Poetry.

A NAME.

Such a lovable face!
Over which not a trace
Of her thoughts as they rise need be missed;
Eyes, whence kindness beams out,
And lips, when they pout,
Seem to meet you half way to be kissed:

Smiles so radiant, that down
(She never could frown)
Her whole form they appear to expand;
Grace and tact so combined
In her touch, that though blind,
You would feel 'twas her fairy-like hand.

Her voice is so ringing,
So melodious, that singing
Is discord compared with her words;
When she laughs 'tis elation,
And you feel a sensation
Of sunshine and music and birds.

Her name! O when sad
If I think it, I'm glad;
But when spoken, or written in rhyme, a
Strong word flies in haste
At her sponsors' bad taste,
For why did they call her JEMIMA?

—*All the Year Round.*

Correspondence.

IMPORTATIONS OF CORN.

To the EDITOR of the STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER.

SIR,—Perhaps it will be rather agreeable intelligence to the severely punished grain growers around you, toiling under the most withering influence of "tenancy at will," that for the first time during the past three years the arrivals of wheat to this port have nearly ceased, and that the stock of wheat in store here is now decreasing at the rate of about one hundred thousand quarters per month, with every prospect of this continuing for the next two or three months. I make no comment as to the probable result in regard to prices from the information I now convey, leaving farmers to form their own conclusions.

Yours, &c.,
GEORGE WILLIAM FOWLER.

Liverpool, Dec. 24, 1864.

Literature.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Acrostics in Prose and Verse. Sequel to "Double Acrostics," 2s. 6d. cl.
Alford's Letters from Abroad, cr. 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.
Book of Golden Deeds, by author of Heir of Redclyffe, fc. 8vo. 4s. 6d.
Book of Humour, Wit, and Wisdom, fc. 8vo. 5s. cl.
Boutell's Heraldry, 3rd edit. enlarged, 8vo. 21s. cl.
Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress (Fullarton's Edit.), imp. 8vo. 21s. cl. gilt.
Craig's (Isa) Duchess Agnes, 12mo. 5s. cl.
Dobbs's Family in America, by "Our Special Correspondent," 10s. 6d.
Gilbert's De Profundis, 2 vols. cr. 8vo. 12s. cl.
Golden Calendar (The), illum. by W. Severn, roy. 4to. 42s. cl.
Home and Foreign Service, or Active Christian Life, sm. cr. 8vo. 5s.
How we Spent the Summer, or Voyage en Zigzag, illust. 10s. 6d. bds.
Irving's Tales of a Traveller, Elzevir series, 12mo. 5s. cl.
Joseph and his Brethren, illum. by Owen Jones and Warren, 42s.
Leech's Later Pencillings from Punch, folio, 21s. cl.
Lyttleton's (Lord) Ephemera, post 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.
Old City (The) and its Highways, by "Aleph," post 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.
Original Poems for Infant Minds, illust. edit. fc. 8vo. 5s. cl.
Semmes's Log of the Alabama and the Sumter, post 8vo. 8s. cl.
Selection of Etchings by the Etching Club, 12 pictures, 4to. 6s. bds.
Shakespeare, edit. by Keightley, Vol. 6 (Elzevir Series), fc. 8vo. 5s. cl.
Smedley's Gathered Leaves, illust. sq. 12mo. 7s. 6d. cl.
Spohr (Louis), Autobiography of, trans. from the German, 8vo. 14s.
Taylor's Ballads and Songs of Brittany, sm. 4to. 17s. cl.
Tennyson's Works, Selection from (Moxon's Miniature Poets), 5s.
Whitfeld's Two Essays, Pencillings of Beauty in Nature, &c., 2s. 6d.

Miscellaneous Extracts.

AN IRISHMAN'S PITY.—When a poor countryman of mine—how invariably it is an Irishman has to be brought in when one would illustrate the law's oppression—was once bound over to keep the peace towards all her Majesty's subjects, he left the office exclaiming, "Well, then, God help the first furrener I meet with."—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

CHANGE OF NAME.—The notorious advertisement as to Joshua Bugg was a pure fabrication. I was well aware that it was so when I read it; as I perceived at once the object was to hold up a certain person to ridicule; but, to make quite certain, I made enquiries, and found that no such person as J. Bugg had ever lived at the place mentioned in the paper. I do not sign my name, as doing so would be likely to lead to the discovery of the person intended to be ridiculed; though I think he richly deserved it, there are others who might be annoyed at the discovery.—*Notes and Queries.*

A MOTHER IN ISRAEL.—Old Madame Rothschild, mother of the mighty capitalists, attained the age of ninety-eight; her wit, which was remarkable, and her intellectual faculties, which were of no common order, were preserved to the end. In her last illness, when surrounded by her family, her physician being present, she said in a suppliant tone to the latter, "Dear doctor, try to do something for me." "Madame, what can I do? I can't make you young again." "No, doctor, I don't want to be young again, but I want to continue to grow old."—*Celebrities of London and Paris. By Captain R. H. Gronow.*

THE BLACK SOLDIERS IN CAMP.—Their memories are a vast bewildered chaos of Jewish history and biography; and most of the great events of the past, down to the period of the American revolution, they instinctively attribute to Moses. There is a fine bold confidence in all their citations, however, and the record never loses piquancy in their hands, though strict accuracy may suffer. Thus one of my captains, last Sunday, heard a coloured exhorter at Beaufort proclaim, "Paul may plant, and may polish wid water, but it won't do," in which the sainted Apollos would hardly have recognised himself.—*T. W. Higginson, in the Atlantic Monthly.*

UNPLEASANT QUARTERS.—Sir John Michel occupies the chief hall of the temple, in which there are several gaudily painted figures that look like deified warriors, and a number of coffins arranged on the top of one another, containing bodies, the final interment of which has been delayed by the relatives, until what they consider a lucky period should arrive. Corpses are thus kept uninterred in temples, and storehouses set apart for the purpose, frequently for many years. [illegible]

Varieties.

PICKINGS FROM "PUNCH."

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT.—*The Tip of the Year.*

SEASONABLE SENTIMENT.—Let charity reign supreme from the twenty-fifth of December, and let all party-feeling be dropped, except a Christmas-party feeling, very jolly, good-natured, and happy.

ECCLESIASTICAL INTELLIGENCE.—"The revival of the Monastic System within the English Church, would," said the reverend vicar of Bray, "bring back evil times to the Church." "Nay, my friend," quoth Brother Ignatius, "'twould restore not the evil but the mediæval times." So saying, he retired.

ABE LINCOLN'S ENIGMA.—The following passage from Mr. Lincoln's message to Congress, may be puzzling, but is intelligible:—"While corps and divisions and brigades and regiments have formed, and fought, and dwindled, and gone out of existence, a great majority of the men who composed them are still living." How is it that certain corps and divisions and brigades and regiments, have, whilst a great majority of the men who composed them are still living, gone out of existence? That we can easily understand by considering them to have been Irish. The non-existence of the troops, and the existence of most of the men of whom they consisted, are not, of course, to be reconciled by the supposition that the latter skedaddled.

MEDALS FOR MERRY MEN.—On the entry into Berlin of the Guards returning from the pillage of Denmark, and the slaughter of the Danes, according to one of Reuter's telegrams—"The King of Prussia made a speech in which he said that the Guards had added a new leaf to their glorious history. He announced that medals of commemoration would be granted to them, and special medals to those regiments who had borne a part in the assaults on Duppel and Alsen." The new leaf which the heroes, who, as the agents of his Prussian Majesty, have wrested Schleswig and Holstein from Denmark, and plundered Jutland, will be generally considered to have added to the history of Prussia, is a leaf which we may take leave to call a cabbage-leaf. The history of Prussia is what a King who glories in robbery calls glorious, in as far as it consists of similar leaves. The medal which the King of Prussia intends to bestow on his merry men should be stamped with the device of a cabbage-leaf, and the special medal whereby he designs to reward those of them that were concerned in the bloodshed of Alsen and Duppel, should be emblazoned with a very crimson leaf of the red cabbage.

DAILY WANTS.—Common sense.—*Comic News.*

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.—*Cells.*—*Comic News.*

CHRISTMAS CAPERS.—Snow-balling.—*Comic News.*

[illegible]

THE COURT.

The Queen, Princess Helena, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, and Prince Leiningen attended divine service at Whippingham Church on Christmas Day afternoon.

The Queen distributed Christmas gifts on Saturday afternoon to the wives of the labourers and others on the Osborne estate, and to the children of the Whippingham School, who assembled a little before four o'clock. Soon after four o'clock the Queen, accompanied by Princess Helena, Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, Prince Arthur, and Prince Leopold, entered the servants' hall, where the gifts were laid out. Her Majesty then, assisted by the royal family, distributed the articles of clothing to the women and toys of various descriptions to the children, for whom also a Christmas tree was prepared.

Sir Henry Storks, the new governor of Malta, arrived and assumed office on the 30th ult.

The Princess Czartoryski, widow of the late Prince Adam Czartoryski, died at Montpelier a few days ago, in her 64th year.

The Marquis of Hartington, M.P., left Devonshire House on Saturday for Trentham, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland.

The Right Hon. Charles P. Villiers, M.P., has joined the party now assembled at The Grove, near Watford, Herts, on a visit to the Earl and Countess of Clarendon.

Mr. W. Cowper, of Farnborough, a member of the First Light Horse Oxfordshire Volunteers, was killed, a few days ago, by a fall from his horse while returning from an inspection.

Among the passengers by the Royal Mail steamer China, which arrived at Liverpool from New York, on Sunday, were Lord Lyons, our late Minister at Washington, and Professor Goldwin Smith.

The Rev. R. Serjeant, rector of St. Swithin's and Spetchley, Worcester, expired on Sunday, aged 57. Deceased was well known as the active honorary secretary to the Worcester Triennial Festival Committee.

Mr. Murray, the assistant under-secretary at the Foreign Office, who recently met with an accident at Mr. Burr's seat, Aldermarston Court, has, in consequence of the injuries sustained, had to undergo the operation of having his left eye removed, the sight having been entirely destroyed.

On dit that a certain High Sheriff, who, when a poor man in a provincial town, managed to gain an aristocratic name and £8,000 a year with his bride, has since got a separation, allowing his wife but £800 a year of her own money, which she romantically refused to have settled on herself.—*Court Journal.*

We have the pleasure of stating that Mr. Bright has signified his intention of being present at the opening of the Birmingham Exchange on Monday next, and attending the luncheon. This will give increased interest to the proceedings, and ensure a large attendance. We recommend immediate application for [illegible]

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE.

It is rumoured that Lord Lyons will take the Vienna Embassy.

It is said that her Majesty will open Parliament in person.—*Court Journal.*

A movement is spoken of to induce Government to bring in a bill next session, authorising the Queen in Council to decree a legal holiday on any day in the year.—*Spectator.*

A correspondent of the *Standard* gives the following analysis of the present House of Commons for the commencement of each year:—

	1865.	1864.	1863.	1862.	1861.
Conservatives	317	313	312	307	303
Peelites	13	13	11	12	14
Whigs	231	234	238	238	240
Radicals	95	96	95	96	94
	656	656	656	653	651

STRANGE FREAK OF NATURE.—A few days ago, says a Worcester contemporary, a lively minnow was found in some milk. The attention of the milkman was called to the strange fact, but he "couldn't account for it."

A WEALTHY BEGGAR.—The Correctional Tribunal of Bayonne has condemned to two months' imprisonment a man who was arrested for begging, and in whose possession 30,000f. in bank-notes and valuable securities were found.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.—Among the high society of Turin a decision has been come to that every person whose name stands in the *Official Gazette* as having given 5f. to the Mendicity Asylum shall be considered to have fulfilled all the duties of politeness relative to visits on the first of the year.

A SINGULAR "CALLING."—At a meeting recently, the Rev. E. Bayley, of Bloomsbury, said—"Some have no recognised calling. I lately met with a man who earned his living by waking his neighbours in the morning. He had ten heavy sleepers on his list, and at a penny a head each morning he cleared five shillings a week."

A WATERLOO MAN.—Died, on the 5th inst., Mr. Matthew White. He was personal servant for many years to the late Marquis of Anglesey, assisted at the amputation of his lordship's leg, and buried it at Waterloo. When the marquis was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland he removed to Kilmore, county Wexford, where he died, aged 88.

A DUMB SHEEP DOG.—Mr. Frank Buckland writes:—"I lately heard of a shepherd who possesses a dumb sheep dog, but, although the poor beast has no voice, he is very clever at driving sheep. In order, therefore, to make up the deficiency of his dog the shepherd stands still while the dog is driving the sheep, and barks himself, thus quite upsetting the theory that it is 'no good to keep a dog and bark oneself.'"

CHRISTMAS IN THE CORONER'S COURT.—In the lists of the Liverpool Borough Coroner's Court on Tuesday there was a startling array of fatalities. No fewer than 30 deaths requiring [illegible]

LAW AND POLICE.

Lindon, one of the two men sentenced to death for the murder of M'Carthy, at Liverpool, has been respited.

Edward Ackroyd was sentenced by Mr. Justice Keating, at the Leeds Assizes yesterday week, to twelve months' imprisonment for a misdemeanour under the Bankruptcy Act.

Mr. Sherratt, a chemist and druggist, of Pendleton, Lancashire, was yesterday week fined £37 10s. for preparing and mixing and selling methylated spirits without a license.

On Wednesday, at the Wakefield Court House, Mary Ann Atkinson, who about two months ago was nearly murdered by her husband, was committed for trial at the sessions for unlawfully wounding a man named John Child.

ATTEMPTING TO DROWN A WOMAN.—Thomas Drake, a youth aged 17 years, was on Friday tried at the Leeds Assizes for attempting to drown, at Halifax, Elizabeth Wilson, a young woman with whom he cohabited. He was found guilty and sentenced to penal servitude for fifteen years.

The other day an old man, employed by a butcher at Kidderminster, while his master's back was turned, drank some liquid from a bottle which he thought was brandy, but which proved to be naphtha, for he was found on the floor insensible, with his face black, and if it had not been for prompt medical assistance he would soon have been a corpse.

At the Torquay Police Court last week, Mattels Ostragos, who has been in the town for a month, passing himself off as Count Ostragos, and also as John Sobieski, "the last of that noble line," was committed for trial on a charge of obtaining £3 and a five franc piece under false pretences from a Roman Catholic priest, with whom the prisoner had managed to make friends.

A fatal quarrel occurred at Leeds, on Saturday night, between two puddlers, who were fellow-lodgers, named Wm. Hargraves and Thomas Jones. They went home in a state of intoxication, and in the course of a fight which occurred in the street, Hargraves knocked Jones down, and the latter falling on a kerbstone sustained injuries which terminated fatally shortly afterwards. Hargraves is in custody.

At the Leeds Assizes, on Thursday week, a butcher named Thomson was sentenced to penal servitude for life for attempting to murder his wife, at Sheffield. The prosecutrix had left him because of his cruelty, and this so enraged the prisoner that he one day sharpened a knife used for killing sheep, and meeting her in the street inflicted a wound with it on her breast, which was with difficulty prevented from proving fatal.

Some people were quarrelling in a court at Sheffield on Sunday week, when a man named Mappin coming up and finding that his wife was being assaulted by a Mr. Lyas, aimed a blow at the latter, but, unfortunately, Mrs. Lyas, who was also engaged in the affray, put her head in the way and obtained the full force of the stroke which knocked her eye out, but did not deprive it of sight, for, singular enough, the woman had been already blind in the eye.

[illegible]

EXECUTION OF THE CHADWELL HEATH MURDERER.—Francis Wane, the murderer of Amelia Blunt, was hanged on Wednesday at Chelmsford. It will be remembered that his victim had lived with Wane for some time, but she broke off the intercourse, and was about to be married to another man. This so enraged Wane that he went to the house where the woman was living with her intended husband and his father, and, watching an opportunity when no one was near, he entered, seized her as she stood at the wash-tub, and cut her throat. He was convicted mainly on his own admissions made to several witnesses, and he died fully acknowledging the justice of his sentence. There was a considerable crowd, but they were very orderly in their behaviour. The unhappy man on Monday addressed the following letter to his parents:—

"Springfield Gaol, December 26.—My dear Father,—I write to you bidding you good bye, as I shall not see you any more in this world; but I hope I shall meet you again in Heaven. May God Almighty bless you, dear father. I am guilty of the crime of which I stand charged. I also bid good bye to Jane and Eliza and their children. Accept my kind love, and give the same to the rest of the family. From your unhappy son, FRANCIS WANE."

MURDER NEAR BRIGHTON.—A party were assembled on Christmas Eve at the house of a Mr. Coom, at Hove, near Brighton, and after enjoying themselves until morning they left to return home, with the exception of one man, named Sharp. The result of his remaining was that an altercation took place between him and Coom, who became so frightfully infuriated that after saying to Sharp, "I'll shoot you," he took down his gun and deliberately shot him in the head, killing him on the spot. A police-constable coming up and seeing the bleeding corpse before him asked Coom what he had been doing. Coom replied that he thought he had only done what he had a right to do. He was immediately taken into custody, and as the policeman was about to put the handcuffs round him, he said it was no use to put them on him as he could not run away. He is a perfect cripple. He accidentally swallowed a quantity of vitriol when a child, and this resulted in his losing the use of his limbs, which are doubled under his haunches. He is, however, strong and muscular in body, and remarkable for strength and length of arm. His cottage has long been famed as a rendezvous for men ejected from the village public-house; and, being passionate in temper, he inspired fear amongst his associates by carrying loaded fire-arms.

A BREACH OF PROMISE CASE.—A breach of promise case, Sherwin *v.* May, came before the Secondaries' Court, London, yesterday week. It was an action brought in the Court of Queen's Bench, in which the damages were laid at £5,000. Judgment having been allowed to go by default, the jury sat to assess the damages. Mr. Powell, in stating the case, said the plaintiff was the daughter of a Sussex farmer, and the defendant, Mr. John May, was a gentleman of fortune at Basingstoke, possessing a high station and great wealth. He was 28 years old, and by not pleading had admitted that he had broken his promise. The loss to the lady had been most serious and most unfortunate, as she was fitted, by her attractions and accomplishments, to grace her expected station. [illegible]

Scraps of News.

The total reduction in the strength of the Italian army is about 85,000 men.

The famous Donato is to receive the sum of £35 a-night—over £10,000 a year.

Advices from the south of France announce severe weather, accompanied with snow.

The Turkish Government has decided on establishing "a school of bridges and highways."

A recent statistical table shows that of 54,077 children born in Paris in 1863, 15,239 were illegitimate.

The proprietor of the great piggery in Dorsetshire is now feeding his swine on rice, mixed with other kinds of food.

Hildreth, the well-known American historian, has been pronounced hopelessly insane from excessive mental labour.

The *Exeter Flying Post* records the death, at West Teignmouth, of Mr. Solomon Nathan, at the advanced age of 105 years.

A turner was fined 20f. for writing on the wall, "Vive le Comte de Paris!" He had also a fortnight's durance vile allotted to him.

A letter from Vienna states that General Benedek has again applied to be removed from the command he holds in the Venetian provinces.

Two boys, named Thomas Barnsley and John Lomas, were drowned by the breaking of the ice on a piece of water at Crookes, near Sheffield, on Monday.

Nearly 90 cases were landed on Tuesday at Southampton, from Havre, each case containing from 30 to 40 fat geese. A large number of geese are consumed on New Year's Day.

The report is confirmed that Juarez, the ex-President of Mexico, has issued letters of marque to Americans against French ships, and especially the steamers of the Transatlantic Company.

While some workmen were recently employed cutting down some old Druidical oaks in the forest of Cinglais (Calvados), they found inside one of them the body of a man, which when touched fell to dust.

The great uncle of the reigning Emperor of Austria, the Archduke Louis Joseph Antoine, who had been suffering for a few days from an illness apparently of little moment, died on the 22nd instant, aged 80.

At Manchester, on Saturday, Elizabeth Butterworth, aged 49, was blowing out an oil lamp filled with paraffin, when the lamp exploded, and the oil fell on her clothes and set them on fire. She afterwards died from the burns.

Advices from Vienna state that the case of the *Wanderer*, accused of using harsh language against the King of Prussia, has just been decided by the condemnation of the editor, M. Nordmann, to three days' imprisonment. [illegible]

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