

it in circulation in this corner of the kingdom, while we have it. Our alarming situation has arrested the attention of many enlightened and patriotic statesmen in different parts of the British Empire. When they have exposed errors, and offered many useful lessons for our instruction, shall we then disregard such important admonition, and by parting with what gold remains amongst us, assist in hurrying on all the evils of an inordinate issue of paper money? J. P.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

MY inquiry respecting an Ink that will stand the operation of bleaching, through the different processes, when the oxy-muriatic acid is used, still remains without a satisfactory answer. To be complete, it must resist the operation of the alkalies

which are used in the first processes of bleaching, and of the oxy-muriates, used in the latter stages. Your correspondent, Tyro, suggests printers' ink. It will, however, not answer, for even a weak alkaline solution discharges it. I particularly solicit practical information on the subject.

Weavers are in the practice of sometimes marking the progress of their work in a manner which is found to stand the operation of all the different processes of bleaching. And I have understood the instrument they use is a piece of the grey willow, made black in the fire, and then dipped in butter.

Might we not, from this circumstance, get a hint for making a permanent ink? In this case the component articles appear to be carbon and oil, perhaps combined with the peculiar matter of the grey willow.

A LINENDRAPER.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

THE HISTORY OF HAROUN AL-RASCHID.

THE name of Haroun Al-raschid is so familiar to most readers, that a compilation, purporting to relate the principal events of his life, might seem at first to require an apology. On perusal, however, it will be found, that the Haroun Al-raschid of history differs much from the facetious night-wanderer of Oriental romance, and that most of what is detailed of him by the historians of his reign, will present him in a point of view essentially different from that in which we are accustomed to behold him. If we chuse to moralise on the matter, we may reflect on the falsehood of those names too frequently bestowed on kings, which may have flattered their own blind vanity, but have afterwards accompanied their character downwards through time, with all the damning effect of sneering irony: for Al-raschid, or *the just*, seems to have been little deserved by this prince, who appears to have acted, in most instances, with the unfeeling caprice of a despot, and not with the mature deliberation of

one, who strove to award to all their due.

In the year of the Hegira 100, which answers to 718 of our era, Mahomet, great grandson of Abbas, the uncle of the impostor Mahomet, laid claim to the Khalifat, then in the possession of Omar II. His attempt succeeded, and he became the founder of the Abbasside race, which maintained their sway through a series of 37 Khalifs and a period of nearly 500 years.

Haroun Al-Raschid was the fifth Khalif of this race, and succeeded his brother Hadi according to the appointment of their father Mahadi. This appointment seems to have been displeasing to Hadi; who acted on every occasion toward Haroun, so as to testify his displeasure, and in some instances displayed great meanness of disposition. Mahadi had left to Haroun, as a pledge of the succession to which he had appointed him in the event of his brother's death, a remarkably handsome ruby set in a ring. This the Khalif wished much to get from Haroun, and sent an eunuch to demand it of him. Haroun was walk-