

word on this occasion, is very happy to take advantage of the valedictory symptoms of his Correspondent, by closing the present dispute, which has become a mere matter of repetition. The compliments of his Correspondent he takes in good part; and what is intended for mortification, is willing to attribute to the feelings of the moment.—*Exam.*]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—I have, as one of the readers of your *Examiner*, been of late much interested in the question respecting the negro faculties, and the disinterestedness with which you have entered into and published every argument *pro* and *con*, induces me to offer a few observations, which, though dictated by simplicity, I am proud to say sprung from the purest sources of philanthropy.

Your *English Student* gives himself mighty trouble in endeavouring to convince the well-meaning part of the community, that the poor negro is not worthy of our charitable attention towards his civilization; and for what? because there are some distinguishing marks in his formation, which a little *self-conceit* perhaps calls brutal! May not, is it not likely, that these marks are occasioned by national usage, or have been given them by the Great Disposer of all things, in order to answer some contingencies of climate, &c.

If your Correspondent thinks he strengthens his argument, by mentioning the cackling of the Bosjemans, he is much mistaken; for the argument is as futile as it is absurd. Language is an agreement between man and man how to express different images by different sounds. Can it then be a jot more brutish to express what we (*refined creatures*) call *hook*, by *clack* or *prat*, than by *liber* or *lyre*, &c.? And it is more than likely that the poor Bosjemans think our mode of expression a disagreeable *farago* of sounds\*.

It may not be amiss to carry ourselves back to our *common origin*, which to me is a convincing proof of the *ability* to be equal. It is only necessary, however, to refer to our Postdiluvian primogenitors. We learn, that after the confusion of tongues at Babel, the offspring of Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, were scattered over different parts of the globe. Now, as there is no tradition that either of these tribes partook of brutality, it is reasonable to conclude that all were equal, and that the peoplers of the torrid zone were not less men than the rest of the species. If there had been any system of real degeneration, why have not a race of beings yet appeared still more nearly allied to the brute creation than the negroes; whom the *Student* is anxious to prove inferior? Man, in Africa, is still man; and I am convinced that nothing but intellectual intercourse is necessary to make them as perfectly intellectual beings, as the more civilized nations of the world. Let us consider what *we* were before immortal Rome shed the light of civilization on us; and then say how practicable the like effect is on the negroes, who have never yet had settlers among them, at least not where they

\* No doubt of it; and at any rate, have equal reason to retort the charge against us, which the *Student* gravely brings against them—that of being “unintelligible.” But what must infinitely shock the said *Student* as an artist, is, that Mr. Barrow the traveller praises these very Boshmen for their accuracy of outline in drawing; and their correct eye for proportion. Will our artist assure us that these people may have a taste for the Fine Arts, and nevertheless be but one remove from brutality? I hope not.—*Exam.*

are most rude:—where this has been the case, a visible effect has already been produced.—Your admirer,  
Spring Gardens, Sept. 16, 1811.

PLAINWAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

I resume my correspondence, Mr. Examiner, in consequence of an epistle which my antagonist, the *English Student*, no doubt, considers as an answer to my former letter; but in which consideration, I must beg leave to hint a difference of opinion. If, indeed, *ipse dixit* without proofs, and denials without facts, constitute an answer, I submit to his decision:—nor am I less willing to submit to his charge of ignorance, when I find that he has charitably included yourself and *Niger* with me in *equo Trojano*. In the language of Cicero, I do not decline the favour; I even return him thanks. Indeed, I might terminate the conflict at a single blow, by arraying, as you have done, convincing *facts* against more seducing *hypothesis*:—I might, if I did not wish to avoid an unphilosophic petulance on this occasion, direct the *English Student's* attention to the superiority of *Niger's* composition, and silence the dispute by an *argumentum ad hominem*. But I scorn to desert the field of argument which I have already assumed, and I hasten to oppose his wicker ægis of unsupported assertion, by the more legitimate weapons of logical induction. The reply of my antagonist, I repeat, scarcely deserves the name.—With a great deal more ingenuity than principle, he has picked out the weakest of my arguments, infebled them still more by separation, and then attacked them with all the impetuous confidence of Don Quixote in the midst of a flock of sheep. One would have imagined from his reply, that I had rested every thing on the manuscript of Denon; when the fact is, I allowed it merely collateral evidence. But even this evidence he has neither shaken nor invalidated.—Its antiquity is undoubted; and whatever may be the defects of the drawing, which at all events he has grossly exaggerated, the circumstance of the sable hue of the Priest, contrasted as it is with the other figures in this singular relic, remains the same. His charge of inaccuracy is one of his favourite weapons, an *ipse dixit*—there is no proof to back it, and it falls impotently from his hand.—As to his affected wag-gery about thumbs and fingers (*cheu quam facetus!*) I confess myself either too blind or too dull to detect its humour.—Besides, it is unfortunately irrelevant;—the figure, on the manuscript, is correct in the number of its thumbs and fingers, and I produced no other authority. Granted, however, that I had failed in substantiating this point, where is the reply to scriptural\* and poetical tradition, to the evidence of Herodotus, and, I may add, of Diodorus Siculus?—I do not know whether the *English Student* is a good Painter, but I must say, he would make an excellent Caricaturist.—He has thrown all that evidence into shade which militated against his ridicule, and only distributed his lights where it suited his perversity of purpose.

Can he pretend to say, after this, that the name of Memnon was a “solitary instance?”—an observation, by the way, that partakes a little of Hibernism, when, as you know, Mr. Examiner, the name of Memnon's sister was coupled with him. But even on this point he has failed in a reasonable deduction;—for if this Memnon was a “singular exception,” would the Egyptians, so perfect as he

\* “I am black, but comely;” an observation of Pharaoh's daughter, is an additional testimony.

represents them, submit to a single Sovereign, sprung from a race, "who remained in a state of brutality so near the seat of empire?" And if they did submit, would it not falsify his theory, that the body partakes of the energy peculiar to the mind?† With regard to the little foot, which, as he thinks, is so "beautifully" described by Denon, some little allowance should be made for French enthusiasm on a subject so likely to awaken it; particularly when we recollect, that Savary metamorphosed the miserable scenery of Rosetta into a Paradise of Houris.—But if the *English Student* had adduced examples of Egyptian perfection in form till he was really as tired as he facetiously affected to be, he would only have lost that time, which his better planet prevented. My argument was, not that the latter race of Egyptians were negroes, but that the aboriginal race were either negroes, or resembled them in their characteristics; for the difference (whatever he may assert) between these two axioms, terminates in the same conclusions, when considered physiognomically. I am aware (and I kept the fact in view in my former letter) that there are numerous specimens of Egyptian sculpture and statuary, in which the form is as perfect as that of the Greeks, and has evidently been submitted to the scale. The perfection which the Egyptians subsequently attained, is indeed a powerful argument in my favour, as it proves that a refinement of physiognomical characteristics accompanies step by step the progress of intellect. The little foot, therefore, of "la jeune Princess, l'etre charmante," may be as perfect as the *English Student* pleases, without at all tainting the soundness of my deductions; and if this were not the case, the testimony of an active eye-witness, Mungo Parke, overthrows in a moment the ridiculous system erected by a sedentary Student. He says, that the forms of most of the negro women were exquisite; and let my antagonist fulminate from the depths of his closet the same arbitrary veto against the *African Student*, which he has directed against me. ‡

† The inference respecting Memnon's sister is, I think, erroneous, inasmuch as Milton appears to have created the relationship himself for the sole purpose of giving us a lofty idea of the beauty of Melancholy;—she is so beautiful,—he means to say, notwithstanding her black colour, that you might take her for a sister of Prince Memnon;—not that Memnon had a sister, —at least no such personage is to be found in the classics,—but because, supposing him to have had one, such would have been her aspect and her dignity. This does not invalidate however our Correspondent's inferences respecting Memnon himself, whom the poets call black, not as the *Student* imagines, because he was "a singular exception" to his own subjects, but because he happens at the moment to be among foreigners of a different complexion, or viewed with a reference to such contrast. In Virgil, for instance, he is assisting the Trojans against the Greeks and is called *Niger—Black*, in contradistinction to the European and Asiatic faces about him. But the Egyptians altogether, white or black, handsome or ugly, are a most unfortunate people for the *Student's* side of the question, for as I have already observed in the article that has given rise to this dispute, if they were always an ugly people, then refinement of face has nothing to do with intellect,—and if they were not, then their present ugliness is owing to their intellectual degradation; so that, either way, they argue for the Negro.—*Examiner.*

‡ There is one small difficulty in settling the authenticity of this little "real Egyptian" foot, which the *Student* seems to have overlooked.—The gallant Frenchman Denon is sure it must have belonged to a "charming creature"—"no doubt a Princess;" and not to be scrupulous, we may allow it to have

Nothing is so easy as an *ipse dixit*.—He denies that the Sphynx and the Egyptian heads, in the British Museum, have negro characteristics!—And I again repeat my asseveration.—The public must therefore be the judge:—I throw him the gauntlet, and trust to their decision.

But the head of Socrates—this is the most momentous of his arguments—I affirmed that it is nearly as abhorrent from the Greek ideal as the negro face.—And can the *English Student*, acquainted, as I am willing to allow he may be, with Grecian art, compare the head of Socrates, with its short indented nose, breathing nostrils, sunken eye, and mishapen lips, with the rectilinear ideal of the Greeks?—with the chaste lip, the blended nose and forehead, and the sedate, unimpassioned eye? I am sure he cannot mean the comparison,—then to what does his argument lead? But let t'is *homo disertus* argue for himself. "Socrates," he says, "owned he had brutal appetites, which he conquered by the strength of intellect; and this was fully exemplified in his face."—And this is to overthrow my theory, and to erect another on its ruins!—What, then, "a radical fault of mental organization may be remedied by perseverance?" He concedes this, and with it he must, if he has any decent consistency, concede the fact, that negroes are equally capable of energization in intellect and morals—with all the physiognomical consequences flowing from that fact, "that the outward characteristics of negroes will become (as he admits they became with Socrates) the testimonials of their internal improvement." Does this conclusion "advance rather than refute his argument?" If the original defect of organization evident in the face of Socrates, and admitted by that great man, did not for ever chain him down to degradation, why should it produce that effect upon the negro? If the internal perseverance of mind was in his case triumphant over the influence of organic construction, why is the same triumph refused to the efforts of the negro?—But my antagonist presents in reality so many points of assault, that I conceive it scarcely a merit to overturn them; for let me concede to him as much as I will—let me concede that the present physiognomy of the negro demonstrates his present degradation,—does it follow, by any law of induction, that a malevolent destiny circumscribes his future civilization with a magic circle impassable to improvement? The physiognomical law of the mutual action and re-action of mind and body, which he does not dispute, asserts the contrary. Let the same education, as *Niger* justly asserts, be given to negroes as to Europeans, and their faces, in spite of that criminal black colour, which degrades them in the eyes of none but religious and philosophical bigots, will display the same indications of an intelligent mind.—The whole race of men are the mere children of education, the living pictures of first impressions.

been perfectly charming and unquestionably royal; but it still remains to be proved that the royal charmer herself was Egyptian or at least of Egyptian stock. How is the *Student* to assure us that she was not an *Egyptian Princess* of a foreign dynasty? The thing was very common. He is convinced that the black face of Memnon must have been foreign; and why not the Grecian-turned foot of the fair lady? Still let the foot have been what it may, these points have nothing to do with the main question after the facts repeatedly mentioned. The question is no longer one of body or of the connexion of body with mind; it is reduced to the simple point, whether intellectual improvement has or has not taken place among the Negroes, whenever it has had opportunity.—*Examiner.*

With regard to the *English Student's* favourite theory of monkey-approximation to man, I thought its own irrationality had long ago contributed to its oblivion. To attack it, is like directing a battering-ram against a mole-hill; for of all the ridiculous absurdities that ever turned philosophy to farce, the idea of a legislator baboon arising to regenerate his species is the most despicable and illogical. It possesses no one feature of common sense to endear it to human reflection, nor of common self-respect to engraft it on human credulity. And are we again to be infested with panegyrics on monkey marauders (*horresco referens*), or comparisons of monkey orations and Wittengemotes with human articulation! I trust, for the sake of our taste, Mr. Examiner, that the world will unanimously exclaim,—*jam satis!*

But if the link of speech, as the *English Student* asserts, is passable for monkeys, does he *unfeelingly* (I repeat the phrase) deny to negroes that progression which he preposterously grants to them? If I have misunderstood him on this head, he must thank his own equivocal obscurity of diction. He may evade my argument here, therefore, but the alternative is equally unfortunate for him; for if he meant solely to infer, that the link is passable for negro degradation and not for monkey amelioration, the laws of physiognomy, admitted by himself, demonstrate its fallacy, by proving that the facility of degenerating and rising in the scale of intellect are at least equal; and if Milton's opinion of the energy of mind have weight, the latter is the most easy.

“Witness with what laborious flight  
We plung'd thus low.”

My antagonist is therefore driven on either side into a dilemma: but I have occupied too much of your room, Mr. Examiner, in what you may conceive a work of supererogation. I take my leave of the *English Student*, in perfect good humour with his personalities, though with no high opinion of his logic:—*Non tantum mecum quam secum ipsa tota oratione contendit*: and conclude, with expressing my sorrow in being compelled to destroy the beautiful fabric of his finishing period, and to annul the consistency of his philippics against philanthropy, by signing myself, *not PHILANTHROPOS*, but

A FRIEND TO HUMAN IMPROVEMENT.

P. S. I appeal to your candour, Mr. Examiner, whether the Sphinx does not possess the most striking negro characteristics?—Now, if this was a face of Virgo, as most writers agree, would the Egyptians, tenacious as they were of their antiquity, apotheosise an alien, and, moreover, a native of a country sunk in the brutality which the *English Student* describes? Would they personify the primitive age by a negro, unless they considered that people as the first civilized beings, or the aborigines from whom they sprung? If, on the contrary, the head in question be that of Isis, as other writers assert, it is notorious that the Egyptians regarded her and Osiris as the founders of human government and the parent of human civilization. Negroes, therefore, on either of these grounds, not only have emerged, but were the first people to emerge from barbarity.

#### THE COMET.

Sir,—A Mr. Page, an able mathematician, says, this is the very same Comet that appeared in 1681, and whose period is 150, and not 129 years, which had been gene-

rally imagined and expected in 1789, and mistaken with the one seen in 1532. I think these bodies are more easily accounted for than is mostly conceived. They are certainly planets moving in very eccentric orbits, describing equal areas in equal times; and if their return can not be accurately prognosticated, the conjecture most reasonable is, that they are put out of their course and thrown to an inconceivable distance either from strong propulsion or by violent attraction brought near other bodies. I think with Halley, that the periods are reducible, in some measure, to calculation, and that the Comet which appeared in 1305, 1456, 1607, and 1682, to be one and the same; and that the irregularity of such periods were occasioned by the attraction of Jupiter, as the Comet's orbit lay near him. The opinion of Sir Isaac Newton, that the tails of Comets are formed by a vapoury atmosphere rarified by the Sun and driven behind it, deserves credit; but his vague hypothesis of the Comet, after its supposed heat, having been exhausted, falls in to the Sun for a renewal of its fuel, is, I think, erroneous;—worse than the chimera of Dr. Darwin and some other philosophers, who maintained our earth to be occasioned by a *sun shute*, i. e. thrown from off his body together with many other planets, and which gave rise to the specky appearance of his face. Hevelius thinks the nucleus, or head of a Comet, to be transparent; and that the Sun's rays passing through it, forms the coma, or tail. Walker says, “This is ingenious.”—How? If the Sun's light pass through a body, where is the reflected light by which it is to be perceived? A.

Nelson-square, September 16.

The following Observations are selected from Maclaurin's Account of Sir Isaac Newton's Discoveries:—

“A Comet descends from the far distant parts of the system with great rapidity, and when arrived within a certain distance of the sun, emits a fume of vapour called its tail. The tail is always directed to that part of the Heavens which is nearly opposite to the sun, and is always greater after the Comet has passed its perihelion. After a short stay it is carried off to a vast distance and disappears. The ancients conceiving that Comets were meteors did not observe or record their phenomena, hence this part of astronomy is very imperfect. Sir I. Newton having discovered and demonstrated the principles by which alone the motions of the heavenly bodies may be ascertained, the perfection of astronomy may be reserved for some distant age, when these numerous Comets, and their vast orbits, may be added to the known parts of the solar system. Sir Isaac Newton shows that the Comets are above the moon, because they participate of the apparent diurnal motion, rising and setting daily, and are affected by the motion of the earth. He proves that the celebrated Comet, which was seen in November, 1680, and in December, January, February, and March following, was the same, though they had been esteemed two different Comets. In November, it was descending towards the sun; it passed near the sun on the 12th of December, were being heated to a prodigious degree its tail was vastly greater than before, extending 70° in length. Dr. Halley coincided in opinion with Sir I. Newton on the subject of this Comet, and finding other observations of Comets recorded in history, agreeing with this remarkable circumstances, and returning at the distance of 575 years from each other, he suspected that these might be one and the same Comet, revolving in that period about the sun. This Comet may therefore be expected again, after finishing the same period, about the year 2255. If it then return, it will add new lustre to Sir Isaac Newton's philosophy in that distant age, and fill every mouth with this great man's name and praise. In one part of its orbit it will approach, Dr. Halley says, very near to the orbit of our earth; and in some revolutions, it may approach near enough to have very considerable, if not fatal

effects upon it. By comparing together the orbits of the Comets that appeared in 1456, 1531, 1607, 1682, 1759, they are found so coincident, that we cannot but suppose them one and the same Comet, revolving in 75 years round the sun. But Dr. Halley attempted to shew, that the Comet of 1682 was the same as that which appeared 46 years before Christ, or soon after the death of Julius Cæsar, and finding its period to be 575 years, he concluded that this Comet must have appeared at the time of the universal deluge, and was perhaps the cause of the catastrophe; and this he imagined was effected by the immense quantity of humid vapours which composed its tail; and Mr. Whiston, who supported this conjecture, was of opinion that the general conflagration may be occasioned by the approximation of this Comet to the earth, after it has been prodigiously heated in its passage from the sun."

#### TO THE COMET.

UNWANTED visitor of these low climes!

Oh! that thy passing fires not so in vain

Might add thy glory to the nightly train,

That shine unkonour'd all in thoughtless times:

Not now the mighty trembles for his crimes

At sight of thee across the bloody plain;

But to his rest he turns—and soon again

His dreadful praises loud a nation chimes.

For lovely Science smiles away the fears,

That humbled once the good, the bad appall'd;

In patient reverence waiting for the days,

When heavenly truth shall surely wipe all tears

For ever from a world no more enthral'd

In sin—fit victims of thy final blaze!

#### THE BANK.

On Thursday, a Half Yearly Meeting of the Proprietors of Bank Stock was held, when

Mr. CLIFFORD made a variety of observations, for the purpose of shewing, that the extraordinary profits recently made, entitled the Proprietors to an increase of 5 per cent. on the present dividend. The dividend of 10 per cent. was now, by the depreciation of paper, of much less real amount than at the period when it was first declared. In justice to the Proprietors, therefore, the addition was imperiously called for, as well as upon the ground of the great augmentation of the profits upon all the concerns of the Bank. He was prepared to shew that there was a large excess in the hands of the Directors, which he conceived ought to be divided among the Proprietors. Mr. Clifford then entered into a statement of the sums derived by the Bank upon the various items of the rise in the nominal value of the dollar token, the charges for managing the national debt, the profits on dead stock, lottery prizes, unclaimed dividends, &c. which he stated to be on the average, since 1806, 702,4011. a year. He then contended, that the issue of notes had been excessive, and that until reduced, it would be unavailing to issue silver tokens, since the growing depreciation would always destroy the equilibrium between them and the paper, and the evil now so generally felt and complained of, the want of small change, must remain incurable. The emission of every single additional note operated to raise the price of bullion, and of all the necessaries of life. The price of the quarter loaf was now 16d. If he had a guinea and were to purchase bullion with it in the market, he might afterwards buy Bank of England paper, and by this circuitous means procure the loaf of bread for 13½d. This was a sufficient illustration of the fact of depreciation, and the interests of the Proprietors of Bank Stock were injured no less than the interests of the public. Mr. Clifford stated, that the dollar token was now sold at 6s. 1d. and declared his conviction, that the Bank note, which was now worth only 15s. would soon be worth less, and that the present condition of the affairs of the Bank bore a strong resemblance to the South Sea scheme, and if the Directors continued to act on their present wild and absurd principles, the bubble must at length burst in

the same way. (*Considerable Disapprobation and Hisses*). Mr. Clifford said, if they doubted it, he would give them a stanza of a ballad, written in the year 1721, about the South Sea scheme, than which nothing could be more appropriate to our present situation:—

Five hundred millions notes and bonds

Our stocks are worth in value,

But neither lie in goods or lands,

Nor money, let me tell ye:

Yet, though our foreign trade is lost,

Of mighty wealth we vapour,

When all the riches that we boast

Are flimsy scraps of paper.

On putting the question the motion was not seconded, and was consequently lost.

Mr. PEARSE, the Governor, did not mean to enter into any refutation of the principles advanced by the Gentleman who brought forward the motion, as he was convinced the general opinion of Bank Proprietors was such as to render any such refutation altogether unnecessary; neither would he attempt to follow him through his various calculations, of which many, if not all, were evidently founded on erroneous data. With respect to what that gentleman had said respecting Bank Dollars being worth 6s. 1d. he could assure him that the value of one of these dollars was not more than 5s. 2d. He could only answer the charge which had been brought against the Bank Directors, for neglecting to lay before the meeting of Proprietors such a statement as would enable them to see the different sources of the profits derived by the Bank, by saying, that hitherto the Proprietors had always reposed such confidence in the Directors, as to entrust them with the duty of deciding what sum the Bank could with safety divide from their profits (*applauses*); and it had not been thought proper to deviate from the uniform practice.

Mr. CLIFFORD observed, that he had not stated the intrinsic value of the Bank Dollar at 6s. 1d. but its value in Bank Paper, and the admission of the Governor proved his argument.

Mr. PEARSE then moved, that it was the unanimous sense of the Meeting that the usual Dividends should be made at this time.

The Duke of NORFOLK wished to trespass for a few moments on the attention of the Meeting before the Resolution should be agreed to. He had lately been through various parts of the country, and every where, but particularly in those parts of England bordering on Scotland, he found the people complaining of the great distress to which they were put for the want of small change. He wished to know, therefore, whether it was the intention of the Bank Directors to put into circulation such an additional quantity of tokens as might be fully adequate to the wants of the people?

Mr. PEARSE said, he was happy to have it in his power to inform the Noble Duke, that the Bank had a considerable quantity of silver in their possession which they destined for coining, and that no less a sum than 500,000l. had already been put into circulation—considerable sums had been sent to the different large towns throughout the country, in proportion to their reputed populations; and very large sums also had been distributed among the different London Bankers, so much as 500l. weekly. They intended in this way to continue coining till the wants of the country were completely supplied; but it was to be recollected, that the process of coining was such as to require a considerable time before this could be effected.

Mr. CLIFFORD asked, whether, when they issued the additional tokens, the Directors meant to diminish the number of notes, if not, the issue of tokens would increase the scarcity of change?

Mr. PEARSE answered, that it was impossible to give an answer to that question.

The Duke of NORFOLK expressed his satisfaction for the communication made by Mr. Pearse, and wished to know what mode of conveyance was proposed for distributing this money throughout the country? He had been lately at a considerable town nearly a hundred miles distant, when he was informed the expence of conveyance amounted to 3 per cent.

Mr. MAC AULAY said, he believed he could give the Noble Duke some information on this subject. He had been at Manchester lately, where 6000*l.* had been received in charge, which was deposited in the Town Hall, and given out to the inhabitants as it was wanted; and the expence of conveyance, including freight, insurance, and every other outlay, amounted only to 25*s.* on the 100*l.*

The Resolution was then put and carried *nemine contradicente*.—Adjourned.

### OLD BAILEY.

On Wednesday Robert Roberts was brought up, being indicted for breaking out of the House of Correction, Cold Bath-Fields.

Mr. GURNEY stated the circumstances connected with the escape, with which our readers are already acquainted, and then proceeded to observe, that being again apprehended, he had made certain important discoveries against other persons, in consequence of which he had not himself been brought to trial for the offences on account of which he was originally committed, but was admitted an evidence against others, who had since been convicted, and had suffered. It was a fact universally known, that, on account of suspicions entertained by the Magistrates that the prisoner could not have effected his escape without the connivance of the jailor, Mr. Aris had been removed from his situation of Keeper of the House of Correction. The Learned Counsel could not complain of this step, for undoubtedly a person in the situation of keeper of a prison ought to be above suspicion. It was for the purpose of doing justice to himself, and of shewing to all the world that he had no hand in the escape of the prisoner, that the present prosecution was brought by Mr. Aris, the result of which would shew, that the escape of the prisoner was not attributable, in the most distant degree, to negligence, far less to connivance.

Mr. KNAPP, for the prisoner, took an objection, that two, at least, of the warrants of committal were on suspicion, and that as to the other, the guilt of the prisoner had never been attempted to be substantiated.

Mr. Justice BAYLEY was clearly of opinion that the guilt of the prisoner, as to some one of the offences for which he stood committed, must be proved before he could be convicted of a crime in breaking out of custody. The Jury accordingly found him—*Not Guilty*.

On Friday, Daniel Davis, a letter carrier in the General Post-Office, was found guilty of stealing a 10*l.* note out of a letter which passed through his hands.—The prisoner made no defence.—*Death*.

John Hopgood, Margaret Nowlan, Jeremiah Nowlan, and Elizabeth Edwards, were indicted on various charges of passing forged Bank of England Notes.—In all the cases, however, there was a failure of proof, and they were acquitted.—In the case of Jeremiah Nowlan, it was admitted by Mr. Lees, a Bank Inspector, that the forgery was so good, that it was impossible for any indifferent person to discover it.

### ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

Early on Sunday morning, the house of Mr. G. Smeeton, printer, in St. Martin's-lane, near the Church, was destroyed by fire. A small part of the property, consisting chiefly of paper, was saved, and deposited inside the iron railing opposite the Church door.—About two years ago the house of the present sufferer's uncle, in St. Martin's-lane, was consumed by fire, when, unfortunately, the latter, with his wife, perished in the flames.—At three o'clock the same morning, a fire broke out in St. Giles's, opposite Oxford-street, which consumed two houses, and considerably damaged a hair-dresser's adjoining.—The flames were fortunately arrested in their progress by the engines, before they extended to the rear, as otherwise the conflagration must have been dreadful, and would have occasioned much misery to the poor who inhabit that neighbourhood. One boy is missing, and it is feared that he has been burnt to death.

On Tuesday, a disturbance took place at Ratcliff-Highway, near the London Docks, amongst the sailors of different nations employed there. For some time past, great jealousies have existed amongst the American and Portuguese sailors, relative to the rate of wages at which they should work. It appears that most of the Portuguese have agreed of late to give their services on board of merchant vessels for their victuals, without requiring any wages, a circumstance which has irritated the Americans and other sailors to the highest pitch, and they planned a formidable attack upon the Portuguese. Every chair, table, stool, and ladder, they could lay their hands upon, were broken to pieces, and with these they bestowed many a violent blow upon their opponents, who, being totally unprovided for such a desperate attack, suffered very severely. Every step of a ladder produced a broken crown; and the poor Portuguese were forced to make a precipitate retreat, and seek refuge in the houses and shops, by which the whole neighbourhood of Ratcliff-highway was in an uproar, and the inhabitants were under the necessity of shutting up shop. By the timely interference of the Police Officers, a deal of bloodshed was prevented. The hostile parties, however, were not dispersed before many threats of vengeance were interchanged.

On Monday morning, a man about 50 years of age, was discovered suspended by a rope to the railings inside the watch-house in Phoenix-street, Somers Town. The unfortunate man was brought to the watch-house at midnight in a state of intoxication; he was a carpenter by trade, residing near the spot; and had once before attempted to cut his throat, having been in a state of derangement for a long time.

Saturday se'night, a man having stolen a small piece of bacon from a cheesemonger's shop near Shoreditch Church, was pursued by the owner, with the usual cry of "Stop thief," which being heard by a person coming in an opposite direction with the culprit, he raised his leg in an horizontal posture, with an intention to stop him, which the culprit not perceiving, ran his stomach with such force against the foot, as (aided no doubt by the agitated state of his mind) caused his instant death.

A shocking accident happened at the premises of Mr. Wheat, tobacconist in Coventry-street, on Monday. Henry Williams, who had been a short time in Mr. W.'s service, was at work at a machine that cuts tobacco, and being unskilful in the management of it, he seized the handle as the machine was running down, sooner than he had been instructed, and was precipitated into the works. The poor man's greatest injury was in his thigh and leg; he was conveyed to St. George's Hospital in the most excruciating agony at nine o'clock in the morning. In three hours afterwards, amputation of the thigh was deemed necessary, which was performed, but the unfortunate patient survived only half an hour. A Coroner's Jury sat on the body and returned a verdict of accidental death.

CHILD-STEALING.—Frances Dunkerley, a young woman, was on Friday, at the Westminster Sessions, sentenced to seven years transportation, having been found guilty of carrying off a child, taking its clothes, and barbarously leaving it exposed naked, at a considerable distance from its home. This example, it is to be hoped, will operate as a check to this abominable offence, which has of late become very common.

### DEATHS.

On the 28th ult. John Anderson, of Barlow, near Ryton, shoe-maker, aged 108. He died in the act of soleing a pair of shoes. He enjoyed good health, and never wore spectacles in his life.

Early on Tuesday morning, after an illness of a few days, Mrs. Glasse, wife of the Rev. Dr. Glasse, Rector of Wainstead, Essex.

On Tuesday morning the Rev. Matthew Raine, D. D. Master of Charter-house School, &c.

On the 17th inst. at Ecclesball Castle, the Hon. Mrs Cornwallis, wife of the Bishop of Lichfield, and sister of Sir Harace Mann, Bart.

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