

LITTELL'S
LIVING AGE.

CONDUCTED BY E. LITTELL.

E PLURIBUS UNUM.

"These publications of the day should from time to time be winnowed, the wheat carefully preserved, and the chaff thrown away."

"Made up of every creature's best."

"Various, that the mind
Of desultory man, studious of change
And pleased with novelty, may be indulged."

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full-bottomed wig in the midst of the dog-days run away—why do not all the judges run away? Behind their judicial seats, temptingly cut in the wall, is a little door through which they go out for refreshment in the middle of the day. Why not take that opportunity, doffing gown and wig, and throwing judicial gravity to the winds, slip out and leave brother Quiddit to thunder to the empty seat! Why come back and listen to that gentleman's mock-deferential sarcasms? Why bother the head with unravelling the title of Owen Glendower to a yard and a-half of his neighbor's ground? Fi-

nally, why should any crowned head stand up to be shot at, every now and then, when the remedy is obvious and easy? The list, indeed, of kings who have run away, from Charles the Fifth to King Leopold, would count no small number. Did not old George the Third, when Wilkes and America had driven him to distraction, dream of it like a schoolboy who sees the school-door open on a sunny day? Why, in short, should I weary my readers with further questions when the thing is clear? I should hope that they are already converted to my views, and are only anxious to run away.

PARIS, December 24.

Among the late important discoveries, applicable to the useful branches of science, two of the most remarkable are the art of *Galvanoplastie*, and the invention of the wonderful calculating machine by Mr. Thomas. This gentleman has lately made the finishing improvement in the arithmometer, at which he has been working for upwards of thirty years. Pascal and Leibnitz in the 17th century, and Diderot at a later period, endeavored to construct a machine which might serve as a substitute for human intelligence in the combination of figures; but their efforts failed. Mr. Thomas's arithmometer may be used without the least trouble or possibility of error, not only for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, but also for much more complex operations, such as the extraction of the square root, involution, the resolution of triangles, etc. A multiplication of 8 figures by 8 others is made in 18 seconds; a division of 16 figures by 8 figures in 24 seconds; and in one minute and a quarter, one can extract the square root of 16 figures, and also prove the accuracy of the calculation.

The arithmometer adapts itself to any sort of combination. The working of this instrument is most simple. To raise or lower a nut-screw, to turn a winch a few times, and, by means of a button, to slide off a metal plate from left to right, or from right to left, is the whole secret. Instead of simply reproducing the operations of man's intelligence, the arithmometer relieves that intelligence from the necessity of making that operation. It is not matter producing material effects, but matter which thinks, reflects, reasons, calculates, and executes all the most difficult and complicated arithmetical operations with a rapidity and infallibility which defies all calculators in the world. The instrument is, moreover, a simple one, of very little volume, and easily portable. It is already used in many great financial establishments, where considerable economy is realised by its employment.

Galvanoplastie is the art of causing by galvanism, the adhesion of one substance to another with such perfection as to cause them to be indissoluble. Thus any light and hard substance, such as wood, &c., may be covered with gold, silver or bronze for furniture, ornaments, articles of *vertu*. Silver and bronze table services, and even jewelry are so beautifully and artistically worked as to deceive the most practiced eye, and at the same time comparatively cheap. Mosaics are incrustated into marble with a skill equalling the celebrated works of the Italian masters, and the labor of years is thus saved, for the process of galvanism is as speedy as it is perfect in the execution. The small tables, cabinets, and boxes of rare woods incrustated with the most minute mosaics, forming landscapes, flowers and beautiful groups, all produced by the art of *galvanoplastie*, are exquisite and marvellous specimens of the wonders of modern discovery in the arts.—*Correspondence of the N. American and U. S. Gazette.*

Among the passengers from Hongkong by the *Pera* was a Dutch Captain Hoogenstraaten, who had the misfortune to lose his ship, the *Helena*, about 140 miles North of Hongkong, while bound for Shanghai. When the ship struck, the country-people came down and took possession of everything, even going so far as to strip the captain, his mate, and crew. They asked, "Are you English?" He said, "Why, English very good." They said, "No, English very bad." "Oh, then we are Dutch," replied the captain; upon which assurance they allowed him, his mate, and crew of twelve men, to proceed in the lightest possible marching order. However, after walking some distance they came to a village, and were met by two ladies; who, seeing their "peculiarly perplexing predicament," took them to their house and furnished them with sundry old gowns and other light garments. The captain retains his as a memento of his escape, and a curious development of Chinese modesty.