yards. The wager was closed, and the iron-headed gentleman who made the shot, held his station, while his friend traversed the ground, and discharged his rifle. The joke was concluded with the lodgment of a ball in the victor's thigh."



CHAPTER VIII.

AUGUST.

ALL the world—at least, all who had any pretension to be out of town. Margate and Dover were full—Ramsgate watering-places on the south coast being comparatively un- everybody that was anybody was at Brightelmstone. For it was a pleasant ride by road, either by post-chaise or stage-



E

Hanover, and, for the first time in his life, had an establishment. I fear that the sea air and bathing were but secondary considerations. Here is a little story of the beach :—

“The Cliff last week exhibited a scene of the most whimsical and ordinary distress that can well be imagined. Mr. H——, who was more devoted to recreation and in observance of the fashion than from any necessity punctual at the machines as the most infirm valetudinarians, amused himself with ten or twelve minutes’ swimming every day. A *chevalier d’industrie* having remarked the practice, and probably with a prophetic sense that it may some time or other be of evil consequence, has proposed a very effectual remedy to this extravagant custom. In the state of things they say, all property is common ; and, as both were naked, the adventurer saw no reason why he should not come forth as boldly as his neighbours. So, hurrying into Mr. H——’s machine, which was equipped with a suit of very fashionable clothes, watch, pocket-book, and paying Smoaker a shilling, retired without any interruption, leaving the swimmer in the most laughable confusion. On a scrutiny of the habiliments left upon the beach, a very good reason was discovered for not employing a machine to go in, not having even as much c

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satisfy the Charon of the place. Mr. H—— had a good deal in making himself known, and, not much relishing the article left behind, was obliged to remain in a ludicrous state of *na* a dress was brought from his lodgings.”

Fashion, in the matter of dress at the seaside, was as *ex* it is now, at a fashionable watering-place, and the following gentlemen is given in the *London Chronicle*, August 16—1 the morning provide yourself with a very large round hat. serve your face from the sun and wind, both of which are v to the complexion. Let your hair be well filled with pom and bear's grease, and tuck it under your hat. Have an terlin to your shirt, the broader the better; and pull it up the pouter pigeon as you possibly can. A white waistcoat and a coat with a collar up to your ears, will do for an earl they say your head looks like that of John the Baptist in them you are not ashamed to look like an Apostle, wha Your first appearance must be in red morocco slippers, with your second in shoes with the Vandyke tie; your third in C with very long rowelled spurs, which are very useful to walk

tear a lady's apron, it gives you a good opportunity of showing fully you can ask pardon. Your fourth dress must be the thr hat, the Paris pump, and the Artois buckle."

About this time ballooning was the rage, and two balloons tised to start simultaneously. They were being filled with hydrogen (the Surrey side of London Bridge) in the presence of a large spectators; but at the last moment, the weather being somewhat the aëronauts declined to ascend, and the crowd vented their ment on the unoffending balloons. In his anxiety to see the p one man got his head through the balustrade of London Bridge not withdraw it for over an hour, affording, by his impromptu p sport to the mob. This month Lunardi intended to cross th from Dover, but he did not make the attempt.

August 11 is noteworthy for being the centenary of the fou the See of Nova Scotia, the Rev. C. Inglis, D.D., being appointed Bishop.

About this time very great interest was taken in our nation cricket, and we may take one match as an instance. It was "Mary-le-Bone-Field," and was a single-wicket match. It la

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days, beginning on August 2. "This match is between Kent shire—or, for the sake of a reinforcement to the latter county, players, between Kent and All England. The match is though it is said that not less than £20,000 are depending upon were six on a side, and ultimately Kent won by twenty—cutting a notch in a piece of wood for each run then being the method of scoring. This illustration is somewhat prior to 1787, and is taken from a picture engraved in 1743; but it practically represents the game as played one hundred years ago—the bat used being precisely similar, and although the third stump was added by the Hambledon Club in 1775, its adoption was not universal, as may be seen in a print in the *Sporting Mag-*



Magazine for June, 1793, where only two stumps, and the benches in our illustration, are used in a "Grand Cricket Match, played at the Cricket Ground, Mary-le-bone, on June 20th and following day, between the Gentlemen of Winchelsea and Darnley for 1000 guineas." In 1798, another alteration was made in the wickets, which were then 24 in. high and 7 in. broad, but in 1817 it was again altered to 27 in. high and 8 in. broad, at which stands. The antiquity of the game of cricket is undoubted, but to fix a very early date may be found in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for March, 1788 (vol. lviii. p. 189):—"In the Wardrobe account of the eighth year of King Edward I. (A.D. 1300), published last year by the Society of Antiquaries, among the entries of money issued for the expenses of his son, Prince Edward, in playing at different games, is the entry 'Domino Johanni de Leek, capellano domini Edwardi fil' ad cruciandum ludos per vices, per manus proprias apud Westm. 10 die Aprilis 1300.'

Things matrimonial got a little bit mixed, according to a paragraph in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for August, 1787:—"The two sons of Lord Petre, not long since, married two sisters; of these there survived a younger sister, whom Lord Petre himself is about to marry. To complete the perplexities of these intermarriages, these young ladies

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brother, who is engaged to marry a daughter of Lord Petre
no easy matter to ascertain the precise degree of relations
issue of these marriages will bear to each other."



There was an
trait of the King
month, representing
on horseback, enj
version of stag-h
he frequently follow
residence at Wind
there might have be
of royal etiquette
heading the field
always well up to
nay, one caricatur
ture represents h
over them.

There is a little anecdote told of the King in the *New To
try Magazine* for 1787:—"August 16. A very particular

occurred on Wednesday, which has occasioned much conversation at Windsor. His Majesty, after parading the terrace with the Duke, rested his arm on the sun-dial, which is near the end of the terrace. The Duke did the same, and continued in conversation with some of the ladies with whom they had for some time before been walking. At the same time a parley, a sentinel upon duty there walked up to the King and Duke, and desired His Majesty to remove from the dial, as it was under his particular protection. His Majesty removed accordingly, observing, at the same time, that the man's rigid adherence to his orders was highly commendable. He was some hours after he was graciously pleased to recommend him to the command of the regiment as an object worthy of promotion."

In the middle of August the Queen received a letter from a certain Lord Stone, proposing for the hand of the Princess Royal. The following are some extracts :—"To come to the point, I have seen the Princess and must assure you that the brilliancy of her beauties, in the opinion of all who have seen her, surpasses even the honours of her situation. . . . It is true that her expenses at present are somewhat encumbered ; but what of that ? The Princess's my desires will operate as an antidote against the evils of poverty. It is to your discretion to mention the affair to his Majesty : if you

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the measure, I can have no objection." And he winds up a point—
—"I hope soon to have the honour of approaching you in a like
character."

The poor fellow was apprehended, and his insanity having
he was sent to Bethlehem Hospital, where his great idea was
Margaret Nicholson, who stabbed the King, and who was also
We get a glimpse of him afterwards in the *Morning Chronicle*
27, 1787, when some gentlemen, going over the hospital, saw
reported that he spoke very rationally, and that if he was
private asylum he would probably entirely recover.

The convivial habits of men a century ago sometimes led to
results. One instance comes from Edinburgh. It was after
of the Quarterly Sessions was closed, and the provost and
adjourned to a tavern, in company with other gentlemen—the
days when men did not shirk their bottle—and the result in
great conviviality. During the evening, the provost proposed
which was drunk by all, except one gentleman. The refusal
toast was always regarded as very bad form, and, in a moment
these magistrates formed a court, tried the delinquent, found

and sentenced him to be set upon an ass, with his face to the wall, his hands to be tied behind him, and a label on his breast, inscribed "the man who refused drinking"—such a toast. The sentence was carried out—but the culprit brought an action against the magistrate in the inferior court, and afterwards before the High Justiciary. Five judges tried the case, and their gravity broke down. However, the plaintiff recovered a hundred pounds damages and sixpence costs.

In the latter part of the month were many thunderstorms, and there is a story *à propos* both of the storm and the bottle. This time the storm was laid at Limerick, and, in those days, an Irishman would not have been a Scotchman in the matter of conviviality. Some friends were met in the evening, inside and outside of the house, for there was a thunderstorm, and one stole off to bed. Of course there was but one method of doing so, and such a recreant. He was pursued to his lair, captured, wrapped in a dressing-gown, and carried downstairs to continue the festivities. He had scarcely left the bedroom when the house was struck by lightning, which passed through the centre of the bed which he had just occupied.

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CHAPTER IX.

SEPTEMBER.

IT is somewhat singular that the idea which prompts the
its parallel in 1787. In a number of the *World* of the
the heading, "Changes of 100 Years," which goes on thus:—

In 1687, a rebellion was brewing in England, and the Prince of Orange was preparing, with the assistance of the Dutch, to succour the popular party.

In 1687, the Court went to midnight Mass, matins, and vespers, and heard sermons preached by the Pope's Legate.

In 1687, there were reckoned to be about fifty Scotch and twenty-eight Irish men in London.

In 1787, a civil war is in progress in Holland, and the King of England is considering with his Ministers the means of giving succour to the Prince of Orange.

In 1787, their Majesties have removed their chapel at Whitehall, and the enormities of the Papacy and the Holy Pontiff himself are being exposed to be Anti-Christ.

In 1787, they appear to be as numerous as the native English.

In 1687, it was reckoned a fortnight's journey from London to York.

In 1687, palaces inhabited by Princes of the Blood stood in the Strand; St. Martin's Church was in the Fields; and Hammersmith and Kensington were reckoned elegant retirements in the country.

In 1787, the same journey with ease in two days.

In 1787, no family of *ton* eastward of Berkeley Square, Ham Green, Finchley, and Bayswater, was considered within the smoke of London.

And yet a somewhat practical denial to the last paragraph is given in the same paper, which, on the first of the month, chronicles a fox hunt from Totteridge to Highgate.

On September 3, there was a riot at Glasgow, caused by the weavers whose wages had been reduced. They cut webs of cloth, and committed other acts of violence; in consequence of which the military were sent out, ordered to fire, and eight people were killed, others being wounded. But the riots were stopped.

Dr. Tanner could fast pretty well, and so could Merletti, whose twenty days' fast ended December 15, 1886; but they pale before the fast of a certain product; for, in September, 1787, there was to be seen at Godstone a man that for *nineteen weeks* had taken no nourishment of any kind. The

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however, adds, that "evidently, from appearance, she was on death."

On September 4, a very interesting ceremony was performed in George's Chapel, Windsor—called an offering from the Knights of the Garter—which generally took place twice a year, if a chapter was formed; the chapter consisting of three Knights. On this occasion three were the King, as Sovereign of the Order, the Duke of York, and the Duke of Montagu, who, with reverence, and deep bows, each deposited an ingot of gold upon the altar. This offering was accompanied by suitable prayers, and the gold was given to the poor.

Archery still kept up its reputation as a fashionable recreation, the most aristocratic society, perhaps, being the Royal British Bowmen, of which the Prince of Wales was



was patron. The society was mainly composed of gentlemen of North Wales, and they met every fortnight, at the seat of one of the members, in rotation. We are told "the ladies use the game with grace and skill;" which also seems to be the case in the



p. 85, which is after Rowlandson. And also the Society of Archers, who, having hired a house, situated in the gardens behind Leicester House, purchased a spacious piece of ground at the end of Tottenham Court Road.

And, if ladies indulged in archery, so they have done with cricket—if we may credit the account of Miss Wicket. There were large sums of money played for at cricket. There was a match on September 11, at the New Cricket-ground, between an eleven of Lord Winchelsea and another of Sir Horace Mann, when the lord and the baronet were "another match for a cool thousand."

Here is a curious escape of a thief. On September 11, two chimney-sweeps were found robbing

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at Homerton. One was taken, and sent about his business well reprimanded; but the other suddenly turned into a fire, though there was a large fire in the kitchen grate, he stepped over the bars, and, passing up the chimney, was almost in an instant out of the house; going over several buildings, he descended and got clear off.

The universality of boxing at this period is well exemplified in the following story taken from the *Morning Chronicle* of September 18th, a few evenings ago, a broker in the city (who is as much distinguished by his philology as in his profession) was, in a very abrupt manner, thrown from the pavement in Newgate Street by men genteel in appearance, showing a degree of resentment for the other's illegal conduct, and a blow on the head from one, with a challenge to decide their quarrel by blows. They immediately stripped. A genteel-looking man, who, in the interim, expressing himself an advocate for the former's conduct, and at the same time reprobating the others for their conduct, assured the broker he would be careful of his property, and entrusted the same to his care, and would not suffer him to be imposed on. The credulity of the broker induced him to

care of this gentleman his coat, waistcoat, hat, and cane. In after, a contest ensued, which lasted with some spirit for a certain time, till the antagonist of the former, feeling himself too much overpowered, ran off; but not before he had closed the eyes and much bruised his combatant. The broker inquired for his preterit *dress*, but alas! to his astonishment, this obliging person had also, when the broker, almost mad with vexation, walked home head-down and bare-backed, weltering in blood, bewailing his luckless

Nowadays, "the silly season" in the newspaper press sets in in September, at the time of the annual exodus to the seaside. It was the same a century ago; but "the enormous gooseberry" had not yet been invented. Still, the genius that wrote the following paragraph lived in these latter days, might have proved himself equal to the gooseberry:—"A mackarell was caught last week in the west of Scotland, measuring these extraordinary dimensions: above two feet from the tail, near seventeen inches across the shoulders." A truly enormous fish! for it was not far from being as broad as it was long.

Art was looking up in a most satisfactory way for artists. The painters are all rising. Gainsborough has raised his price to forty

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Romney to thirty; and Stuart, who was at twenty-five following him. Gainsborough has been making hay while the In the course of the summer there are whole lengths of Mr. Beaufoy, Sir F. Sykes, Mrs. Bate Dudley, the Duke of Marquis of Buckingham, and Mr. Pitt. There is, besides, a his dog in a land-storm, which anybody who has three hundred may make his own."

"Died at Llanvare, near Ruthin, county Denbigh [Llan Clwyd?], Mrs. Susan Parry, a maiden lady, who by her will the sum of three guineas to her harper, on condition that he play the harp (an instrument that she was very fond of) two places which she had fixed on, over her grave, which were accordingly on the 13th instant. The novelty of the scene drew together a concourse of people, and the poor harper, being an old man, hardly begin, for the solemnity of the place and the number about him had such an effect upon him that he burst into tears some time before he was capable of performing the last command of his old mistress; which had so much effect upon the spectators that hardly a dry eye in the churchyard."

Ireland, a century ago, required, as now, an army to keep order. The following is a pretty correct list of the present army established in Ireland, as transmitted from the Board of War in the city of Dublin. Cavalry: Four regiments of horse, one of horse dragoons, and four of light dragoons—total, twelve regiments. Infantry: Twenty-one regiments. The dragoons are pretty near up to their complement, the four regiments of horse are not full, and most of the infantry regiments want recruits.

The Whiteboys were abroad—so called from the white shirts they wore over their ordinary clothes when engaged in their outrageous depredations, which are in many respects parallels to which we have been experiencing for some years past. The following is a great similarity in the details. Take this one, only, as an instance. It reads as if of to-day. Extract from a letter from Cork, September 17, 1795: “Last Friday night, about two hundred Whiteboys assembled at the house of Pierce’s Court in the north liberties of this city, mounted on horseback, and obliged John Murphy, steward to Mr. John Casey, of Florence Court, to swear on a book that he would deliver a message to his neighbour, Mr. Casey, Captain Right, which was, that if he, Mr. Casey, did not turn out of his hay, which he had not drawn in, and not take any notice of the fact, that every beast he had should be houghed, and his property destroyed.”

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The culture of muscle has revived amongst us of late years, exercises of all kinds were in full swing in 1787. Pedestrianism amongst them, and the most extraordinary professor of this athleticism was one Foster Powell, who was born, in 1734, at Horsforth, near Leeds. In 1773, he walked from London to York, and back again, a distance of four hundred miles, in five days and eighteen hours; but this was beaten by his feat in 1787. For a wager of one hundred guineas he walked from Canterbury to London Bridge, and back again, a distance of 112 miles, within twenty-four hours. He started on the

afternoon of September 1st, and walked to London Bridge in ten hours and half; but he took two hours and twenty minutes to return—thus losing the wager, with ten guineas spare.





CHAPTER X.

OCTOBER.

THE principal topic of this month and the latter part of the press-gang. Certainly it was of ancient origin, for we know its existence in the reign of Richard II., 1378, so that it had over four centuries to commend itself, if possible, to the seafaring mind. Jack never wanted to see the fun of finding, on his return home, that, touch at which in the United Kingdom he was bound for, there, in all probability, before he cast anchor, the crew of an armed boat would board him and by very forcible persuasion induce him to enter the "King's service" for an indefinite period. This was indeed hard, for there were many chances against his seeing home again, and deep and bitter had been his curses. If he escaped the kidnappers at port, and had his liberty ashore with Poll, Bet, or Sue, and had spent his pay, then, with a gang, he might perhaps get obstreperous, in which case

get knocked over the head, and carried insensible on board where, on his waking, he would shrug his shoulders, and make a bad job. War with France loomed in the very near future, and an economical Government had kept the *personnel* of the navy as low as possible, so that, when a demand for seamen sprang up, the usual method of offering a bounty was tried; and on September 21 was issued "A proclamation for encouraging seamen and landsmen to enter themselves on board his Majesty's ships of war." And, by this, the bounty to all able-bodied seamen, not over fifty years of age, who should volunteer before October 31 next, was to be two pounds, and landsmen not over thirty-five years of age might receive the munificent sum of twenty shillings.

This proclamation was never given time to work, and a Government must have been banished, for on the very day so also were press-warrants, and a very strong press commenced on the river and all the villages on its banks. Several row-galleys



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alongside all vessels in the river, and stripped them of every article on board, leaving only boys to take care of the ships. It is computed that upwards of fifteen hundred hands were pressed on that night, and were immediately conveyed on board tenders lying ready for service. The same afternoon, press-warrants were sent from the Admiralty by express, to every sea-port in England for impressing seamen for His Majesty's service to man the ships fitting out at Portsmouth. In the following we read the following:—"On Monday, coals were raised in a chaldron. This advance was occasioned by the colliers being short of their men by the press-gangs, and it is expected they will be again very considerably, as there are no men to be got to navy. As Colonel Quagg remarked, "Some took it fightin' and some lyin' down;" so, also, sometimes the sailors resisted, as was the case in an extract from a letter from Dover, October 2:—"Saturday last a riot happened here between a body of sailors and a press-gang, and both were much bruised on both sides. In the upshot the sailors were victorious, and so made their escape for the time; but about a week after they all entered and received his Majesty's bounty." It might be written about this press, were there space, but a little

practice deserves to be recorded: "Wednesday, during the regulating captain examining the men on Tower Wharf the impressed into his Majesty's service, about twenty young rounded them to hear the examination, when a hint was given the gates of the wharf were shut, the draw-bridge drew up, and they were safely conducted on board the tender."

There are several accounts of pretended press-gangs, twelve or fourteen fellows, all dressed in sailor's uniforms and bludgeons, who went about the east end of London, obtaining labourers and mechanics, half a crown or five shillings each, their being put on board the tender. It is refreshing to know at least, that six of such a gang were captured, brought before the court, and committed by him to the charge of a real lieutenant, who took care of them all. Warrants were issued for apprehending all disorderly vagrants, and such as had no visible means of gaining a livelihood, pressing them to serve in the army, and these warrants were laid before the Court of the Lord Mayor. But the City stuck up, as they always do, for the freedom of the subject, and, although they did not object to compulsory employment for the idle and disorderly portion

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munity, yet the Lord Mayor refused to back the press-warrants and orders were given to the City patrol that if any press-gang to drag any person out of the City without taking them before a assistance was at once to be procured, and the officer and gang apprehended in order to be punished. Still, not wishing to State of sailors, who were urgently needed, the *Patres Conscr* they might be procured by more legitimate means, so they offered of forty shillings for every volunteer, and, the first day, over took the bounty, and were accepted by the navy; and, later presented themselves that it made it very hard work for the This public-spirited conduct met with its reward, for this press afterwards stopped, and on November 3 the warrants were recalled by Order in Council, and most of the colliers who had been impressed were released, orders being also sent to Liverpool, Bristol, and other ports to discharge all impressed men. Contemporary views of a press-gang are very rare, and the one given on the next page is especially valuable in costume:—

But woe is me, the press-gang came and forc'd my Ned away
Just when we nam'd next morning fair to be our wedding day
The Banks of the

The whole of this month was filled with rumours of war; either had to join their regiments or give their addresses; and rapidly accumulated. *À propos* of this, there is a story told of a practice on the part of the Treasury Board. They advertised for 500,000 gallons of rum, and accepted all the tenders, amounting to 500,000

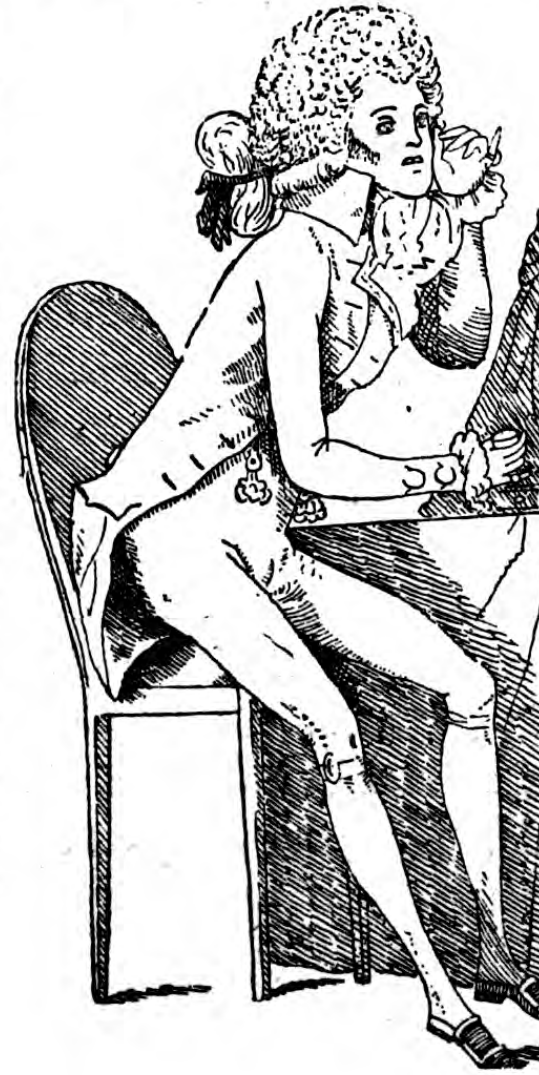


which, if tendered, would have been at a high price. Luckily, however, the two countries of France and England saw the danger of arming against themselves, and a Memorandum was signed by both Powers at Versailles on October 27, that all preparations should be discontinued on both sides.

The *ana* of this year was not very remarkable, and the chronicle of a

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ennial custom, which took place on Old Michaelmas Day at Stortford. This day was called *ganging day*, when a number of men met in the fields, and elected one as their leader. They were bound to follow wherever he led them, and the route was over a very rough route. Every person, male or female, whom they met was bumped—*i.e.* two were swung against each other. These revels over, they returned to the village, where every publican was bound to find, gratis, a plum-cake and a gallon of ale. The same newspaper has this paragraph: "At the hunt at Windsor, on Saturday last, there was a London Jemmy Jessamy with his horse's tail actually tied up in a bag, to the great merriment of the whole



whole company. His saddle and stirrups were elastic, and decorated with ribbons." Perhaps some of my readers may not know Jemmy Jessamy until he is pointed out to them. Turn back and there he is.

On October 16 their Majesties and the Princesses had two to play before them of the mature age of two and four years respectively, the atom of two performing on the piano. They were the children of a native of Newcastle, named Bryson, and were advertised to play at the corner of St. James's Street, Piccadilly, every day from three to five p.m. Admission half a crown. After three p.m. they were engaged for private performances. Another musical prodigy, a few years old, little Miss Hoffman, was playing (in 1787) sonatas, etc. on the organ, pianoforte, and harpsichord.

At every election for Parliament there was a sham one held in a portion of Wandsworth, and the elected one was, until next year, always called the Mayor of Garratt, and usually conferred upon him the dignity of knighthood. Such was the case with Sir Jefferies, the then Mayor, and the last but one of those dignitaries. He was a poor and seller of old wigs, a poor crippled dwarf, but, withal, a fellow

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humour, and much beloved by the mob on account of his daughter was married, October 1, 1787, at the church of St. Andrew, Shoreditch, her friends and neighbours hiring all the hackney-coaches in the vicinity. The bridegroom, aged sixteen, was a donkey-driver by profession; he was dressed for this occasion in a white jacket and blue apron, and in his hand he carried a short stick. He was followed by a long train of Spitalfields weavers and donkey-drivers, holding up each other's coats, while a bodyguard of friends, armed with sticks, preceded his coach. Sir Jeffery came by a different route, a path beaten out for him by the primitive method of beating the toes of the mob with their sticks, and altogether a scene of good-humoured riot ensued.

There is another marriage chronicled this month, of "crude youth," which did not have such a happy conclusion. October 10, a very odd wedding was celebrated a few days since at a house in the End; the bridegroom was seventy-five years old, and the bride sixteen. The former was attended to church by four young men, and the bride by the same number of young men; but, when they came to separate, it was discovered the bride had eloped with her two bridesmen, and about £800 in cash and jewels of her unfortu-

A sad story comes to us at the close of the month, for so thieves committed sacrilege and theft in Westminster Abbey, verger's silver staff, and cutting the gold lace off the altar-cloth. before, they stole the silver top off the beadle's staff.



CHAPTER XI.

NOVEMBER.

LAST month closed with peaceful demonstrations on the part of France and England. The press-warrants were recalled, and the men released. The Government found themselves with huge quantities of warlike stores on hand, and were asking contractors on what terms they would consent to have their contracts annulled. Three per cent interest on which at the end of October were $71\frac{1}{4}$, left off at the end of November at $77\frac{1}{4}$. Many who had looked to making fortunes out of the war were disappointed, notably in a speculation in saltpetre. On October 25th a great sale of this chemical at the East India House, when it was sold at an advance of £5 per ton; but it proved a disastrous speculation to the buyers.

Are we to take the following as true, because it is headed "Anecdote"?—"A penurious rector of a good benefice some

North of England insisted, in contradiction to the long customs of the parish, on receiving his tithes in kind. This caused universal disgust. Amongst others, an honest old farmer, who had a great quantity of bees, was exceedingly offended, and adopted the following mode of gratifying his resentment. He wrapt up his hives, full of bees, in a thick cloth, and took it under his arm to the rector's house. Desiring to speak with him, he was introduced into his study. He then told his reverence that he had ten hives, and in obedience to his declaration, brought him one as his tithe. Without further parley, he threw it into the middle of the table, and hastily withdrew, pulling-to the door and locking it after him. It seems, had but little pious respect for the dignity of the parson, almost stung the poor clergyman to death before he could procure medical assistance."

The canker of lotteries had got deeply into the national mind, although some of them, like our "Art Union," might have been considered as innocent — such as the lottery for the British Museum, 1753; that of the British Museum, 1773; sale of the Adelphi buildings, in the same year; the British Museum, 1784-5; the Pigott diamond, 1802; and the lotte

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man Boydell's pictures, in 1804-5—yet there were the State Lottery, established in 1693, which for over a hundred and thirty years has yielded a large annual revenue to the Crown. In this month, beginning on November 12, the Irish State Lottery, of the value of prizes of £200,000, allotted as under:—

No. of Prizes.	Value of Each.	Total Value.
2 of	£10,000 is	£20,000
2 of	5,000 is	10,000
4 of	2,000 is	8,000
8 of	1,000 is	8,000
14 of	500 is	7,000
30 of	100 is	3,000
60 of	50 is	3,000
200 of	20 is	4,000
13,050 of	10 is	130,500
<hr/>		
13,370 Prizes		£193,500
First drawn on 1st, 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th days, £1000 each	}	5,000
Last drawn 1,500
26,630 Blanks.		
<hr/>		
40,000 Tickets		£200,000

Thus we see that the tickets were of the nominal value of five pounds each, but the numerous dealers in these articles seemed to have had no settled prices for them, the most curious thing being that from some dealers, up to the time of drawing, these tickets could be purchased for £4 14s. 6d. each, whilst others were charging £7; but then the lower charge excluded from all chance of winning a £10 prize.

News travelled slowly in those days, and the first notice I can find of any result of the drawing is in *The World* of November 19: "The Irish ticket No. 13,678, as first drawn, entitled to £1000, was sold



by Messrs. Co.," etc. on a very scale, a bi these lott

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mongers, in which Fortune is depicted as showering her goods, and the poor people purchase their tickets of him.

Here is a story which, if it did not appear in different forms, would be hardly credible. On November 10, three drovers were sitting in a public-house, in the neighbourhood of Fleet Market, and on a trifling wager, they agreed to toss who should cut off the thumb of the other. The winner, a brutal fellow, who some years previously had cut off his thumb to avoid service in the army, actually cut off the thumb of one man, who subsequently died from loss of blood; and the thumb of the other man was slightly cut.

Some of the punishments of a hundred years since were very brutal; but, certainly, were not then looked upon as such. On November 23. Yesterday morning a man who has for some years been a black-iron shop in Fleet Lane, and who was convicted at the Old Bailey of buying pewter-pots knowing them to be stolen, was, according to the sentence, whipt at the cart-tail from Newgate to Fleet Market, and then brought back again, amidst the hisses and acclamations of his old neighbours, the sentence of the court obliging him to pass by his own door."

A curious story comes from Barbadoes, under date of

which involves a somewhat complex legal question:—"By a
of the earth, not uncommon in the West Indies, a large quantity
slid with a gradual motion to a considerable distance from
site, the trees, huts of the negroes, etc., remaining perfectly un-
The owner of the soil which this tract now covers has laid claim
his property; whilst the original proprietor asserts his right on
plea: 'That he is certainly authorized to pursue and occupy
wherever he can *catch* it.'"

Probably some Freemason may feel interested in this advertisement
which notifies that the Lodge of Antiquity is removed to the
Anchor tavern, Strand:—"As many brethren may not have
the records of the fraternity, it is necessary to acquaint them
the oldest-established lodge in England, over which Sir Christopher Wren
presided in person eighteen years, during the building of
Cathedral; and that it has continued regularly to meet since
under the patronage of several noble and eminent characters.
originally met at the Goose and Gridiron, in St. Paul's Church
was one of four lodges which in the year 1717 gave rise to the
Grand Lodge in Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields."

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The same newspaper has an advertisement of the Westminster Assembly, held at the Theatre Royal, Spring Gardens, Charing Cross, November 19 :—"This evening was debated the following question—viz., 'Would it not reflect upon Mr. Pitt to impose an additional tax upon every batchelor above the age of forty, and apply the produce thereof as marriage bounties to poor young maidens?' The above question was conveyed to the managers of this society in a letter, signed by a considerable number of married men, stating that old batchelors do not sustain any burthen with them of the burthen of the State," etc. It may not be generally known that a tax was so imposed, for on April 22, 1695, William III. gave his consent to an Act intituled "An Act for granting his Majesty's most Excellent Highness the Duke of Devonshire, his Heirs, and Assigns, Rates and duties upon Marriages, Births, and Burials, and upon the Estates of Bachelors and Widowers for the term of five years, for carrying on the said Act with vigour." By this Act—

Bachelors above twenty-five years old paid yearly
Widowers	"	"	"	"
A duke, being bachelor or widower	"	"	"	"
A marquis	"	"	"	"

By the Act 8 and 9 William III., "For making good the de-

several funds therein mentioned," these taxes were kept to be paid until August 1, 1706.



With the col and the fact that returned to town were filled. The both Drury Lane Garden opening at 5.15 p.m., and dances commenced p.m. There were theatres then, were extremely owing to both generality of better than now specially applies to Drury Lane, proclaim superiority

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spect over her rival. She could boast of Mrs. Siddons, Mrs. Farren (afterwards Countess of Derby), Mrs. Crouch, a sweet Mrs. Brereton, and Miss Pope; whilst Covent Garden had Mrs. Abington, Miss Brunton, Mrs. Mattocks, Mrs. Martyr, and Mrs. Wells.

Mrs. Siddons and Mrs. Jordan were in the height of their popularity, the former making her last appearance on the London stage on June 9, 1819; and the latter at the end of the season 1813-14. How they affected their audiences we can judge from these two illustrations, taken from etchings by S. Boyne, where the audience assembled for the benefit of Mrs.

Sid-



Siddons are all lachrymose, whilst that gathered for Mrs. Jordan are laughing heartily. In November, 1787, Mrs. Siddons played the following parts:—November 3, Lady Macbeth; 6th and 16th, Portia; 20th, Matilda, in the “Carmelite;” and on the 24th, Portia in *Merchant of Venice*.”

In the same month Mrs. Jordan played on the 2nd, 22nd, and 23rd, Julietta, in “*The Pilgrim*” (with a song); on the 3rd, 7th, 19th, as Roxalana, in “*The Sultan*” (with a dance); on the 5th, “*The Country Girl*;” on the 8th, 17th, 22nd, 28th, and 29th, “*Richard Cœur-de-Lion*;” on the 14th, Miss Prue, in “*Love and a Bottle*” and on the 20th, Miss Lucy, in “*The Virgin Unmask’d*.” In the theatres, there were other amusements—the Royal Waxworks at the Spring Gardens, where were exhibited all the Royal family, De la Motte, etc.; Merlin’s Mechanical Exhibition, Princes Street, St. James’s Square; and in the Haymarket a learned and sagacious goose, who, on the day of the month and the month of the year, the value of the guinea, money, whether English or foreign, distinguished all sorts of questions, and told the number of the company, etc. Then, too, Lee Lewes played “*Heads*” at the Royalty Theatre, and Signor Gallini announced

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orthodox style, the advent of his Italian Opera (which was on December 4), with the composers, vocalists, and instrumentalists, so that there was amusement for all.

I mention another case of sleeping for a lengthened period to show that it is not uncommon. This is recorded as a case at the Hospital of a woman who slept there for three weeks and five days, scarcely any nourishment.

On November 27, the King went in state to open the fifth session of the sixteenth Parliament of Great Britain. He was dressed in scarlet to the House, in olive-green (or as one newspaper described it, of a dark colour) and gold, and returned clothed in scarlet. The Duke of Devonshire, on this occasion, introduced into the House of Lords, and the Duke of Devonshire. He was preceded by Black Rod, a Herald carrying his coronation sceptre, King-at-Arms, and the Duke of Chandos. On either side of the King were the Duke of Norfolk, as Earl Marshal, and Sir Peter Burrell, a Chamberlain, whilst the Duke of Richmond brought up the rear.



CHAPTER XII.

DECEMBER.

WE have read how, in the course of the year, men were im-
the naval service; and how, in consequence, it was
until the system of bounties was introduced. The fear of war
the pressed men were released, and the *London Chronicle* of D
says:—"His Majesty has been graciously pleased to give direct
Admiralty Board that every commissioned officer who has been
viz. captains and lieutenants, shall receive three months' pay, th
officers shall receive two months' pay, and common seamen on
pay extraordinary, as a gratuity for the expenses they may have
preparing for actual service. By such acts of royal munificence
may reasonably expect a readiness and zeal in the navy whe
future services may be required."

The same newspaper contains the following:—"On Mon

person named Goward led his wife to the market-place at there sold and delivered her up, with a halter about her, to the sum of three guineas. On their way, Goward asked his not ashamed of being brought to open market to be sold ; she not, and was happy to think that she was going to have an for she well knew who was going to be her purchaser. When to the place, Goward embraced his wife and wished her well she returned the compliment. White declared himself satisfied, and paid down the money, assuring the quondam good and full weight. The purchase being completed, White ringers a handsome treat to ring a peal, and they spent of the day with the greatest joy imaginable." Of course wrong, and we ought to be properly horrified to think that could exist even a hundred years ago ; but history repeats are no better in this generation, for in the *Globe* of May 6, the of Grace 1887, there is an account of a well-to-do weaver who was charged with deserting his wife and three children. He the soft impeachment at once, but urged that, inasmuch as he whole family to another man before the alleged desertion, he

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of all responsibility for their maintenance. It was nothing to him if the purchaser provided for their wants; the law had better see to that. For himself, he had duly received three halfpence, the amount of his purchase money, and there his interest in the affair began and ended.

Here is another fish story:—On December 1, some fishermen caught a shark 9 ft. 3 in. long near Poplar. On opening it, inside it was found a silver watch, a metal chain, and several small pieces of gold. The watch had a maker's name and a number, by which means it was identified as having been sold two years before to a Mr. Thompson as a present to his son on going for his first voyage to sea. A few leagues off Falmouth a squall struck the ship, she heeled over, and Thompson was no more seen. It is said that Thompson *père* kept the shark as a melancholy memento of his dead son.

The month opened badly, with trade riots at Leicester, where the mob broke the windows of two manufactories, and threw the goods of value into the street. This riot was caused by the rumour that the manufacturers were about to introduce Arkwright's machinery for spinning, which the workmen imagined that their living by weaving at their looms at home would be at an end. What machinery has

experience of the last century has shown. The riot was put to the prompt and courageous action of the mayor, who was wounded by a stone. Riots also took place at Northampton and Melton.

Every one who knows the social history of the last century is familiar with the name of Mdlle. Mara, the sweet prima donna who has not have heard of a hunting adventure of her husband's. She was with the Earl of Exeter, and one hunting morn the earl mounted his horse Black Sloven. The run is thus described ;—"The cry, gave speedy chase, like an host of winged horses all cleaving the air, and o'ertopped the mountains ; Mara was not last. Black Sloven, the sport, and, through necessity, Mara gave him his reins. He lost the use of his stirrup, and seized the mane. O'er head he sprang the gate, and wall went Sloven straight forward ; he was equipt with a pair of iron shoes, and refused nothing. The dogs, Mara, and the groom were all slain, and mortals in at the death. Such a hunt was never known ; and the rest of the sportsmen came up ; Sloven was neighing to the top of the neighbouring hills, and prancing with delight, while poor Mara, nearly extinct, motionless, was taken from his horse and put

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situation of clearing a five-barred gate without the relief of pitiable ; every relief was administered, yet Mara was near giving ghost."

In this month was published in some of the newspapers a Robert Raikes, the printer at Gloucester (ancestor of the present master-General), whose philanthropy so forwarded the cause of schools, showing the progress of his work. "It is incredible rapidity this grain of mustard seed is extending its branches in every nation. The third of this month (November) compleat four years. I first mentioned the expediency of Sunday schools in the *Journal*; and by the best information I am assured that the poor children, who were heretofore as neglected as the wild animals who are now taken into these little seminaries of instruction amount to 250,000."

All have heard of Lord George Gordon and the "No Popery" riots of 1780, made familiar to us by Charles Dickens in his "Barnes Rector". At this time he was in very evil case, His love of notoriety continually in hot water. Not content with his lucky escape, he was acquitted from blame in connection with the riots, on the grou

intentions in assembling the people were not malicious and was excommunicated, on May 4, 1786, by the Archbishop of Canterbury for contempt of court in not appearing as a witness when summoned; and, on June 6, 1787, he was found guilty of libel against the Queen of France and the French Ambassador, and for writing a scandalous paper called "The Prisoner's Petition." For this latter he was committed to Newgate for three years, and for the former he was sentenced to imprisonment resided since August, unknown to every one except those o



for two years £500, and to for good be fourteen year £10,000 and £2500 each. Holland, but told he was there, and th quit Amster twenty-four yielded to f and left at on land. Here quietude until rested on De Birmingham, v

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faith, which he had accepted, having renounced the Christian religion. He even seems to have officiated in some capacity at the chief sabbath in Birmingham. He refused, being apprehended on Friday, to travel to London, because he should have to travel on the sabbath. To accommodate him, his departure was postponed on his giving ultimately a post-chaise and four brought him to London, and on an interview with Mr. Justice Buller, he was taken to the King's Bench Prison, whence he was transferred to Newgate. Here he received, at his death, of jail fever, on November 1, 1793, his last moments were embittered by the knowledge that he could not be buried among his fellow-religionists, the Jews. The portrait given on p. 120 is supposed to have been sketched in Newgate, as were others, in which he is shown in social intercourse with the other prisoners—and occasionally as smoking a long clay pipe.

The King received a curious present from Lord Heathfield, of great fame, in the shape of a watch made from the metal of one of the guns captured from the Spaniards during the siege. It was ornamented with several devices representing the transactions of that memorable event.

A new copper coinage was sadly needed—that issued by

was insufficient in quantity and much worn—so that trade matter in their own hands, and Boulton and Watts, from the Soho, Birmingham, turned out tons of “tokens,” or promises to a penny or halfpenny in exchange. These were, doubtless, they were a great convenience to the public. A new coinage however, was settled upon this month, and according to its pound of copper was to be coined into twenty-four halfpence forty-eight as hitherto—farthings to be coined in the same as to size and weight.

Of the prosperity of the year 1787 we have some evidence extract from the *World* of December 21 :—“Of professions these seem at present the instances most enviable. Mr. S. Chancery Bar, is getting as much as Sir Lloyd Kenyon even £9000 a year. Erskine, in the King’s Bench, last year farmed himself into 6020 guineas—this year, his guineas are nearer seven thousand. In physic, Warren has saved so many patients, and of their fees, as made the latter for two or three years past this year about 8000, guineas. Pott, besides satisfying an avarice might satisfy avarice, if he had it, as to pecuniary objects—

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fession is said to produce above £5000 a year. Hammond, and his partner, literally fatigued with getting money, have business. Their stock and warehouses they sold for £ remainder continues in the business.”

It is not often one can find amusement out of prizefight a fight between Johnson and Ryan, the following handbill is been stuck up on a house opposite the scene:—“This is to Man and women may com into this house att 3*d.* a pease too betweene the Inglish Man an Irishe Man whiche accordinge to is too bee a bloody one— there be 3 Winders in thee one paire Staires so thate you well have a fine sighte of the Comboutants—and I have a ball coney for the Ladies att a shillinge a pease. Good acoumadasions in the eatinge waye too be paide extraye.”



We

We have now come to the end of the year, a time devoted to domestic joys, which in those days always included a good deal of skating. And, if December, 1787, was, as it ought to have been, "an unusually winter," there should have been skating as well.





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