

THE NEW OR AUSTRIAN GATE OF PALERMO, IN SICILY.

THE KINGDOM OF THE TWO SICILIES.

PUBLIC attention is just now absorbed by the events which are taking place in Southern Italy. The rising of the Sicilians cannot be indifferent to us. Our insular selfishness, stubborn though it be, gives way when we read of sorrows so deep—of heroism so noble; nay, the heart of humanity itself is stirred, as the bitter struggles of the Middle Ages are repeating themselves before our eyes, and a people once more is pouring out its blood upon its native soil, as a last protest against oppression.

Like their own volcanoes, the inhabitants of the Two Sicilies may remain quiet for a time, under the pressure of the forces which confine their secret energies; but it is a deceptive calm. From their inactivity they gather strength; and now we hear that a nation of lazzaroni have suddenly sprung to arms. At the time we are writing, we can say nothing about results. The Sicilians have on their side two elements of success—a man and a cause. The movement is no longer without a head, or a distinct purpose. The cause, it need hardly be said, is the unity of Italy; and the man is Garibaldi.

Opposed to these bold peasants are some 200,000 soldiers and militia, whose bayonets support the throne. The stake is the social happiness, no less than the political freedom, of nine millions of human creatures, who have survived ages of unparalleled tyranny.

In order to appreciate the nature and meaning of the present struggle, it is necessary to read attentively the past history of this people. The record is gloomy, but full of interest. We can only undertake to glance rapidly over the most salient points of the narrative; and, having done so, some brief account of this pleasant land of Southern Italy may appropriately follow in another article.

While Rome was yet unbuilt, certain Phœnician and Greek colonists had formed, on the continent of Southern Italy, a number of small, independent States, which, having remained for many years unmolested and free, attained a high degree of civilization and prosperity. This—which we may term the golden age—was of short duration. The Roman power arose, and with it the spirit of conquest. A war of 130 years was terminated by the continent and the island of Sicily falling into the hands of the Romans, B. C. 210.

During the centuries immediately succeeding, Southern Italy frequently changed masters. The Goths, the Greeks, and the Longobards alternately held sway over it; and the latter founded, in 568, the duchy of Benevento, which included a great part of the present Neapolitan territory. Two hundred years later, the Saracens conquered Sicily and a considerable part of the continent; but they were soon disturbed by northern hordes from Hungary and Germany, which also coveted this fruitful and sunny land. During the next two hundred years anarchy and bloodshed continued without intermission.

Apart from the duchy of Benevento, the three towns of Naples, Amalfi, and Gaeta were constituted separate republics under Greek dukes. One of the dukes having a quarrel with the Prince of Capua, a Longobard, invited the assistance of a body of Norman adventurers, who received a tract of land in return for their services, and soon obtained a firm footing in the country.

Pope Leo IX. led an army against these intruders, but was defeated and made prisoner. The crafty Normans treated the Pontiff with such consideration that he became completely reconciled to them, and not only confirmed them in the possessions they had gained, but declared them also entitled to the whole of Apulia, Calabria, and Sicily, then in the hands of the Saracens and Greeks. The precedent thus established enabled the Popes thenceforward to claim Naples and Sicily as mere fiefs of the Holy See, and to exercise considerable influence upon the frequent dynastic changes which afterwards took place.

The Normans were not long in obtaining possession of the provinces assigned to them by the Pope. One of their leaders, Robert Guiscard, having conquered Calabria, assumed the title of Duke of Calabria and Apulia, which descended to his grandson William. Roger of Hauteville, who conquered Sicily, assumed the title of Great Count, which he transmitted to his son Roger. The latter, on the death of William without issue, succeeded to the dukedom of Apulia and Calabria, and, having become possessed of Naples, assumed the title of King of Sicily and the monarchy.

From this point dates the foundation of the monarchy.

In less than seventy years the direct line of Roger of Hauteville was extinct, and Tancred, an illegitimate son, ascended the throne. On his death the Emperor, Henry VI. of Germany, who had married a daughter of Roger, entered the country, and, notwithstanding the repugnance of the people, founded the Suabian dynasty, which lasted from 1194 to 1266. During this time a bitter feud existed between the German sovereigns, the leaders of the Ghibelline party, and the Guelph party, headed by the popes. Manfred, the last of these sovereigns, ascended the throne on a false report being circulated of the death of Conradin, the rightful heir. Pope Urban IV., taking advantage of this circumstance, and regarding the Sicilian crown as a possession of the Holy See, excommunicated Manfred, and offered the crown for sale. Charles of Anjou, brother of Louis IX. of France, became the purchaser, was crowned at Rome by the successor of Urban, and entered Sicily. Manfred was defeated and slain at the battle of Benevento. Conradin, a youth of seventeen, made a bold attempt

to recover his heritage, but Charles made him a prisoner, and put him to death on the scaffold.

Sicily, ever foremost in acts of patriotism, had supported Conradin, and was made to suffer the most cruel retribution. The land was laid waste, towns destroyed, and the inhabitants massacred. The result was the sudden and unanimous rising of the people. It happened thus:—On Easter Tuesday, March 31, 1282, the inhabitants of Palermo went, as usual, to attend mass at a church outside the gates of the town. A beautiful Sicilian girl attracted the notice of a Frenchman named Drouet, who, under the pretence that she carried arms concealed about her person, thrust his hand into her bosom; she fell fainting into the arms of her lover, who stood beside her, and he, in his rage, cried out, "Let us kill these French!" In an instant the cry was echoed by a thousand voices. Drouet was slain, and his death being avenged by his comrades, a general massacre of the French throughout the island took place. This shocking event is known in history as the Sicilian Vespers.

Charles, on learning the news, appeared before Messina with an army; but the inhabitants summoned to their help Peter of Aragon, who had married the daughter of Manfred, and who, having defeated Charles, landed in Sicily and assumed the government of the island. The two kingdoms thenceforth remained separated for 160 years.

We now approach a period of almost continued disorder and misery. After various changes, Alfonso of Aragon, king of Sicily, drove René of Anjou, the last of the Angevine kings, from his throne, and re-united Naples and Sicily. At his death in 1458, the two countries were again separated. The Aragonese dynasty endured till 1501, when Louis XII. of France having obtained possession of the kingdom by the connivance of Ferdinand the Catholic of Spain, these two princes agreed to divide it between them, but disagreements took place, which led to a war, and the whole of the territory became a Spanish possession.

From 1501 to 1707, the period of the Spanish dynasty, the condition of the people grew gradually worse. The parliaments established by the Normans were only summoned when money, and not council, was required; and the power of the Crown was extended in every direction.

Fruit is, to the Neapolitan poor, an important article of food in summer. In 1647, a heavy tax was levied on all fruit sold in the city. The wife of one Masaniello, a fisherman, had been fined for smuggling; and this man, who possessed great intelli-

gence, and was a powerful speaker, incited the people to revolt against the oppressive tax. The rising was so sudden and simultaneous, that the Viceroy of the King of Spain fled to a sanctuary, and entered into a treaty with the insurgent leader, undertaking that the obnoxious taxes should be abolished, and that the people should have a voice in the levying of any future taxes.

Masaniello now assumed the state and dignity of a governor, judged in person all prisoners brought before him, and those whom he condemned to death were immediately executed. It is said, however, that at this summary tribunal the strictest justice was administered. The mind of Masaniello gave way under the weight of his sudden greatness, and, three days afterwards, having committed some extravagant actions, he was put to death, probably by order of the Viceroy. The spirit which had animated him still survived, but the people struggled in vain against their Spanish oppressors.

At length, in 1707, the Spaniards were driven out by a German army, and the treaties of Utrecht and Rastadt confirmed the Emperor Charles VI. of Austria in his conquest as King of Naples, while Sicily was given to the Duke of Savoy. Spain having attempted to recover the kingdom, an alliance took place between Austria, England, France, and Holland, the result of which was that Sicily was ceded to Austria. By way of compensation, Sardinia was given to the Duke of Savoy, whose descendant, Victor Emmanuel, as our readers are aware, holds it still, though he has parted with his more ancient patrimony to France.

The Austrian rule in Southern Italy was brief. In 1734 Charles of Bourbon, son of Philip V. of Spain, entered the Neapolitan territory with an army, defeated the Austrians, and was crowned at Palermo as King of Naples and Sicily. This was the foundation of the Bourbon dynasty.

The first of the Bourbons bore no resemblance to the more recent of his successors. He was a wise and liberal monarch, and spent his life in introducing reforms, and in the encouragement of learning. His third son, Ferdinand, who succeeded him, followed, in the first instance, in his steps; but during his reign the court, chiefly through the example of the queen, became notorious for its profligacy, and on the outbreak of the French revolution, repressive measures of the worst kind were resorted to. The kingdom being included in the European confederation against France, the most oppressive taxes were imposed to pay the expenses of the war, and even the deposits in the banks were seized by the Government. Great discontent being excited in the public mind, a secret tribunal was established, at which anonymous accusations were received, and the prisoner was condemned unheard. Such tribunals have existed in Naples from that day to this, and by their means thousands of victims have been condemned to death, to exile, or to perpetual imprisonment.

In 1798 Ferdinand, who had entered the Papal States, was defeated by a French army, under General Championnet; and the latter entered Naples, and established a republic, on the 23rd January, 1799. The republic was overthrown, six months later, by Cardinal Ruffo; and the republican leaders capitulated, under a treaty, countersigned by Captain Foote, commander of the British fleet off Naples, guaranteeing their safety. The Queen, on learning the terms of the treaty, dispatched Lady Hamilton to Nelson, who was sailing towards Naples, and entreated him to revoke the treaty, on the ground that it had been made with rebels. Nelson tarnished his great name by consenting; and the men who had given themselves up on the faith of the English commander's word,



A SELLER OF WATER-MELONS AT NAPLES.

were consigned to death—Admiral Carracciolo being hung on board Nelson's flag-ship.

Ferdinand, on his return to power, resumed restrictive measures, and, in 1806, was compelled to fly to Sicily. A French army, under General Massena, entered Naples, and Joseph Bonaparte was declared king. He reigned for two years; and then being called to the throne of Spain, Napoleon conferred the crown upon Joachim Murat, who had married one of his sisters. The Code Napoleon was now established, and various reforms introduced.

Meanwhile, Ferdinand still retained his rule in Sicily, and, in consequence of the interference of the English Government, a new constitution was framed on the model of that of England, and carried into effect in 1813. On the fall of Napoleon, the Bourbons re-established themselves at Naples, and Murat lost his life in a vain and rash effort to recover the kingdom.

Ferdinand, now secure upon his throne, assumed the title of "King of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies." On resuming the government of his kingdom he had bound himself by a secret treaty, signed at Vienna, "not to admit of any innovation not in accordance either with ancient monarchical institutions, or with the principles adopted by his imperial and royal majesty in the internal government of the Italian provinces." What those principles were, is well known. They consist in the suppression of every sentiment and every aspiration which could possibly militate against the uncontrolled exercise of despotic power. They have cost the Austrians the loss of North Italy; and, if appearances may be trusted, the Bourbons in the South will find them no less fatal. Ferdinand took the government of Sicily into his own hands, and a despotic rule of the most gloomy kind commenced.

Up to the present time the crown has come down in a direct line to the descendants of this monarch. Ferdinand I. was succeeded by Francis I., his son, who died in 1830. Ferdinand II., who succeeded him, reigned until last year, and obtained an unenviable notoriety by the atrocities and cruelties of his reign. Francis II., his son, a young man, ascended the throne on May 22, 1859, and a fervent hope was entertained that milder counsels would now obtain. But, on the contrary, persecutions were resumed with greater violence. The state of affairs in Naples during the past twelve months can only be accurately described as a reign of terror. The war in Northern Italy, with its consequences—the annexation of Lombardy and the Romagna to Sardinia



PORTRAIT OF MASANIELLO, FROM AN ENGRAVING POPULAR AT NAPLES ABOUT THE YEAR 1650.

—fanned the smouldering flame of insurrection, until at length the world was informed that the people of Sicily were in arms against the Government.

At first, it was a mere nothing. A handful of discontented peasants had found a few rusty muskets, and created a disturbance, but it was speedily repressed. That was all. But, strange to say, other peasants, also discontented, rose up in other parts of the island, and men of a higher grade, equally discontented, were suspected of sympathising with them. More and more troops were dispatched from Naples to Sicily, and Palermo, the head-quarters of the disaffection, became one huge barrack. Still the disturbances continued—small bodies of troops were attacked and defeated, sentinels shot down at their posts, and the insurgents multiplied rather than diminished.

And now a new actor appeared on the scene. General Garibaldi suddenly collected together an expedition of about two thousand old and tried campaigners, and, seizing four vessels, set sail for the Sicilian coast.

The Government, dreading the effect of his name, made immense preparations to prevent a landing of the expedition, or to effect its destruction. In the first object they have failed. With regard to the second, at the time we write there is yet no information.

It is needless here to speak of the career of Garibaldi, since a portrait and an authentic memoir of him appeared in No. 92 of the ILLUSTRATED FAMILY PAPER. Opinions may differ as to the character of his expedition; but there can be no difference of opinion as to the heroism or the patriotism which prompted it.

We have already stated that Palermo, though crowded with Royal troops, has been really the head-quarters of the insurrection. Our illustration on the preceding page represents one of the most striking objects of the city—the New Gate, erected to commemorate the entry of Charles V. in 1535.

Scientific Notes.

DIFFICULT ENGINEERING.—A remarkable work is contemplated in Brazil, in the formation of a railway over the Serra do Mar, a mountain range half a mile high on the coast. The acclivity to be surmounted being so great, it is designed to carry the road over it in three inclined planes, having a total length of five miles, and an inclination of one foot in ten.

LEAD POISONING.—It cannot be too frequently enjoined that lead should never be used as a wrapper of snuff, cayenne, tea, or any article of food. Tin, while equally convenient, is perfectly free from the objections attached to the use of lead. A gentleman recently bought some curry powder from an eminent dealer, and, on opening it, found it thickly coated with a strange grey powder, which proved to be the oxide of lead deposited by the envelope, in consequence of the chemical action of the spices upon it.

MAGNETIC WATER-GAUGE.—This singular device of M. Pinel, of Rouen, for several years in use in France, and very recently introduced into England, is not generally known. The height of water in the boiler may thus be indicated by a rod attached to a float on the surface of the water, which slides freely through an upright pipe at the top of the boiler, carrying at its upper end a powerful magnet, the attraction of which holds a needle on the outside of the pipe, and indicates thereby the actual height of the water in the boiler, the position of the needle varying with its fluctuations. The float-rod passes loosely through a guide, without any packing, so that there is no friction, while the magnet is kept up to the face of the gauge by a light spring. This gauge demands no attention or repairs.

NEW FIBRE.—It is stated that a material, hitherto unapplied, has been lately introduced into Russia as a substitute for cotton in the manufacture of coarser fabrics, which, on examination, compare favourably with cotton ones. The plant yielding this fibre, the botanical name of which is *asclepias cornuti*, is found in wild luxuriance in Canada and other temperate regions, whence it will be available to us. It is hardy, and is propagated annually in Russia by seed sown in May and maturing in September. It may be indifferently cut and dried in the open air, or, like hemp, water-rotted, and, after a secret process, is ready for the manufacturer. The inventor of this process has the exclusive privilege of exercising it in Russia for ten years, and is now ready to dispose of his discovery elsewhere. The manufacture of this fibre by itself will involve some change in the present textile machinery, but

not if mixed in equal parts with cotton. In an economical point of view this material demands notice, for the cost of the prepared fibre is estimated at 4 copes, or only 1½d. per pound.

PAPER WATER-PIPES.—The remarkable uses to which paper may be applied have received a new illustration in some late experiments, to test water-pipes formed of paper, hardened by admixture with bitumen under hydraulic pressure. The public has heard of paper being substituted for stone or marble in moulding architectural castings, statuary, houses, furniture, &c., but of nothing so curious and useful as its being employed in place of noxious metals or fragile earthenware, to convey water. The result of the trial under the great clock tower of Westminster Palace, was that these pipes had a tenacity equal to iron, only half its specific gravity, and twice the strength of stoneware, without its brittleness. The tests were severe. Two of the pipes of five inches bore, and half-inch thickness, being subjected to hydraulic power, sustained without injury a pressure of 220lbs to the square inch, being double that which can be borne by London iron pipes. In testing the transverse strength, a two-inch pipe required a breaking weight of 4 cwt., 1 qr., 13lbs, before it fractured. The ingenious inventor is M. Toloureau, of Paris.

NEW PIGMENT.—Messrs. Rowney and Co., colourmen, of Rathbone-place, have introduced a new pigment, termed *ceruleum*, from its resemblance to the colour of a clear sky, and which may be obtained either in oil or water colour. As supplying a long-felt deficiency, this will be acceptable to artists, especially since its cost, as compared with the expensive lapis lazuli, which it replaces, stands in the ratio of a penny to a guinea; a good-sized tube in oil medium being obtainable for 6d. A pigment somewhat resembling this is sold, but on examination it will be found to be a combination of other already known pigments, whereas this, the source of which remains a secret, is unique and independent.

GUN METAL.—During a late interesting discussion at the Institute of Civil Engineers, Mr. F. A. Abel, chemist to the war department, stated that, from late experiments, he had satisfactorily ascertained that from the combination of from two to four per cent. of phosphorus with copper, a metal was produced of singular density and tenacity superior in every respect to the alloys of copper and tin. Assuming the average sustainable strain on gun metal at 3,100lbs on the square inch, that which this alloy would resist might be estimated at 48,000 to 50,000lbs on the square inch. Nor is this tenacity its only merit, the new material having a uniformity of fibre rare in other compositions.

THE YOUNG TEACHER.

SHE sits alone in that dreary room,
With one hand press'd to her brow;
And her soft dark eyes have a wistful look—
What is she thinking of now?

Thought pictures again her childhood's home,
And the scenes of her early days;
In fancy she hears her mother's voice,
And joins in her brother's plays.

She's at home again by the winter fire,
As the laugh and jest go round;
Her smile was always the brightest there,
Her voice had the sweetest sound.

But changes came o'er the dear old home
And scatter'd that happy band;
Young she was cast on the heartless world,
Alone in a foreign land.

She's a teacher now, and sits in that room,
Watching her charges at play;
'Tis their voices have struck upon memory's chord,
And led her thoughts far away.

She has open'd her desk, the early gift
Of a brother that's long since gone;
As she touches the spring of the secret drawer,
What images over her throng!

She is gazing upon some wither'd flowers
That were given one summer's day,
When she was a happy, thoughtless girl,
Laughing her life away.

But those flowers, though wither'd and scentless now,
Are yet preserv'd with care;
For the hand that gave them still is dear,
Though uncared for she now is there.

For one happy summer had she known
Some that seem'd fond and true;
But it all had pass'd with the summer flowers,
Quickly as morning dew.

For when poverty came he too grew cold,
He no longer seeks her now;
It is this that has dimm'd that once bright eye,
And clouded that fair young brow!

M. A.

MARRIED LIFE.

In domestic happiness, the wife's influence is much greater than her husband's; for, the one, the first cause—mutual love and confidence—being granted, the whole comfort of the household depends upon trifles more immediately under her jurisdiction. By her management of small sums, her husband's respectability and credit are created or destroyed. No income can stand the constant leakages of extravagances and mismanagement; and more is spent in trifles than women would easily believe. The one great expense, whatever it may be, is turned over and carefully reflected on ere incurred—the income is prepared to meet it; but it is pennies imperceptibly sliding away which do the mischief; and this the wife alone can stop, for it does not come within a man's province. There is often an unsuspected trifle to be saved in every household. It is not in economy alone that the wife's attention is so necessary, but in those niceties which make a well-regulated house. An unfinished cruet-stand, a missing key, a buttonless shirt, a soiled table-cloth, a mustard-pot with its old contents sticking hard and brown about it, are severally nothings, but each can raise an angry word or discomfort. Depend upon it, there's a great deal of domestic happiness in a well-dressed mutton-chop or a tidy breakfast-table. Men grow sated of beauty, tired of music, are often too weary for conversation, however intellectual, but they can always appreciate a well-swept hearth and smiling comfort. A woman may love her husband devotedly, may sacrifice fortune, friends, family, and country for him—she may have the genius of a Sappho, the enchanting beauties of an Armida; but—melancholy fact—if, with these, she fail to make his home comfortable, his heart will inevitably escape her; and women live so entirely in the affections that, without love, their existence is a void. Better submit, then, to household tasks, however repugnant they may be to your tastes, than doom yourself to a loveless home. Women of a higher order of mind will not run the risk; they know that their feminine, their domestic, are their first duties.

The Amateur Gardener.

BY GEORGE GLENNY.

As all plants in pots have been growing apace the last few weeks, those which have not been shifted lately must want room for their roots, and this can only be given by changing the size.

Persons who want to add a geranium or two to their stock of window plants, should go direct to some nursery where they are grown, and select those which are just coming into bloom, and ask the dealer to re-pot them before sending them home, so that they may go through the summer without any further change.

The consequence will be, that the plant will continue to grow and bloom for months, whereas, when stunted for pot room, the period of flowering is shortened, because the want of nourishment drives the plant to a premature decline.

Any respectable nurseryman in the suburbs of great towns—and this reaches every town in the kingdom—will assist, by advice and their services, to make every buyer who trusts to them succeed in their management of plants.

Other plants which are adapted to window-gardening are, verbenas of all colours; lobelias, shades of blue; hydrangeas, which should be chosen before they have come to their full colour; heaths coming into bloom; epacrises, in the same state, or not at all.

Use the same precaution as to getting them changed into larger pots, unless the nurseryman assures the buyer that they have already undergone that operation.

Now this operation must be necessary to plants that have been in the house all the winter and spring, however healthy they may appear, and therefore prepare to change them.

As, in houses without out-of-door gardens, there is very seldom the convenience, it will be necessary to get from some nursery a barrowful of proper mould, or, as it is called, compost, and the necessary pots, which must be a size larger than those the plants already occupy.

You may then place in the new pots a few broken pieces at bottom, to stop the hole, and to form a kind of hollow foundation, that will let the water through freely, then a sufficient quantity of soil to lift the plant to the proper height.

This should be highest in the middle, higher, in fact, than necessary; then turn out the ball of earth

However, I determined to make her a visit, and if there should be anything to save from the wreck in an undamaged condition, why I should look around: not too much of that Port, mi padre; think of your rheumatism in the morning! Doctor, you don't drink! Well, going on board, I found two lady passengers; the wife and daughter of an old judge of the island of Porto Rico, with half a dozen servants, who were all screaming, and praying, and beseeching me to save them—all but one, a tall graceful girl, with a large India shawl wrapped around her shoulders, her white arms glancing through the folds, and a pair of dark, liquid, almond-shaped eyes, such as I had never before seen. The fact is, my friends, I had always before fancied blue. But there stood this girl, with eyes like a wounded stag; I saw her in a moment, as she leaned up against the weather bulwarks, by the light of the open cabin-door. Babette, take away all but the wine and fruit, and bring fire. Pass that box this way, if you please, compadre! Thank you."

"Don Ignacio seemed to have an affection for the trifle, and had counted the brilliants over and over again, and made a mental calculation of their weight and value; and when he did move it, as he was desired, his greedy eyes followed it with fascination."

"Yes, it's very pretty, and I set a great store by it," parenthesised the host, as he resumed his tale—

"The girl never screamed or even spoke, and amidst all the hubbub of a drunken skipper and a disorderly crew, she remained quiet and unmoved. To assure the people, I told them that I would stay by the ship and do what I could for them. At this the old lady clasped me around the neck and kissed me, and blubbered over me more than she ever did. I imagined, to the old Spanish judge, her husband—implored me too, by all the saints she could think of, to take herself and daughter out of the sinking vessel at once; and so I consented, with all the professions of sympathy I could make, to do as she desired."

Here the captain lit a pure Havana, and after a few puffs and a sip of Port, continued—

(To be continued.)

Scientific Notes.

M. RICO has recently applied to the mechanical arts a new substance, which he terms *artificial leather*, and which is destined principally to replace the leather bands for the transmission of motion in engines, &c., and leather tubing, both of which are very expensive; and the former is always wearing out where the leather has been joined by sewing. An attempt was first made to replace leather in these cases by gutta percha; but the latter could not sustain the heat of friction, &c., and soon gave way. M. Rico employs bands or tubes of hemp, spun into a single piece, somewhat after the fashion of lamp-wicks. It is then covered on both sides by some mixture of substances, with which I am not acquainted, applied at boiling-water heat by means of steam. After this preparation the product is not unlike leather to look at, and I am assured it does not lengthen when employed as transmission bands, for which purpose it appears in every respect superior to the latter.

PORTABLE GAS-WORKS.—An eminent Leicester-shire gas-lamp manufacturer has recently completed a patent for a novel invention, which facilitates the economical production of gas in a private dwelling on any required scale. The patent is issued for an arrangement and combination of the various parts, constituting an apparatus for the production of gas efficiently, which should be also portable, readily fixed, and capable of adaptation to certain circumstances. The hydraulic main, the washer, and condensers, are in one part, while the retort, purifier, and gas-holder, are distinct, but respectively connected with the former, according to the purpose, and so as to be readily connected or disconnected, as may be required for removal.

DENTISTRY.—Among other inconveniences of artificial teeth, not the least is the danger of accidentally swallowing them. The *Lancet* mentions a recent occurrence of this nature, which, through surgical skill, terminated well. A lady swallowed a gold plate, on which were three teeth, with clasps at either end to attach it to the natural ones. Shortly after the accident great internal pain was experienced, but this subsided after some hours on her reclining on the right side and remaining perfectly quiet. However, next day the symptoms returned, accompanied by an agonising desire to relieve the

bowels. The medical attendant, by examination, ascertained the presence of the teeth about two inches above the mouth of the intestinal canal, and, by dilating it, safely extracted them without much injury to the parts. In a few days, doubtless, the relieved patient was employing the recovered teeth to recruit her exhausted strength. The moral to be derived from this is, that the deficiencies of artificial teeth should be immediately attended to.

CARBON.—An interesting paper in the "Philosophical Magazine" states that the amount of carbon exhaled from the human system varies with the amount and nature of the diet and exercise, and that the carbon evolved at any specified moment is derived from three sources: from direct transformation of food containing carbon; from the blood wherein it is held freely, or associated as a base; and from direct transformation of the vital tissues of the body.

THE KINGDOM OF THE TWO SICILIES.

WE published last week an historical account of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. We now propose, in a second and concluding article, to describe briefly the physical features of the country, and the political and social condition of its inhabitants.

Agos of tyranny and wrong, of ignorance and superstition, have left their traces only too evidently in the minds and habits of the people, but the face of nature is ever the same. The sun shines upon the evil and on the good; the rains descend upon the just and upon the unjust. The vales of this southern land are as charming and as fruitful now, as when Virgil made them the site of the fabled Elysian fields. The range of the Apennine hills, the backbone of Italy, still rises in rugged outline from the plains, and little fragrant islets, fair as the dream of a poet, rear their white cliffs from the blue and limpid sea.

Let us pass in imagination over this pleasant land, entering from the Papal States, which form its northern boundary. We observe that it is very mountainous, the Apennines extending nearly to the extremity of the peninsula, and branching out irregularly on either side, or forming detached groups. There are a few small lakes, often of volcanic origin, and numerous rivers, which flow from the mountain sides to the sea. As we approach Naples, the capital city, and seat of the government, the most striking object we see is Mount Vesuvius, perhaps the most active volcano in the world. The mountain rises to the north of the Bay of Naples, and is thirty miles in circumference. At the Christian era Vesuvius had remained quiet for so many centuries, that it was universally believed to be extinct, and villages and towns were built in its immediate vicinity. But in the year 79, after certain premonitory rumblings, which lasted some days, the mountain suddenly burst forth into flame. So terrible was the eruption, that the cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii were completely destroyed, and the adjacent country laid waste. Since that time there have been numerous explosions, and the mountain is seldom quiescent for many years together.

We observe that the Neapolitan territory forms the lower part of the Italian peninsula, the shape of which has often been compared to a boot, Sicily appearing as the stone which the boot is kicking before it. On either side of the narrow peninsula flows the sea, and the island is separated from the mainland by the Straits of Messina.

These Straits were depicted by ancient poets in an aspect terrible enough to have deterred many a hardy navigator from attempting the passage. It became a proverb that "he who seeks to avoid Charybdis strikes against Scylla." Scylla is a rock at the entrance of the Straits, and at the end of the Gulf of Gioia. A town is built in terraces along the sides of the rock, and the summit is crowned by a castle. Charybdis, or as it is now called, Galofaro, is a whirlpool, situated on the opposite side of the Strait, near the Sicilian coast. According to ancient writers, ships sailing past this spot were drawn into the vortex, completely swallowed up, and the broken fragments cast upon the shore with the returning tide. No such fate, however, is to be apprehended now. Modern voyagers describe this terrible whirlpool as simply a number of eddies, caused by the peculiar formation of the land and the meeting of currents near the sea-shore. Small vessels passing over it at certain times are still liable to damage, but the skill of modern navigators easily avoids the danger. The Straits are, however, at all times a difficult passage, in consequence of the cross currents and the heavy squalls which sweep down the mountains.

The Straits of Messina are also celebrated for a

remarkable phenomenon, called the *Fata Morgana*, to be observed from the town of Reggio. Here, again, there is some discrepancy between the recent accounts and those of older writers. In a work published towards the end of the last century, it is stated that at the time of sunrise, under certain conditions of the atmosphere, the spectator, placed in a particular spot, would see on the surface of the water, or in the air, numerous objects, such as castles, arches, columns, trees, in natural colours, and well defined. Modern observers, who have investigated these phenomena, would lead us to believe that the description is much exaggerated, and that the vagrant fancy of the south has given distinctness of shape and colour to the undefined forms of an ordinary mirage.

Scattered here and there along the Neapolitan coast we notice those small islands to which allusion has already been made. One of the most charming of these is Ischia, within a short distance of Naples, and the favourite resort of the fashionables of that city. Hither flock the jaded pleasure-seekers, conveyed across the bay in fast vessels, ornamented with shrubs and flowers, to seek health and repose amidst the thermal springs, the baths, and the magnificent foliage of the volcanic soil. In the engraving on the succeeding page, the artist has caught with admirable skill the soft, dreamy character of the landscape.

Passing across the Straits of Messina, we find the island of Sicily much resembling, in its general features, the continental part of the kingdom. Sicily is studded with mountains, and the highest of these—the gigantic volcanic cone of Mount Etna—rises to the height of 10,870 feet. The surrounding scenery is extremely fine. Round the base of the mountain rich corn-fields are intermingled with vineyards, olive-groves, and orange-trees, producing the greatest variety of foliage; higher up, in a colder temperature, tall forest-trees grow luxuriantly; and higher yet, we reach a barren region of lava and snow, from out of which rises the great sulphur cone, forming the summit of the mountain. The cone rises to the height of Vesuvius, and terminates in a crater, the top of which is two miles in circumference. Etna has remained quiescent for many years, but some of its eruptions have been disastrous: that which occurred in 1693 destroyed the town of Catania, with 50,000 persons.

As in other mountainous regions, the climate of Southern Italy varies greatly. Among the mountain districts of the Abruzzi and Calabria, for example, the winters are often intensely cold, and snow lies on the ground for several months, while in the lowlands, along the sea-coast, orange and lemon-trees, the sugar-cane, the palm-tree, and other tropical plants, flourish luxuriantly; and one of the ornaments of English hothouses, the cactus, is used for hedges.

As an illustration of the simple manners of the people of these districts, the artist has sketched a group of women of Mola and Castellone. Every Sunday morning numerous groups of this kind may be seen before the cottage doors, each young woman in turn undertaking the task of arranging her neighbours' hair. With regard to the picturesque head-dress, we need say nothing, as it is fully explained in the engraving.

In the mountains dwell a hardy race of men, in all respects distinct from the *lazzaroni* of the cities. They have ever been turbulent subjects, and the little security enjoyed by the kings of Naples would have been diminished, had the mountaineers, among their thousands of strong arms, possessed a head to guide them. Hitherto they have only had organisation enough to enable them to waylay helpless travellers in the passes of the mountains; but should they join themselves to Garibaldi, he would doubtless find them valuable soldiers.

Agriculture is the chief occupation of the people of the Two Sicilies. The soil is extremely fertile, but the effect of an oppressive system of taxes levied upon the land is such, that Sicily, which in ancient times was called the granary of Rome, now rarely produces corn enough for the wants of its inhabitants. The fisheries are also extensive. The tunny, anchovy, sprat, barbel, mullet, sole, and mackerel abound on the coasts. The tunny is a fish measuring from four to eight feet in length, by two to five feet girth, and was much esteemed by Greek and Roman epicures. The sword-fish, which is taken with a harpoon, like a whale, is also considered good eating. The country has very little commerce, and no manufactures worthy of the name.

It will be seen, then, that though the geographical position, soil, and climate of this country are most favourable to its material prosperity, yet the evils and disorders of continued misgovern-

neutralised these natural advantages. From their rich soil the people scarcely raise the simplest food, and the wild fruit-trees which abound in many districts are often the only source from which the poor peasant can obtain a meal for his family. Silk and cotton of fine quality are produced, but not in sufficient quantity for home consumption. The women spin a coarse cloth, which furnishes the clothing of the mass of the population. There are no public schools, or among the poorer classes any kind of education. The people pass through their lives with their minds veiled, as it were, in a dense mist of ignorance and superstition.

In January, 1848, a constitutional charter was wrung from the fears of the late King Ferdinand II., and under this constitution a Parliament, of which the lower house was elected by the people, sat from June, 1848, to September, 1848, and from February, 1849, to March, 1849. The lower house was then dissolved by the king. Since that time the Parliament has never been convened, and the king and his ministers have exercised the most absolute and despotic power, although the constitution is still nominally in existence. The administrative and judiciary power is vested in a great variety of officers, who, however, are all under the immediate control of the Government. There is no trial by jury, and the judges are liable to instant dismissal if they pronounce a decision adverse to the king's wishes. Lists of persons suspected of disaffection, or otherwise obnoxious, are

forwarded to the judges, and these persons are tried and condemned, with or without evidence. Some-

be proceeded with. In the case of the trial of Peorio and his friends, a substitution of several judges took place before the Government could get the prisoners convicted. In civil cases, too, the ministers of the crown have unblushingly informed the courts, that the persons known to be loyal ought to receive the preference in the decisions of the causes.

The result of this policy, carried through every department of the Government, has been that honest men have withdrawn themselves from the service of the crown. Ignorant and unprincipled men would alone consent to become the creatures of such a tyranny; and thus, from year to year, the misrule and the corruption have gone on increasing, until the Neapolitan Government has become the abhorrence of the civilised world.

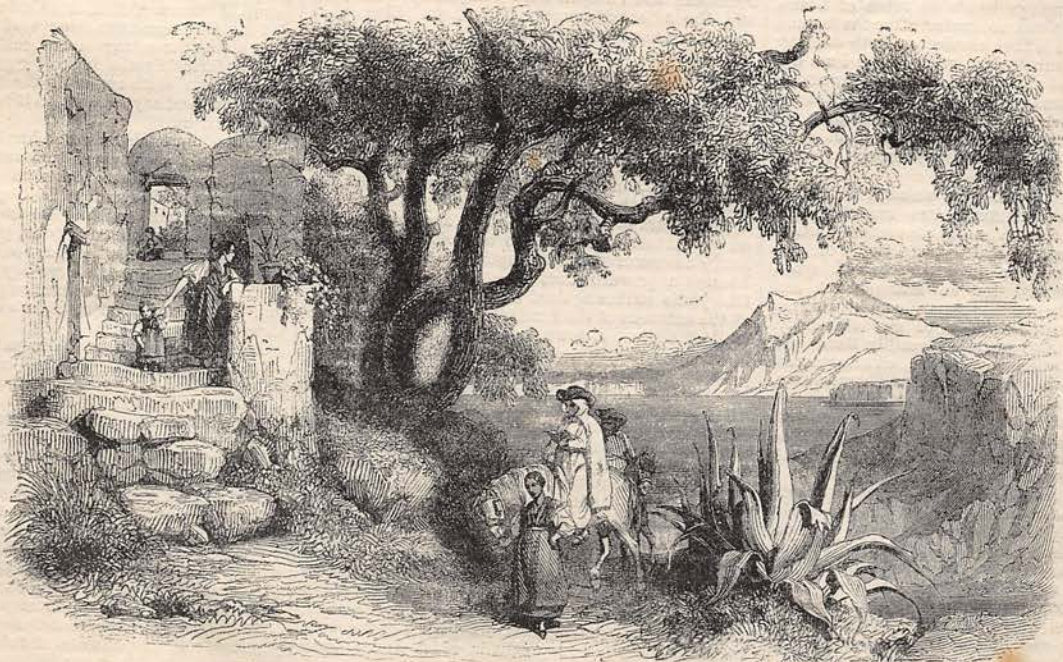
Is it surprising that under such a government the people have become immoral and ignorant, and that they have availed themselves of every possible opportunity to rise against their oppressors?

We have spoken of the institutions of the Neapolitan kingdom in the present tense; but if the accounts received as we write may be trusted, it is not impossible that when these lines reach our readers, the abuses referred to will have become things of the past. In the interests of humanity we trust that it may prove so.

What is likely to be substituted for the existing institutions is a question on which we need not now enter; we may be satisfied that no change which may take place can possibly be for the worse.



WOMEN OF MOLA AND CASTELLONE, NEAR GAETA, IN THE NEAPOLITAN KINGDOM.



VIEW OF THE ISLAND OF ISCHIA, AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE BAY OF NAPLES.