

was too high; if it stands for the work done by the *spedizioniere*, it was dog-cheap.

It only remains to add that Genoa is the chief port of Italy. E. E.

Correspondence.

GEORGE BORROW'S WORKS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Perhaps you will kindly permit me to interview your public so far as to ask them, or some one curious in these matters, whether any of the works of the late George Borrow not included in the subjoined list are known. Allibone's meagre mention of Borrow gives an 'Autobiography' under date of 1851, which, however, can only be the 'Lavengro' of that year and not a separate book. The 'Celebrated Trials from 1400 to 1825' were in part compiled by Borrow, and published at London in 6 vols., 8vo, in the latter year, I believe. Lowndes does not speak in high terms of them, doubtless because he knew not the charitable influence of Taggart's snuff-box. At the end of the second volume of 'Romany Rye' (2d ed., London, 1858), there are announced a number of titles of inedited works by Borrow, some of which have appeared under the ægis of "Glorious John," and others have not as yet been printed. These are: 'Celtic Bards,' 2 vols.; 'Songs of Europe,' 2 vols.; 'Kœmpe Viser' (Danish Ballads), 2 vols.; 'Penquite and Pentyre,' 2 vols.; 'Russian Popular Tales,' 1 vol.; 'Northern Skalds,' 2 vols. (unfinished); 'Death of Balder'; 'Bayr Jairgey and Glion Doo.' The published volumes that I possess are the following:

1. Romantic Ballads. Norwich, 1826. 8vo.
2. Targum. (Poet. transl. from thirty languages.) St. Petersburg, 1835. 8vo.
3. The Talisman (from Pushkin). St. Petersburg, 1835. 8vo.
4. El Nuevo Testamento (Scio's version). Madrid, 1837. 8vo.
5. Gypsy Version of St. Luke. Madrid, 1837. 12mo.
6. Basque Version of St. Luke. Madrid, 1838. 12mo.
7. Gypsies of Spain. London, 1841. 2 vols., 8vo.
8. Bible in Spain. London, 1842. 3 vols., 8vo.
9. Lavengro. London, 1851. 3 vols., 8vo.
10. Romany Rye. London, 1857. 2 vols., 8vo.
11. The Sleeping Bard. London, 1860. 8vo.
12. Wild Wiles. London, 1862. 3 vols., 8vo.
13. Romano Lavo-Lil (Gypsy Dict.). London, 1874. 8vo.
14. The Turkish Jester. Ipswich, 1884. 8vo. (Posthumous.)

I should be glad of any note or information that would complete this collection as far as possible. W. I. KNAPP.

YALE COLLEGE, January 19, 1886.

THE BOYCOTTING OF POSTMASTERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Your editorial on the boycotting of fourth-class postmasters seems to recognize no possible motive but the desire to gratify "a petty political spite."

I know a little village with only one public store or office, and that the only suitable place for the post-office. I am told that all the Republicans and a majority of the Democrats opposed a change. But a Democrat wanted the office, and had to have it. He is shiftless, addicted to the use of liquor, and generally considered dishonest.

I know another village—one that has grown up around a college. The college is unanimously Republican, the precinct heavily so, and the

college makes the work of the post-office. There is a man in the village who was a rebel during the war, was captured, took the oath not to bear arms against the Government, and then reenlisted in the Confederate service. His business at present is illicit whiskey vending. He neither fears God nor regards man. He is openly accused, by those who know his past, of arson and robbery, and is suspected of other crimes; and I doubt if his best friend would not consider it flattery to call him dishonest. A change is daily expected which will practically make that man postmaster. Every Republican and almost every Democrat will oppose it. But what is to be done when every Democrat becomes a would-be P. M., and the Democratic M. C. determines to make a "clean sweep," and the present incumbent is an "offensive partisan"? Clearly, civil-service reform demands a change.

These are extreme cases, but your article admits that boycotting has been generally introduced where the will of the majority of the people has been disregarded. But when a Democratic Congressman determines to reward his faithful rural friend by securing for him the cross-roads post-office, and the powers that be are deaf to the voice of the people, and grossly incompetent and unworthy men, are placed in offices in which every citizen is interested, what remedy have the people but to reduce the postmaster's income with a view to compelling him to give up the office? I do not know any post-offices where boycotting prevails to any considerable extent. I doubt not there are a few men unreasonable enough to try the method in almost any rural community—indeed, I have long since known families, who took some offence at a village postmaster, to mail all their letters on the trains. But where any considerable number of the citizens unite in so doing, it is safe to admit the possibility of some other cause than ultra-party spirit. And when a majority of good citizens combine in "such performances," it is safe to conclude that, whether their manner of redress be justifiable or not, there is at least just cause for complaint. The Republican majority generally represents at least half the good sense of a community, and the presumption is in their favor.

Respectfully, W. E. BARTON.
ROBBINS, TENN., January 19, 1886.

A DRIVE FOR TROTTERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Having been a constant reader of the *Nation* since its inception, attracted mainly by the breadth of its views, it was a surprise to see so much narrowness expressed in an article of the above caption.

This part of our continent (the blue-grass region of Kentucky) is visited by many foreigners, attracted doubtless by its park-like beauty; but what engrosses their attention when here is the trotting horse. His high finish, his great speed, his light and airy rig, are all marvels to them. It is the one thing that is, strikingly American, and on that account particularly entertaining. One of my guests, an Englishman of position, after a spin behind a fast roadster, said to me: "If the Prince of Wales had a span of such horses, he would drive nothing else, and then America could not breed trotting horses enough to supply the English demand." As it is, not enough can now be bred to supply the home demand, and men of means have for years been purchasing colts and keeping them until they were old enough to use—laying them in as they do their wines—because the matured could not be obtained at reasonable prices.

No amount of cold water thrown on this recreation can abate the fever. Let us, then, make the best of it, and so arrange for its enjoyment

that harm cannot come from it. If "roads frequented by trotters are sure to be lined with grogeries," let your Park drive be exempt from this evil, and by those who must "needs fill themselves with rum, gin, brandy, or whiskey," some other drive would be sought. The Park drive would neither foster nor hasten the "kidney trouble" among highly-fed business men, for the frequent drinks on that road could not be obtained. But why driving a horse in New York faster than a jog should create such an abnormal thirst, needs some explanation. It certainly does not have that effect elsewhere, not even in a country where whiskey is supposed to flow as water.

But your very provincial idea of "a race course with all that its name implies," is as striking to one living outside of your bailiwick as your bibulous argument. At our fair in this place, the trotting races have been attended for years by from five to six thousand spectators, more than one-half of whom are females, and the divines of every denomination are present. Not a drink of liquor has ever been sold on the grounds, not a drunken person has ever been seen there, and not a cent has ever been wagered on a race. Neither "grass, nor trees, nor shrubbery" in this park have been injured, and "women and children and quiet men" are not driven away, but in increased numbers seek this place, when the trotting race is expected. No quarrel, no profane language, and no bluster has ever been heard there, and this crowd is composed of "lawless Kentuckians." Surely sedate, Christian New Yorkers might contain themselves even if Maud S. and Jay-Eye-See were flying past them.

Your "moral view of the trotting horse" is even more startling than that of the race course; it surpasses the Methodist mountaineer's belief, that the devil is in a fiddle, or that a pack of cards is a coal of fire from hell. Would it not be advisable to have guardians appointed for those "poor young men who have a taste for trotters"? for if deprived of a place to trot their horses they will, without doubt, find some other adequate means of making their "banks or tills suffer sooner or later." Such idiots are made conspicuous because they are seen behind fast horses. Your city is full of just such men who go to the bad without ever having driven a trotter. An ambition to improve one's dwelling, as well as to improve one's horse, makes the tills of many weak men unduly suffer, but handsome dwellings should not on this account be tabooed.

To deprive your hard-worked merchant, whose tax for the benefit of the Park is often princely, of his innocent and healthful recreation, when he has grown too old to straddle a bang-tailed Anglicized American plug, and bob up and down with your host of badly-seated and ill-at-ease horseback riders, because some loud fellows prefer white coats and gin-cocktails when they drive, is hardly reasonable.

No part of your Park would be so entertaining to your visitors, be they native or foreign, as your trotting drive. To see the action and poise of the finest and most tractable horses ever produced in any land, driven by men some of whom are known to fame, and who have a reputation outside of their city not appreciated by their fellow-townsmen, would be worth a visit to New York if nothing else could be seen.

That driving fast horses is immoral cannot be maintained, and that the amusement is low can only be supported because it is American. That nothing is more exhilarating and refreshing to closely-confined mental workers than the rapid motion of the horse, either ridden or driven, is well known. To enjoy horseback exercise one must be a rider, an art only acquired by constant practice in youth, and few of our youths have an

opportunity to so indulge themselves. To drive, and that well, requires much less education, and can be acquired by the old as well as the young. Your horseback riders on their sorry steeds are forlorn objects, that cut a ridiculous figure in the eyes of your English neighbors and your Southern brethren. Your road drivers are behind horses superbly adapted to the business, and at a glance you see that the driver is at his ease—a perfect master of the situation. In the most of our recreations we are weak imitators; in this one we are original. In itself is there neither harm nor guile, and all that is needed to secure its proper rank is a fashionable and genteel place for its enjoyment. No better place could be found to elevate this national taste than your Central Park; and to abandon to rowdies that which is good in itself, and in which we excel, because it is not of foreign importation and lacks the stamp of royalty, is not only puerile but almost contemptible. M.

KENTUCKY, January 18, 1886.

[It is easy to take a hopeful view of what the effect of a trotting course on the Park would be, when looking at the matter from the blue-grass region of Kentucky. But people who live nearer to the Park, and are more interested in it, look into the details a little more closely, and are less sanguine. We are quite willing that the enjoyment of trotting should be "arranged for," and that the Prince of Wales should be tempted into the purchase of a pair of trotting horses, and that "the hard-worked merchant" should not be deprived of his trot. We simply say that there is no room in the Park for the trotting course, and that, if introduced there, it would ruin it as a popular pleasure ground. This may seem startling to any one to whom "five or six thousand spectators," "one-half females," with a sprinkling of "divines of every denomination," is an immense multitude. But we are accustomed here to seeing 75,000 people in the Park in a single day, often without a single divine among them; and the Park is only 700 acres in extent, without the possibility of any addition to it, while a race course in Kentucky, for all practical purposes, embraces the entire State.—ED. NATION.]

THE DEATH-RATE FROM CONSUMPTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In the *Nation*, No. 1072, Doctor Shattuck objects to the Michigan statistics because not all deaths are reported. No one claims that they are; but, on the other hand, no one claims that there is any greater proportion of deaths reported of persons at one age than another; so that the evidence on relative numbers at different periods of age is good, theoretically, and practically we know it is good because it agrees with the evidence from other sources. In my first letter, I did not "base an argument on such small figures," but referred to them as an illustration of perhaps the first demonstration of a fact which I assumed was well known to statisticians. Since he seems to question what I assumed was well known, the following illustration, from figures on pages 56 and 75 of the Fortieth Report on Vital Statistics of Massachusetts, 1881, should convince him and others who have not given the subject attention.

Doctor Shattuck seems to favor Massachusetts statistics. Employing statistics of nearly one hundred thousand (97,047) deaths from consumption in Massachusetts, during the nineteen years 1863-1881, and an average of the population in

Massachusetts in 1865, '70, '75, and '80, I find by computations the proportions at decennial periods of age as follows:

DEATHS FROM CONSUMPTION ANNUALLY IN 1,000 INHABITANTS IN SAME PERIOD OF AGE.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------|
| Aged under ten years | 1.12 | per 1,000 living. |
| Aged ten, and under twenty years | 1.91 | " " " |
| Aged twenty, and under thirty yrs. | 4.94 | " " " |
| Aged thirty, and under forty years | 4.28 | " " " |
| Aged forty, and under fifty years | 3.70 | " " " |
| Aged fifty, and under sixty years | 3.80 | " " " |
| Aged sixty, and under seventy years | 5.27 | " " " |
| Aged seventy, and under eighty yrs. | 6.86 | " " " |
| Aged eighty, and over | 4.07 | " " " |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------|-------|
| The average at all ages | 3.31 | " " " |
| The average at ages under 50 years | 3.04 | " " " |
| The average at ages over 50 years | 4.77 | " " " |

It will be seen that the average of decedents from consumption at ages over fifty years is about fifty-seven per cent. greater than the average at ages under fifty years.

I suggested that the larger death-rate from consumption (as it is known to statisticians) at ages over fifty years may account for the apparent greater death-rate from that disease among the foreign-born, who average much older than our native-born because the native-born includes so large a proportion of the children of the foreign-born.

I again respectfully submit that to decide the question we need statistics showing the death-rate of each class at each period of age, because of the great variation of the death-rate from consumption at the different periods of age.

Very respectfully, HENRY B. BAKER.

LANSING, MICH., January 22, 1886.

OUR FOREIGN MINISTERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Apropos of your article, "Our Foreign Relations," in No. 1072 of the *Nation*: Many years ago, travelling from Rome to Naples, I was shut up in the front compartment of the diligence with one of our foreign ministers accredited to a Continental Power. I had a card of introduction to him, and found him polite, agreeable, and very communicative. Among other things, he said, giving doubtless the results of his own experience, that the United States had no need of ministers in Europe, excepting, perhaps, England and France; that there was nothing for them to do; that if any serious difficulty should occur requiring the presence of a representative from this country, the business could be settled, as you intimate, by a "special envoy."

GEO. G. FIELD.

RECTORY, COATESVILLE, PA., January 19, 1886.

Notes.

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS' spring announcements include: 'Humorous Masterpieces from American Literature,' edited by Edward T. Mason, in three volumes; 'The Life and Letters of Joel Barlow,' author of 'The Columbiad,' United States Minister to France, etc.; by Charles Burr Todd; 'France under Richelieu and Mazarin,' by J. B. Perkins; 'The Adirondacks as a Health Resort,' by William Stickler, M.D.; 'Evolution of Today,' a summary by Prof. H. W. Conn, of Wesleyan University; 'Mechanics and Faith,' by Charles Talbot Porter; 'Poetry as a Representative Art,' by Prof. George L. Raymond, of Princeton; 'Reflections and Maxims,' by Batchelder Greene; 'Le Romantisme Français,' edited for students of French by Profs. T. F. Crane and S. J. Brun, of Cornell; 'The Boys' and Girls' Library of American Biographies'—Fulton, Lincoln, Washington, etc.; and 'The Mill Mystery,' by Anna Katharine Green.

The same firm will begin publication in March of a monthly journal to be called the *International Record of Charities and Correction*, a quarto of sixteen pages, edited by Mr. Fred. H.

Wines, than whom no one more fit could be found to conduct such a periodical.

S. E. Cassino, Boston, has in press 'Mineral Physiology and Physiography, or Geological and Mineralogical Studies,' with a general introduction, by Dr. Thomas Sterry Hunt. This work will be incidentally a tribute "to the work of Amos Eaton, who, more than fifty years since, laid on a sound basis the foundations of American geology."

'Without Blemish—To-day's Problem,' by Mrs. J. H. Walworth, is, in the press of Cassell & Co. This new tale, by the author of 'The Bar Sinister,' deals with the problem of the negro's future.

From Houghton, Mifflin & Co. we have new editions—the twenty-second of vol. i, the fifth of vol. ii—of the Rev. James Freeman Clarke's 'Ten Great Religions.' The two volumes are uniform in style, and in handsome dress for the library.

The sixth volume of Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge's edition of Hamilton's Works possesses many features of marked interest—the closing documents in the Whiskey Rebellion; a large number of military papers, culminating in interest as war threatens with France, and Washington is drawn from his retirement; the controversies with Jefferson and with Adams; and the Reynolds pamphlet. This last has a great moral value—all the more because of its unsavoriness. During the late Presidential campaign it was often cited, but probably had little weight in so heated a time. Now that we are eighteen months distant from Mr. Cleveland's nomination, and that so good a Blaine man as Mr. Lodge thinks it right (and we agree with him) to include among Hamilton's permanent works the history of this scandal—this high example of a public man's sacrifice of his character for chastity and conjugal fidelity in order to protect his reputation for official integrity—perhaps some will read and ponder who in 1884 were incapable of it.

Harper & Bros. lend their aid in fostering the newly awakened interest in Count Leo Tolstoi, and send out Part I. of his 'War and Peace' in their Franklin Square Library. The English translator is Clara Bell, who follows a French version by a Russian lady, and is in turn revised by some one unnamed in this country. Some day we shall perhaps do better than this.

Mr. Charles C. Moreau has privately printed a hundred copies of a 'Catalogue of Books Illustrated with Engravings by Dr. Alexander Anderson,' with a biographical sketch of that earliest of American wood-engravers. Anderson was born in New York in 1775, and, under the influence of Bewick, taught himself how to engrave on wood. This 'Catalogue' will be illustrated with Anderson's book-plate, engraved by himself, and by head and tail-pieces cut by Anderson after he was ninety years of age. A few copies of this interesting bibliography will appear in the February sale catalogue of Nash & Pierce, Nassau St., New York.

Students of Montaigne, and of Shakspeare as well, will be glad to have John Florio's translation of the 'Essays' made accessible to them in the reprint edited by Henry Morley (Routledge). The original editions are practically unattainable, and though bulky are harder reading than the very fine though clear print of this reproduction, for which the editor has written a good introduction and a short glossary.

Mr. Clarence E. Blake, Principal of the Springfield (Mass.) Collegiate Institute, has published (D. Appleton & Co.) a small lexicon to the first three books of Homer's 'Iliad,' together with portions of books iv, v, vi, xviii, xxii (entire), and xxiv. In his preface Mr. Blake says: "It has been the author's aim to give the student a full knowledge of each word found in the work." The italics are his own, and there is