

18 16, having had no share in the arduous struggles by which these British privileges were acquired, seem to have valued them too lightly, and to have given them up without any corresponding concession from the Neapolitan government, not obtaining even its grateful thanks ; for the seals of this treaty of 18 16 were scarcely cold, before the commencement of a series of impositions on our flag, that have been continually increasing down to the present time, many of them of a most vexatious nature, and all of them enforced with so unfriendly a spirit, that it might be supposed they were intended chiefly for the useful purpose of displaying to what extent the encroachments of the weakest power may be pushed, without attracting even the notice, much less exciting, the just anger of the English government.

Many of the acts of the Neapolitan government towards the British flag, are contrary to the spirit of the treaty of 18 16 ; and some of the more recent are supposed to be in such direct violation of the letter of it, as will justify the British government in considering that treaty as annulled, when our flag should be restored to the same privileges it enjoyed previous to 18 16, unless the new treaty, said to be now under consideration, can be agreed to on a system of more equal rights and reciprocal advantages,

The first departure from the spirit of the treaty of 1816, was, the imposition of an enormous tonnage duty on our flag, in the shape of port charges, which becomes prohibitory on such vessels as may wish to visit the ports of Naples or Sicily, for a less object than the disposal or acquirement of a whole cargo ; and a moiety of this heavy tonnage duty is charged again, when a vessel touches at any other than her first port of entry, and the free action of our shipping in disposing of or acquiring cargoes as formerly, in the various ports of Naples and Sicily, is now further restricted by the exaction of very heavy fines, for the slightest departure from numerous vexatious fiscal regulations, which appear to have been framed for the express purpose of shackling, if not interdicting, a free commercial intercourse.

The relaxations so liberally made by the British government to promote a system of reciprocity, were immediately taken advantage of by the Neapolitan government, under pretence of encouraging their own flag, by such large remissions in its favour of the import and export duties, as must, if assented to on the part of England, tend to give to the Neapolitan flag a monopoly of the carrying trade between the two countries.

The quarantine regulations in Naples and Sicily, have for some years past been executed in such a spirit, as to leave us only in doubt

as to whether the painful restrictions they imposed, were made chiefly subservient to objects of political jealousy, or the exaction of revenue under the name of quarantine charges.

But the last and most flagrant breach of friendly relations between the two countries; was granting to some French adventurers a monopoly of the sulphur produced in Sicily. This article had become so useful in various branches of our manufactories, that the British Government wisely, from time to time, made several large reductions in the duty, until, at its present low rate of ten shillings per ton, the annual consumption of sulphur in England had been brought to exceed 30,000 tons ; the Neapolitan Government, not content with the advantages Sicily derived from this enormous increase, in the demand for an article of superabundant production, was induced, by the cupidity of some of its officers, to listen to a most impudent proposal for granting a monopoly of the sulphur to a commercial company, who were to exact, on the sale or export of all sulphur from Sicily, a charge somewhat exceeding in amount the last remission of duty made on its import to England ; thereby virtually effecting a transfer of the £3. 14s. per ton (the duty last remitted here) from the English treasury to the pockets of the French contractors. As it was calculated this sum alone would insure to the company a profit much exceeding £ 100,000 a year, (independent of any similar exaction on the sulphur consumed in France,) it need excite no wonder that the scheme has been tolerated, if not favoured, by some commercial men possessing both wealth and influence. It cannot be doubted that the British Government remonstrated against a monopoly so injurious not only to British interests, but so destructive to the maintenance of a useful commercial intercourse with Sicily ; and the fatal results of this nefarious monopoly, in force since the 1st of August, 1838, have been fully exemplified by the prostration of trade and industry in Sicily ; and the consequent misery and discontent of its population, as well as by the disturbance caused to our manufacturers by an advance in the price of sulphur, between May, 1837 (when the reported intrigues connected with this monopoly gained credence) and the present time, from about £6 per ton to £12 per ton, and a reference to the board of trade will prove the great decrease in British tonnage employed between Sicily and Great Britain in the past year.

If the well-founded claims of the British Government for a revision of the exorbitant duties on our produce and manufactures, had been treated with deserved attention, the oil produced in the Neapolitan states would have shared equally in the reduction of duty granted on

oil from other countries, and the imports from Gallipoli would have retained the preference now enjoyed by oil drawn from sources to which more free access is afforded to the produce of British industry. It is perhaps the only useful consequence that will ever be admitted to have arisen from the artificial project on which the sulphur contract is founded, that the general derangement it has occasioned in the commerce between the two countries has at last forcibly called the attention of the British Government to the actual position of their existing relations ; and this being now done, it may be hoped that no private interest of favourites of the court of Naples, or other sinister influence, will prevent the treaty under consideration from being concluded on such fair and broad principles of reciprocal advantage, as will greatly extend the commerce between nations possessing so many elements for mutually beneficial intercourse as Great Britain and the Sicilies, who are moreover bound to each other by important past services, the durable effects and deep recollection of which cannot be easily effaced. *

* It is believed the duty on the import of sulphur to England, during part of the last war, was £15 or 15 guineas per ton, a point that may be verified by reference to the board of trade. The duty was then reduced to £8. 8s. per ton: it was still further reduced to £4. 4s. per ton- and again reduced to its present rate of 10s. per ton.

It is our intention to examine the different commercial treaties existing with foreign nations, and we shall feel obliged by such notes and memoranda as may serve to show the actual position of our mercantile alliances, and the steps advisable for their improvement. The merchants connected with different countries abroad are requested to forward us authenticated facts on this important subject.

REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS, &c.

Am. I.—A History of England on Christian Principles. By Henry Walter, B.D. F.R.S. &c. in 7 Vols. small 8vo. London. Rivington & Co.

A history of England, written on Christian principles, was a noble idea, but of difficult execution, as it required a philosophic mind, a Christian spirit, profound research, deep meditation, and the singular power of making the past the present, and clothing it with all the functions and vitality of existence. The writer who attempts to describe events, without analyzing motives, and developing individual characteristics, must fail in imparting interest to his narrative ; but he who shuts out of historic view the working of an all-wise *special* as well as general providence—who denies to the Creator of the universe any share in the moral government of his creatures, and refuses to acknowledge the unceasing workings of retributive justice among mankind—must decidedly fail in all the essential attributes of history ; the main object of which is to inculcate right principles ; to warn nations, as well as individuals, of the dangers which beset the path of life ; to demonstrate that injustice can never be permanently prosperous, and that justice, in individual and national proceedings, is the test of correct conduct, and the path which can alone lead to personal goodness and national greatness, in its truest sense.

Were history always written in this spirit, the record of past events would become a subject of more intense interest than any novelist or inventor of fiction could portray. Instead of the minds of the rising generation being poisoned with fabulous and mythological tales, we should have data founded on truth, and yet with greater charm for the mind than romance can ever convey. Our school-books would cease to be dry themes for the exercise of memory, or the details of absurd fables ; and the rising generation, in commenting on the past, would endeavour so to act that their conduct would bear the scrutiny of the Christian historian.

Holding these views, we hesitate not to earnestly recommend to the public the History of England now before us. It is the most acceptable present that could be given to youth ; it should be the manual of all schools and seminaries where our language is taught ; the class-

book, where, as in a mirror, we may trace the progress of England in social polity and Christian conduct, from the sixth to the nineteenth century.

Minuteness of detail, graphic illustration, acute reasoning, and charitable deductions, with an easy and cheerful style, an extensive knowledge of foreign countries, and a deep investigation of the human heart, are the characteristics of Dr. Walter's national work.

We acknowledge, therefore, a debt of gratitude to the reverend Author ; we pay to him the tribute of respect which services such as his command-services, the influence of which will be experience&long after the hand that penned has passed away, and when the works done the flesh shall have received their reward. To such men, and not to military heroes, is the gratitude of a nation due ; and when Christianity has her perfect work consummated, they will be honoured on earth, and their memory be loved and revered by posterity.

ART. II.—*History of Madagascar. 2 vols. 8vo. With Maps, Illustrations, &c. By the Rev. W. Ellis. Fisher, Son, & Co.*

At a period when the suppression of the slave trade, and the civilization of the vast continent which has been desolated by this criminal traffic is engaging public attention, it is most opportune that we should be put in possession of a history of the fine island, which is not inaptly termed “ the Great Britain of Africa,” and which appellation we can declare, from personal experience, it most justly merits. In the valuable pages before us, we see the result of philanthropic feelings guided by Christian principles, and developed, as regards Madagascar, by the Rev. W. Ellis, (whose labours on Polynesia have already produced many beneficial results,) from the journal of the late Mr. Hastie, (who rose from being a private soldier in one of the regiments of the line stationed at the Isle of France, to be II. M. Consul at Madagascar,) and from various materials furnished by our Christian missionaries and others. Much credit is due to Mr. Ellis for the judicious use he has made of the information thus derived from various quarters, and for which he makes full acknowledgment.

The character, habits, and manners of the people are faithfully portrayed, exhibiting the degeneracy and cruelty of the human mind when uninfluenced and unaided by the light of the gospel. The facts detailed present a melancholy picture of the demoralization of a fine people like the Malagasy, whose numbers amount to about 5,000,000, and ought to render every true Christian desirous of ameliorating the state of

a nation debased by superstitious ignorance, and blinded by a pertinacious adherence to their ancient usages.

What can be expected from a community where Christianity is despised *on account of its adherence to truth*, (the basis upon which true religion is founded,) and where cunning and deceit in the Malagasy youth are encouraged, as they are considered indicative of mental superiority. It is, however, gratifying to observe one favourable and most important trait in their character, which it would be well in this boasted age of civilization were we to imitate, viz. their detestation of *selfishness*, the absence of which one is scarcely prepared to expect among a barbarous people : “ The word used to denote a selfish person is *sarotra*, ‘ hard,’ or ‘ difficult,’ and numerous tales are told to impress the minds of children with its abhorrent nature.”—Pp. 287-289.

England has reason to be proud of the silent influence she possesses, when it is seen (as stated by the writer) that, notwithstanding the wide expanse of land and ocean which separates her from Madagascar, the fear of her condemnation tends so materially to mitigate the practice of crime. The knowledge of this alone should stimulate us to increased exertion for deserving and preserving the high reputation we have acquired of moral as well as mental superiority. It is a cheering prospect for Christianity when we perceive the happy effects resulting from example, which, as exemplified in the case before us, is sufficient to weaken the degeneracy of a whole nation.

The work embraces every variety of subject, and is full of interesting detail: the question regarding the progress and suppression of the slave trade is most ably written, and reflects the highest honour on our intelligent and persevering British agent, Mr. Hastie, who allowed no obstacle, however great, to impede his strenuous exertions in effecting this important and necessary step to civilization ; the difficulties he encountered could only be overcome by a daring spirit, conscious of its own rectitude, and firm in the execution of its duty. We must, however, refer our readers to the work itself, in order sufficiently to estimate the general good he was enabled to effect, under the sovereignty of the island, Radama, from whom he received every encouragement in the difficult path he had undertaken, and who wisely appreciated the efforts he was making for the benefit of his country.

Madagascar extends between the parallels of $12^{\circ} 2'$ and $25^{\circ} 40' S.$ latitude, and the meridians of $43^{\circ} 41'$ and $50^{\circ} 30' E.$ longitude, separated from the eastern coast of Africa by the Mozambique Channel, which is nearly 300 miles broad. The island abounds with rich and magnificent scenery ; it possesses a fertile soil, with every advantage

that nature can bestow, and requires only the blessings of civilization to be made the abode of a numerous, happy, and free people. The steps which England should pursue for the accomplishment of this desirable result will be pointed out in an early number of the Colonial Magazine.

The illustrations are numerous and well executed. The portrait of Radama, in particular, is a good likeness.

ART. III● --*The State of Religion and Education in New South Wales.*
By William Westbrooke Burton, Esq. one of the Judges of the
Supreme Court of that Colony. 1 Vol. 8vo. J. CROSS, 18, Holborn.

JUDGE BURTON has deservedly earned the respect and esteem of the colonists at the Cape of Good Hope and in New South Wales ; in both of which places he has filled the important office of Puisne Judge.

In Australia, particularly, he has distinguished himself by his having uniformly tempered justice with mercy ; and while reproofing the direct offender, he has not forgotten the indirect offender, namely, the authority, who, when punishing the breaker of the law, took no measures to reform and redeem the offender. The Christian-the Protestant-who desires to maintain the gospel in its purity, and to educate the rising generation in the principles of the English church, which we ought to preserve inviolate, should read the volume now on our table, and see how disgracefully successive governments have neglected their duty in our colonies. Judge Burton certainly refers only to New South Wales ; but the details he has given may serve as a specimen of the treatment experienced in our other colonies.

The Christian judge demonstrates how lamentably England has failed in her duty, when sending forth into banishment her unfortunate criminals, without affording them the means of religious instruction as a means of repenting their past errors, and enabling them to reform in their future conduct. Had religious cultivation accompanied the progress of punishment, transportation would have presented a different result, and the fallacies and erroneous reasonings of Archbishop Whately would have received but little attention.

The encouragement given to the propagation of the Roman Catholic faith, and the almost studied neglect of Protestantism, is fully demonstrated in these pages ; the details of which will furnish abundant materials for the Bishop of Exeter-one, alas ! of the very few prelates of the Anglican church who attend to the condition of Protestant

establishments in distant parts of the empire. Judge Burton's work will awaken men from their slumber ; they will begin to perceive that there is something else to be considered for New South Wales, as well as the propagation of herds and the growth of wool. The diffusion of the gospel, and sound religious education, will be the fitting reward of the labours of an enlightened, benevolent, and patriotic judge,

ART. IV.-*The Women of England. By Mrs. Ellis. 1 Vol. 8vo. Pp. 336. Fisher and Co.*

NOT only among the women of England, but in every part of the globe where her language is understood, should this admirable work be disseminated ; indeed, the translation of it into Continental languages would be productive of incalculable benefit ; and we doubt not that ere long it will become a standard work for the instruction of the women of Hindoostan, now that they are being educated and elevated from the mental bondage and moral depression to which they have been subjected for ages. In every age, and in every country, the estimation of woman has been in proportion to the extent of civilization ; and as her moral power must be extremely limited when deprived of her freedom, and living in a state of servile obedience, so must a people remain in a state of barbarism, unchecked by the influence which she would otherwise exercise. What woman can conscientiously excuse herself from pursuing the active path assigned her by Providence, by asserting that her powers are so limited, her opportunities so circumscribed, that it would be vain to expect her influence could produce any good result ? The most humble must surely recall to mind some human being with whom, if her influence is not *all-powerful*, is at least more or less guided by her advice—sustained by her cheerfulness—encouraged by her approbation.

Is woman not then responsible, if, in the thorny path of life's tempestuous ocean, man wavers in the exact line of rectitude which should regulate his actions, she is not prompted to direct him aright, to strengthen his half-formed resolutions, to suggest and facilitate, to the best of her abilities, the means for its accomplishment. Thus she is not merely accountable for her own sphere of action, but for the right exercise she employs over those more immediately connected with her.

We refer our readers to Mrs. Ellis's well-written pages for an exemplification of these sentiments. Her analytical mind traces out the workings of the heart in all its bearings, showing the importance of watching its progress in an equal degree with that of the intellect.

Although we are far from deprecating the advancement of knowledge or the highest mental cultivation of which the human mind is susceptible, yet ought we to keep in view that this is not the end proposed, but the means by which we are enabled to benefit mankind, both individually and collectively ; and while we are thus pressing and urging forward the advancement of the mental faculties, we do not sufficiently impress the necessity of the regulation of the heart, the subjugation of our evil will-without which our knowledge will be misapplied, becoming worse than useless and unprofitable.

Mrs. Ellis has well inculcated this principle ; but it is one only of the many just sentiments to which she endeavours to draw the attention of her readers, We trust her laudable endeavours for the improvement of her countrywomen will meet with the success she so anxiously desires, and that she will reap the reward of her exertions even in her own age, by witnessing the triumphant progress of the moral power of woman

ART. V. - *The Rock, illustrated with various Legends and original Songs and Music, descriptive of Gibraltar. By Major Hart, 81st Regt., with Drawings, by Lieut. Lacey, 46th Regt. Quarto, pp. 171. London, Saunders and Ottley. 1839.*

It would be well if the gallant and intelligent officers of the British army would, when stationed in different colonies, employ their pens and pencils as efficiently as Major Hort and Lieutenant Lacey. No class of men have better opportunities for serving their country in those “weak piping times of peace,” than the officers of our military and naval services ; and we would recommend them to take advantage of their leisure abroad to illustrate the distant sections of the Empire. Major Hort’s narrative, songs, and legends are the production of a brave and gay troubadour, full of poetic fancy and cheerful feeling. It is a true specimen of the Irish soldier—a mingling of humour and pathos, and abounding in displays of character. The prominent features of the “Rock,” as Gibraltar is familiarly called, are well portrayed and the pencil of Lieutenant Lacey is quite in unison with the excellent sketches of his friend. The songs are excellent—quite a *la Moore*, and the accompanying music a *la Stevenson*. The work is got up in good style, and dedicated to the Queen. We trust that wherever Major Hort and Lieutenant Lacey may be again stationed, they will when “wearied with the dull routine of garrison duty,” pay tribute to Minerva, who, with Mars, equally claims the *devoirs* of a soldier

ART. VI.-*Texas; its Claims to be recognized as an Independent Power by Great Britain, Examined, in a series of Letters. By John Scoble. 8vo. Pp. 56. Darton and Harvey.*

We honour Mr. Scoble for all his noble and praiseworthy exertions against the curse of slavery; and last, not least, for this endeavour to prevent England committing the sin of recognizing Texas as an independent power. To the disgrace of the United States and of France, they have acknowledged this piratical, revolutionary, and slave-holding province. England dare not commit such a crime against the rights of man, and against the first duties of Christianity. Let those who think otherwise read it!. Scoble's Letters..

ART. VII. -*Fallacies of the Faculty, &c. By Samuel Dickson, M.D. Lectures I & II. H. Bailliere, 219, Regent Street.*

Dr. Dickson is a philosophic physician (which it is rare to find in the present day) ; he investigates supposed causes, and analyzes the moral as well as the physical faculties of man. His unique work on the "Unity of Disease" has already produced a great commotion among his brethren, and we trust will induce them to reflect more than they usually do, instead of blindly following a routine of practice. We wish Dr. Dickson every success in his herculean task of reforming, or at least placing on some definite principle, the so-called science of medicine. The non-medical reader should investigate Dr. Dickson's works, and they will find much to improve their knowledge on the structure of their own frames.

ART. VIII.- *A Sketch of Chinese History, Ancient and Modern, &c. &c. By the Rev. Charles Gutzlaff. 2 vols. 8vo. Smith, Elder, & Co.*

Mr. Gutzlaff is one of the very few men who have mastered the Chinese language, and of the far fewer who have so accustomed themselves to the Chinese character, as to be enabled to pass through the interior as a Chinaman. This, we understand, was actually the case with the reverend gentleman whose valuable history is before us. He was, we believe, sent a few years ago into China by the East India Company, to visit the tea-districts, and obtain information relative to the cultivation of that valuable shrub. This Mr. Gutzlaff, we understand, accomplished with great success, and induced several tea manufacturers to quit their native country and accompany him to Bengal, from whence they were passed to Assam, where they are now employed in preparing tea for the English market. We have in an Editorial article adverted fully to Mr. Gutzlaff's history : it is devoid of topography,