The Countess of Blessington's Testimony-Leigh Hunt's Testimony-Campbell's Testimony- Macaulay's Testimony.

THE COUNTESS OF BLESSINGTON'S TESTIMONY.

The following passages concerning Lord Byron's relations with his wife and sister are taken from "Conversations of Lord Byron with the Countess of Blessington," at Genoa, in 1823. London, 1834:--

"In all his conversations relative to Lady Byron-and they are frequent -he declares that he is totally unconscious of the cause of her leaving him, but suspects that the ill-natured interposition of Mrs. Charlemont led to it. It is a strange business! He declares that he left no means untried to effect a re-'A day will arrive when I shall be avenged. I feel that I shall not live long, and when the grave has closed over me, what must she feel!' When Lord Byron was contained. feel!' When Lord Byron was praising the mental and personal qualifications of Lady Byron, I asked him how all that he now said agreed with certain sarcasms supposed to bear a reference to her in his works. He smiled, shook his head, and said they were meant to spite and vex her, when he was wounded and irritated at her refusing to receive or answer his letters; that he was not sincere in his implied censures, and that he was sorry he had written them; but, notwithstanding this regret, and all his good resolutions to avoid similar sins, he might, on renewed provocation, recur to the same ven geance, though he allowed it was petty and unworthy of him. Lord Byron speaks of his sister, Mrs. Leigh, constantly, and always with strong expressions of affection. He says she is the most faultless person he ever knew, and that she was his only source of consolation in his troubles on the separation.

HIS TENDERNESS FOR LADY BYRON. "It is evident that Lady Byron occupies his "It is evident that Lady Byron occupies his attention continually." He introduces her name frequently; is fond of recurring to the brief peried of their living together; dwells with complacency on her personal attractions, saying, that though not regularly handsome, he liked her looks. He is very inquisitive about her; was much disappointed that I had never seen her, nor could give any account of her appearance at present. In short, a thousand indescribable circumstances have left the impression on my mind that she occupies much of his thoughts, and that they appear to revert continually to her and his child. He owned to me that when he reflected on the whole tenor of her conduct—the refusing any explanation, never answering his letters, or holding out even a hope that in future years their child might form a bond of union between them-he felt exasperated against her, and vented this feeling in his writings; nay, more, he blushed for his own weakness in thinking so often and so kindly of one who certainly showed no symptom of ever bestowing a thought on

BYRON TO THE COUNTESS OF BLESSINGTON ON THE SLANDERS RIFE AGAINST HIM IN ENG-

"I have often thought of writing a book, to be filled with all the charges brought against me in England," said Byron; "it would make an interesting folio, with my notes, and might serve posterity as a proof of the charity, goodnature, and candor of Christian England in the nineteenth century. Our laws are bound to guilty, but our English society condemns him before trial, which is a summary proceeding that saves trouble. \* \* \* The moment my wife left me I was assailed by all the falsehoods that malice could invent or slander publish. How many wives have since left their husbands, and husbands their wives, without either of the parties being blackened by defamation, the public having the sense to perceive that a husband and wife's living together or separate can only concern the par-ties or their immediate families; but in my case, no sooner did Lady Byron take herself off than my character went off, or, rather, was carried off, not by force of arms, but by force of tongue, and pens, too; and there was no crime too dark to be attributed to me by the moral English, to account for so very common an occurrence as a separation in high life. I was thought a devil, because Lady Byron was allowed to be an angel."

BYBON'S FITS OF RAGE. "I hope my daughter will be well educated, but of this I have little dread, as her mother is highly cultivated, and certainly has a degree of self-control that I never saw equalled. I am certain that Lady Byron's first idea is, what is due to herself—I mean, that it is the undeviating rule of her conduct. I wish she had thought a little more of what is due to others. Now my besetting sin is a want of that self-respect, which she has in excess; and that want has produced much unhappiness to ns both. But though I accuse Lady Byron of an excess of self-respect, I must in candor admit, that if any person ever had an excuse for an extraordinary portion of it, she has, as in all her thoughts, words, and deeds she is the most decorous woman that ever existed, and must appear-what few, I fancy, coulda perfect and refined gentlewoman, even to her femme-de-chambre. This extraordinary degree of self-command in Lady Byron produced an opposite effect me. When I have broken out, on slight prevocations, into one of my ungovernable fits of rage, her calmness piqued and seemed to reproach me; it gave her an air of superiority that yexed and increased my mauvaise humeur. I am now older and wiser, and should know how to appreciate her conduct as it deserved, as I look on self-command as a positive virtue.

LORD BYRON'S TRIBUTE TO HIS SISTER. "My first and earliest impressions were melancholy—my poor mother gave them; but to my sister, who, incapable of wrong her-self, suspected no wrong in others, I owe the little good of which I can boast; and had I earlier known her it might have influenced my destiny. Augusta has great strength of mind, which is displayed not only in her own conduct, but to support the weak and infirm of purpose. To me she was, in the hour of need, as a tower of strength. Her affection was my last rallying point, and is now the only bright spot that the horizon of England offers to my view. Augusta knew my weaknesses, but she had love enough to bear with them. I value not the false sentiment of affection that adheres to one while we believe him faultless; not to love him would then be difficult: but give me the love that, with perception to view the errors, has sufficient force to pardon them-who can love the offender. yet detest the offense; and this my sister had. She has given me such good advice, and yet, finding me incapable of following it, loved and pitied me but the more because I

was erring. This is true affection, and above all, true Christian feeling. Poor Lady had just such a sister as mine, who, faultless herself, could pardon and weep over the errors of one less pure, and almost redeem them by her own excellence. Had Lady—'s sister or mine," continued Byron, "been less good and irreproachable, they could not have afforded to be so forbearing, but, being unsullied, they could show mercy without fear of drawing attention to their own misde-

LEIGH HUNTS TESTIMONY is taken from "Lord Byron and some of his Contemporaries," by Leigh Hunt. Lon-

LEIGH HUNT ON BYRON AND HIS SISTER. "I believe there did exist one person to whom he would have been generous, if she pleased; perhaps was so. At all events, he left her the bulk of his property, and always spoke of her with the greatest esteem. This was his sister, Mrs. Leigh. He told me she used to call him 'baby Byron!' It was easy to see, that of the two persons, she had by far the greatest judgment; I will add, without meaning to impeach her womanhood, the more masculine sense. She had recorded him on his tomb as the author of 'Childe Harold,' which was not so judicious; but this may have been owing to a fit of affectionate spleen at 'Don Juan,' which she could not bear, and (I was told) would never speak of. She thought he had committed his dignity in it. I believe she was only woman for whom he ever entertained a real respect; a feeling which was mixed up, perhaps, with some thing of family self-love."

BYRON TO LEIGH HUNT, OCT. 15, 1814. "My stay in town has not been long, and am in all the agonies of quitting it again next week on business, preparatory to 'change of condition,' as it is called by the talk ers on such matters. I am about to be married; and am, of course, in all the misery of a man in pursuit of happiness. My intended is two hundred miles off; and the efforts I am making with lawyers, etc. etc., to join my future connections, are for a personage of my single and inveterate habits—to say nothing of indolence-quite prodigious!'

BYRON TO LEIGH HUNT. "13 Piccadilly Terrace, June 1, 1815.—I am as glad to hear from as I shall be to see We came to town what is called late in the season; and since that time the death of Lady Byron's uncle (in the first place) and her own delicate state of health, have prevented either of us from going out much; however, she is now better, and in a fair way of going credibly through the whole process of beginning a family. \* \* \* Whenever of beginning a family. \* \* \* Whenever you come this way I shall be happy to make you acquainted with Lady Byron, whom you will find anything but a fine lady—a species of animal which you probably do not affect more than myself.

BYRON TO LEIGH HUNT, FEB. 26, 1816. "With regard to the circumstances to which you allude, there is no reason why you should not speak only to me on a subject already sufficiently rife in the mouths and minds of what is called 'the world.' Of the 'fifty reports,' it follows that forty-nine must have more or less error and exaggeration; but I am sorry to say, that on the main and essential point of an intended, and, it may be, an inevitable separation, I can contradict none. At present I shall say no more; but this is not from want of confidence; in the meantime, I shall merely request a suspension of

LADY BYRON AND THOS. MOORE. BY THOMAS CAMPBELL.

The following paper, which originally appeared in The New Monthly Magazine, of April, 1830, will show that Mrs. Stowe was not the first person to come forward, unauthorized, with a "True Story" of Lady Byron's Married Life. Nearly forty years ago, Thomas Campbell thought fit, on the plea of refuting the slanders of Moore, just as Mrs. Stowe now sets up as a pretext the slanders of the Countess Guiccioli, to publish for the edification of the world an account of his private interviews with Lady Byron, and a confidential letter she had written him.

Campbell, however, does not tell the whole story, but only darkly hints at it.

From a letter of Lady Byron, quoted by Miss Martineau we find that she repudiated this interference with her private affairs, as she would doubtless have still more indignantly disclaimed her posthumous American advocate.

"I found my right to speak on this painful subject on its now irrevocable publicity brought up afresh, as it has been by Mr. Moore, to be the theme of discourse to millions, and, if I err not much, the cause of misconception to innumerable minds. claim to speak of Lady Byron in the right of a man, and of a friend to the rights of woman, and to liberty, and to natural religion. I claim a right, more especially, as one of the many friends of Lady Byron, who, one and all, feel aggrieved by this production It has virtually dragged her forward from the shade of retirement, where she had hid her sorrows, and compelled her to defend the heads of her friends and her parents, from being crushed under the tombstone of Byron in a general view, it has forced her to defend herself; though with her true sense and her pure taste, she stands above all spe cial pleading. To plenary explanation she ought not—she never shall be driven. Mr. Moore is too much a gentleman not to shudder at the thought of that; but if other Byronists, of a far different stamp, were to force the savage ordeal, it is her enemies, and not she, that would have to dread the burning

"We, her friends, have no wish to prolon; the discussion; but a few words we must add even to her admirable statement-for hers is a cause not only dear to her friends, but having become, from Mr. Moore and her misfortunes, a publicly agitated cause, it concerns morality, and the most sacred rights of the sex, that she should (and that, too, without more special explanations) be acquitted out and out, and honorably acquitted in this business, of all share in the blame, which is one and indivisible. Mr. Moore, on farther reflection, may see this, and his return to candor will surprise us less than his momen-

tary deviation from its path. For the tact of Mr. Moore's conduct in this affair, I have not to answer; but, if in delicacy be charged upon me, I scorn the Neither will I submit to be called Lord Byron's accuser-because a word against him I wish not to say, beyond what is painfully wrung from me by the necessity of owning or illustrating Lady Byron's unblamable-ness, and of repelling certain miscon-ceptions respecting her, which are now walking the fashionable world, and which have been fostered (though Heaven knows where they were born) most delicately and warily by the Christian god-fathership of Mr. Moore.

write—that is to say, I never applied to her for information against Lord Byron, though I was justified, as one intending to criticise Mr. Moore, in inquiring into the truth of some of his statements. Neither will I suffer myself to be called her champion, if by that word he meant the advocate of her mere legal innocence, for that, I take it, nobody questions. Still less is it from the sorry impulse of pity that I speak of this noble woman, for I look with wonder and even envy at the proud purity of her sense and conscience, that have carried her exquisite sensibilities in triumph through such poignant tribulations. But I am proud to be called her friend—the humble illustrator of her cause, and the advocate of those principles which make it to me more interesting than Lord Byron's. Lady Byron (if the subject must be discussed) belongs to sentiment and moralityat least as much as Lord Byron-nor is she to be suffered, when compelled to speak, to raise her voice as in a desert, with no friendly voice to respond to her. Lady Byron could not have outlived her sufferings if she had not wound up her fortitude to the high point of trusting mainly for consolation, not to the opinion of the world, but to her own inward peace; and having said what ought to convince the world, I verily believe that she has less care about the fashionable opinion respecting her than any of her friends can have. But we, her friends, mix with the world, and we hear offensive absurdities about her which we have a right to put down.

"What Lady Byron professes to be her main aim in her 'Remarks on the Life of her Husband,' it seems to me that she very clearly accomplishes. I am not sure that I should feel my esteem for Byron, or for any man, much enhanced by finding that a foolish relative or two could sever from him a wife once doatingly fond of him. But we have not a tittle of fair evidence against this pack of —, as his Lordship politely calls them; and, to throw the blame on her parents is proved ridiculous by Dr. Lushington's letter, for it shows that the deepest cause or causes of the separation were not imparted to her parents. I dismiss, therefore, this hinted plea of palliation with con-

"I proceed to deal more generally with Mr. Moore's book. You speak, Mr. Moore, against Lord Byron's censurers in a tone of indignation which is perfectly lawful towards calumnious traducers, but which will not terrify me, of any other man of courage, who is no calumniator, from uttering his mind freely with regard to this part of your hero's conduct. I question your philosophy in assuming that all that is noble in Byron's poetry was inconsistent with the possibility of his being devoted to a pure and good womanand I repudiate your morality for canting too complacently about 'the lava of his imagination, and the unsettled fever of his passions being any excuses for his planting the tic douloureux of domestic suffering in a meek woman's bosom. These are hard words, Mr. Moere, but you have brought them on yourself by your voluntary ignorance of facts known to me-for you might, and ought to bave known both sides of the question, and if the subject was too delicate for you to consult Lady Byron's confidential friends, you ought to have had nothing to do with the subject. But you cannot have submitted your book even to Lady Byron's sister, otherwise she would have set you right about the imaginary spy, Mrs Clermont. Hence arose your misconceptions, which

are so numerous, that having applied to Lord Byron (you will please to observe that I applied not for facts against Lord Byron, for these I got elsewhere, but for an estimate of the correctness of your statements), I received the following letter from her lady-

ship:—
... 'Dear Mr. Campbell—In taking up my pen to point out for your private information those passages in Mr. Moore's representation of my part of the story which were open to contradiction, I find them of still greater extent than I had supposed—and to deny an assertion here and there would virtually admit the truth of the rest. If, on the contrary, were to enter into a full exposure of the falsehood of the views taken by Mr. Moore, I must detail various matters, which, consist-ently with my principles and feelings, I cannot under the existing circumstances disclose. I may, perhaps, convince you better of the difficulty of the case by an example:-It is not true that pecuniary embarrassments were the cause of the disturbed state of Lord Byron's mind, or formed the chief reason for he arrangements made by him at that time. But is it reasonable for me to expect that you, or any one else, should believe this, unless show you what were the causes in question? and this I cannot do. I am, etc., etc., "A. I. NOEL BYRON."

"Excellent woman! honored by all who know her, I will believe her on her own tes-

"What I regret most in Mr. Moore's Life of Lord Byron is, that he had in his own hands the only pure means of serving Lord Byron's character-which was his Lordship's own touching confession, that he has thrown away the said means by garnishing that fair confession with unfair attempts at blaming others. In Letter 235 Lord Byron takes all blame on himself. 'The fault,' he says, 'was not, no, nor even the misfortune in my choice (unless in chosing at all), but I must say it in the very dregs of all this bitter business, that there never was a better, or even a kinder or more amiable and agreeable being than Lady Byron. I never had, or even can have, any reproach to make her while with me. New, nothing in Lord Byron's poetry is finer than this. But why, Mr. Moore, have you frozen the effect of this melting candor by dishing up the inconsistencies of Lord Byron on the same subject, and by showing your own ungallant indifference to the thus acquitted Lady Byron? In the name of both of them, I reprove you. Byron confesses, but you try to explain away his confession: and by your hints at spies, unsuitableness, etc., you dirty and puddle the holy water of acknowledgment that alone will wash away the poor penitent man's transgressions. You resort to Byron's letter to Mr. Rogers for the means of inculpating Lady Byron and her friends as blamers of Lord Byron. But they never said more than that Lord Byron's temper was intolerable to Lady Byron. That was true, and they never circulated any calumnies against him.

"There is equal injustice in the allusion to Lord Byron having been ever surrounded by spies. Why spy was near him? The only person denounced in that odious capacity by Lord Byron himself was Mrs. Clermont; and what was the fact with regard to her? If Mrs. Clermont was a spy, surely the last person in the world to have acquitted her would have been Mrs. Leigh, the sister of Lord Byron; but I have in my possession the authentic copy of a letter from Mrs. Leigh to the same Mrs. Clermont, earnestly acquitting her of the calumny, and offering even public tes-timony to her (Mrs. Clermont's) tenderness

"I write not at Lady Byron's bidding—I have never humiliated either her or myself by asking if I should write—or what I should trying to any friend of Lady Byron, Another improvements that must have been appreciated. Thomas Campbell." and forbearance (I copy Mrs. Leigh's words) under circumstances that must have been trying to any friend of Lady Byron. Another unworthy expression of Mr. Moore's is, that of calling Lord Byron 'a deserted husband.' Let him read Lady Byron's remarks, and blot out this absurdity from his volume. Dr. Lushington, versed in the harshest cases of justifiable separation, and bound to admit none of a slight nature, thought that it was impossible she could live with him.

"You should have paused Mr. Moore be-"You should have paused, Mr. Moore, be-fore you compelled any friend of Lady Byron

to bring out this truth. "It is a further mistake on Mr. Moore's part, and I can prove it to be so, if proof be necessary, to represent Lady Byron, in the course of their courtship, as one inviting her future husband to correspondence by let-ters after she had at first refused him. She never proposed a correspondence. On the contrary, he sent her a message, after that first refusal, stating that he meant to go abroad, and to travel for some years in the East; that he should depart with a heart aching, but not angry; and that he only begged a verbal assurance that she had still some interest in his happiness. Could Miss Millbanke, as a well-hard woman, refusa a courteous answer a well-bred woman, refuse a courteous answer to such a message? She sent him a verbal message, which was merely kind and becoming, but which signified no encouragement that he should renew his offer of marriage. After that message he wrote to her a most interesting letter about himself—about his views, personal, moral, and religious, to which it would have been uncharitable not to have replied. The result was an insensibly increasing correspondence, which ended in her being devotedly attached to him.

About that time I occasionally saw
Lord Byron, and though I knew
less of him than Mr. Moore, yet I suspect I knew as much of him as Miss Milbanke then knew. At that time, he was so pleasing that if I had had a daughter with ample for-

marriage with Lord Byron. "Mr. Moore at that period evidently understood Lord Byron better than either his future bride or myself; but this speaks more for Moore's shrewdness than for Byron's ingenu-

tune and beauty, I should have trusted her in

ousness of character.
"It is more for Lord Byron's sake than for his widow's that I resort not to a more special examination of Mr. Moore's misconceptions. The subject would lead me insensibly into hateful disclosures against poor Lord Byron, who is more unfortunate in his rash defen-ders than his reluctant accusers. Happily his own candor turns our hostility from himself against his defenders. It was only in way-ward and bitter remarks that he misrepresented Lady Byron. He would have defended himself irresistibly if Mr. Moore had left only his acknowledging passages. But Mr. Moore has produced a Life of him which reflects blame on Lady Byron—so dexterously that more is meant than meets the ear. The almost universal impression produced by his book is, that Lady Byron must be a precise, and a wan unwarming spirit—a blue-stocking of chilblained learning, a piece of insensitive goodness. Who that knows Lady Byron will not pronounce her to be everything the reverse? Will it be believed that this person so unsuitably matched to her moody Lord, has written verses that would do no discredit to Byron himself—that her sensitiveness is surpassed and bounded only by her good sense, and that she is

'Blest with a temper, whose unclouded ray Can make to-morrow cheerful as to-day.'

"She brought to Lord Byron beauty, manners, fortune, meekness, romantic affection, and everything that ought to have made her to the most transcendent man of geniushad he been what he should have been-his pride and his idol. I speak not of Lady Byron acter, I appeal to the gifted Mrs. Siddons, and Joanna Baillie, to Lady Charlemont, and to other ornaments of their sex. whether I am exaggerating in the least when I say, that in their whole lives they have seen few beings so intellectual and well-tempered as Lady Byron. I wish to be as in-genuous as possible in speaking of her. Her manner, I have no hesitation to say, is cool at the first interview, but is modestly, and not insolently cool; she contracted it, I believe, from being exposed, by her beauty and large fortune in youth, to numbers of suitors, whom she could not have otherwise kept at a distance. But this manner could have had no influence with Lord Byron, for it vanishes on nearer acquaintance, and has no origin in coldness. All her friends like her frankness the better for being preceded by this reserve. This manner, however, though not the slightest apology for Lord Byron, has been inimical to Lady Byron in her misfortunes. It endears her to her friends, but it piques the indifferent. Most odiously unjust, therefore, is Mr. Moore's assertion that she has had the advantage of Lord Byron in public opinion. She is, comparatively speaking, unknown to the world; for though she has many friends. that is, a friend in every one who knows her. yet her pride, and purity, and misfortunes, naturally contract the circle of her acquaint-ance. There is something exquisitely unjust in Mr. Moore comparing her chance of popularity with Lord Byron's; the poet who can command men of talents, putting even Mr. Moore into the livery of his service, and who has suborned the favor of almost all women by the beauty of his person and the voluptuousness of his verses. Lady Byron has nothing to oppose to these fascinations but the truth and justice of her cause.

"You said, Mr. Moore, that Lady Byron was unsuitable to her Lord—the word is cun-

ningly insidious, and may mean as much or as little as may suit your convenience. But if she was unsuitable, I remark that it tells all the worse against Lord Byron. I have not read it in your book, for I hate to wade through it; but they tell me, that you have not only warily depreciated Lady Byron, but that you have described a lady that would have suited him. If this be true, it is the unkindest cut of all-to hold up a florid description of a woman suitable to Lord Byron, as if in mockery over the forlorn flower of Virtue, that was drooping in the solitude of sorrow. But I trust there is no such passage in your book. Surely you must be conscious of your woman, with her virtue loose about her, who would have suited Lord Byron,' to be as imaginary a being as the woman without a head .- A woman to suit Lord Byron!! -Pooh! pooh! I could paint to you the woman that could have matched him, if I had not bargained to say as little as possible

"If Lady Byron was not suitable to Lord Byron, so much the worse for his Lordship; for let me tell you, Mr. Moore, that neither your poetry, nor Lord Byron's, nor all our poetry put together, ever delineated a more interesting being than the woman whom you have so coldly treated. This was not kicking the dead lion, but wounding the living lamb, who was already bleeding and shorn even unto the quick. I know that, collectively speakthe world is in Lady Byron's favor; but it is coldly favorable, and you have not warmed its breath. Time, however, cures everything, and even your book, Mr. Moore, may be the

LORD MACAULAY ON THE SEPARATION OF LORD AND LADY BYRON. Much has been written about those un happy domestic occurrences which decided the fate of Byron's life. Yet nothing is, nothing ever was, positively known to the public but this—that he quarrelled with his lady, and that she refused to live with him. There have been hints in abundance, and shrugs and shakings of the head, and "Well, well, we know," and "We could if we would," and "If we list to speak," and "There be that might an they list." But we are not aware that there is before the world, substantiated by credible, or even by tangible evidence, a single fact indicating that Lord Byron was more to blame than any other man who is on bad terms with

his wife. The professional men whom Lady Byron consulted were undoubtedly of opinion that she ought not to live with her husband. But it is to be remembered that they formed that opinion without hearing both sides. We do not say, we do not mean to insinuate, that Lady Byron was in any respect to blame. We think that those who condemn her on the evidence which is now before the public, are as rash as those who condemn her husband. We will not pronounce any judgment, we cannot, even in our own minds, form any judgment on a transaction which is so imperfectly known to us. It would have been well if, at the time of the separation, all those who knew as little about the matter as we know about it now, had shown forbearance, which, under such circumstances, is but common justice.

We know no spectacle so ridiculous as the British public in one of its periodical fits of morality. In general, elopements, divorces, and family quarrels, pass with little notice. We read the scandal, talk about it for a day, and forget it. But once in six or seven years our virtue becomes outrageous. We cannot suffer the laws of religion and decency to be violated. We must make a stand against vice. We must teach libertines that the English people appreciate the importance of domestic ties, Accordingly some unfortunate man, in no respect more depraved than hundreds whose offenses have been treated with lenity, is singled out as an expiatory sacrifice. he has children, they are to be taken from him. If he has a profession, he is to be driven from it. He is cut by the high orders, and hissed by lower. He is, in truth, a sort of whipping-boy, by whose vicarious agonies all the other transgressors of the same class are, it is supposed, sufficiently chastised. We reflect very complacently on our own severity, and compare with great pride the high stan-dard of morals established in England with the Parisian laxity. At length our anger is satiated. Our victim is ruined and heartbroken, and our virtue goes quietly to sleep for seven years more. It is clear that those vices which destroy domestic happiness ought to be as much as possible repressed. It is equally clear that they cannot be repressed by penal legislation. It is therefore right and desirable that public opinion should be directed against them. But it should be directed against them uniformly, steadily, and temperately; not by sudden fits and starts. There should be one weight and one measure. Decimation is always an objectionable mode of punishment. It is the resource of judges too indolent and hasty to investigate facts and to discriminate nicely between shades of guilt. It is an irrational practice, even when adopted by military tribunals. When adopted by the tribunal of public opinion, it is infinitely more irrational. It is good that a cer tain portion of disgrace should constantly attend on certain bad actions. But it is not good that the offenders should merely have to stand the risks of a lottery of infamy, that ninety-nine out of every hundred should escape, and that the hundredth, perhaps the most innocent of the hundred, should pay for all. We remember to have seen a mob assembled in Lincoln's Inn to hoot a gentleman against whom the most oppressive proceeding known to the English law was then in progress. He was hooted because he had been an unfaithful husband, as if some of the most popular men of the age, Lord Nelson for example, had not been unfaithful husbands. We remember a still stronger case. Will posterity believe that, in an age in which men whose gallantries were universally known, and had been legally proved, filled some of the highest offices in the State and in the army, presided at the meetings of religious and benevolent institutions, were the delight of every society, and the favorities of the multitude, a crowd of moral ists went to the theatre, in order to pelt a poor actor for disturbing the conjugal felicity of an alderman? What there was in the circumstances either of the offender or of the sufferer to vindicate the zeal of the audience we could never conceive. It has never been supposed that the situation of an actor is peculiarly favorable to the rigid virtues, or that an alderman enjoys any special immu-nity from injuries such as that which on this occasion roused the anger of the public. But such is the justice of mankind. In these cases the punishment was excessive; but the offense was known and proved. The case of Lord Byron was harder. True Jedwood justice was dealt out to him. First came the execution, then the investigation, and last of all, or rather not at all, the accusation. The public, without knowing anything whatever about the transactions in his family, flew into a violent passion with him, and proceeded to invent stories which might justify its anger. Ten or twenty different accounts of the separation, inconsistent with each other, with themselves, and with common sense, circulated at the same time. What evidence there might be for any one of these the virtuous people who repeated them neither knew nor cared. For, in fact, these stories were not the eauses, but the effects of the public indignation. They resembled those loathsome slanders Lewis Goldsmith, and other abject libellers of the same class, were in the habit of publishing about Bonaparte—such as that he poisoned a girl with arsenic when he was at the military school; that he hired a grenadier to shoot Desaix at Marengo; that he filled St. Cloud with all the pollutions of Caprese. There was a time when anecdotes like these obtained some credence from persons who,

Lord Byron fared in the same way. His countrymen were in a bad humor with him. His writings and his character had lost the charm of novelty. He had been guilty of the offense which, of all offenses, is punished most severely; he had been overpraised; he had excited too warm an interest; and the public, with its usual justice, chastised him for its own folly. The attachments of the multitude bear no small resemblance to those of the wanton enchantress in the Arabian

hating the French Emperor without knowing why, were eager to believe anything which

might justify their hatred.

Tales, who, when the forty days of her fondness were over, was not content with dis-missing her lovers, but condemned them to expiate, in loathsome shapes, and under cruel

The obloquy which Byron had to endure was such as might well have shaken a more constant mind. The newspapers were filled with lampoons. The theatres shook with execrations. He was excluded from circles where he had lately been the observed of all observers. All those creeping things that riot in the decay of nobler natures hastened to their reposts and they were right, they did their repast; and they were right; they did after their kind. It is not every day that the savage envy of aspiring dunces is gratified by the agonies of such a spirit, and the degradation of such a name.

LORILLARD'S STEAMSHIP

LINE FOR

NEW YORK. SAILING ON TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, AND SATURDAYS, AT NOON. On and after December 15, the rates will be 25 cents per 100 lbe, 10 cents per fost, or 2 cents per gallen, ship's

Advance charges cashed at office on pier,

Freight received at all times on covered wharf.

JOHN F. OHE,

Pier 19 NORTH WHARVES. N. B.—Extra rates on small packages from, metal, etc. SPECIAL NOTICE.—On and after the lith of March the rates by this line will be reduced to 10 cents per 190 lbs., 4 cents per ft. or 1 cent per gall., ship's option- 2295

FOR LIVERPOOL AND FOR LIVERPOOL AND SUEENSTOWN—Inman Line of Mail Steamers are appointed to sail as follows:

Oity of New York, via Halifax, Tuesday, Jan. II. 12 noon. City of Paris, Saturday, January 15, 1 P. M. City of Boston, via Halifax, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 12 Noon. Oity of Boston, via Halifax, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 12 Noon. Oity of London, Saturday, January 29, 1 A. M. And each succeeding Saturday and alternate Tuesday, from Pier 45, North River.

RATES OF PASSAGE.

BY THE MAIL STEAMER SAILING EVERY SATURDAY.
Payable in Gold.

Payable in Gold.

Payable in Currency.

15 To Paris.

115 To Paris.

15 To Paris.

16 PASSAGE BY THE TUESDAY STEAMER, VIA HALIPAX.
Payable in Gold.

Payable in Currency.

Payable in Gold.

Payable in Currency.

Payable in Gold.

Payable in Currency.

10 Paistay 10 Payable in Currency.

Payable in Gold.

Payable in Currency.

Payable in Currency.

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15 Paistay.

16 Paistay.

17 Paistay.

18 Paistay.

18

Payable in Currency.

20 Halifax
45 St. John's, N. F.
by Branch Steamer... 

金融 THE GENERAL TRANSATLANTIO COMPANY'S MAIL STEAMSHIPS BREST.

The splendid new versels on this favorite route for the Continent will sail from Pier No. 50, North river, every Saturday.

PRICE OF PASSAGE

PHILADELPHIA, RICHMOND,
AND NORFOLK STEAMSHIP LINE.
THROUGH FREIGHT AIR LINE TO
THE SOUTH AND WEST.
EVERY SATURDAY,
At noon, from FIRST WHARF above MARKET PHILADELPHIA, RICHMOND Street.
THROUGH RATES to all points in North and South Larolina via Seaboard Air Line Railroad, connecting at Portsmouth, and to Lanchburg, Va., Tennessee, and the West, via Virginia and Tennessee Air Line and Richmond and Danville Railroad.

and Danville Railroad.
Freight HANDLED BUT ONOR, and taken at LOWER
RATES THAN ANY OTHER LINE.
The regularity, anfety, and cheapness of this route commend it to the public as the most desirable medium for carrying every description of freight. No charge for commission, drayage, or No charge for commission, deayage, or any expense or ransfer.
Steamships incured at the lowest rates.
Freight received daily.
No. 12 S. WHARVES and Pier 1 N. WHARVES.
W. P. PURTER, Agent at Richmond and City Point.
T. P. GROWELL & CO., Agents at Norfelk 6 16

NEW EXPRESS LINE TO Alexandria, Georgetown, and Washington, D. Alexandria, Georgetown, and Washington, D. C., via Chesapoake and Delaware Canni, with connections at Alexandria from the most direct route for Lynchburg, Bristol, Knoxville, Nashville, Dalton, and the Southwest.

Steamers loave regularly every Saturday at noon from the first wharf above Market street.

Freight received daily,
WHLLIAM P. CLYPE & CO.,
Ro. 14 North and South wharves.
HYDE & TYLER, Agents, at Georgetown; M. RLDRIDGIC & CO., Agents at Alexandria.

NOTICE.—FOR NEW YORK, VIA
DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL
EXPRESS STRAMBOAT COMPANY.
The CHEAPEST AND QUIOKEST water communicaion between Philadelphia and New York.
Steamers leave daily from first wharf below Market
treet, Philadelphia, and foot of Wall street, New York.
Goods forwarded by all the lines running out of New
York, North, Kast, and West, free of commission.
Freight received and forwarded on accommodating
torms.

No. 12 S. DELAWARE Avenue, Philadelphia.
JAMES HAND, Agent.

No. 119 WALL Street. New York.

NO. 119 WALL Street. New York.

NOTICE.—FOR NEW YORK, VIA
Delaware and Raritan Canal, SWIFTSURE
TRANSPORTATION COMPANY.—DES.
The business of those lines will be resumed on and after
the 8th of March. For freights, which will be taken on
accommodating terms, apply to
W. M. BAIRD & CO.,
No. 122 South Wharves.

FROM CHARLESTON TO FLORIDA VIA SAVANNAH, TRL The following steamers will leave rieston for Florida, via Bavannah, three times a week, a arrival of the New York steamships and the Northstern Railroad train :-PILOT BOY (Inland Route), every SUNDAY MORN-ING at 8 o'clock,
DICTATOR, every TUESDAY EVENING at 8 o'clock,
OITY POINT, every FRIDAY EVENING at 8 o'clock.
Through tickets to be had of all Charleston and Savan
nah Steamship Line Agencies in New York.

J. D. Alk EN & CO.,
Agents at Charleston.
L. J. GUILMARTIN & CO.,

FOR ST. THOMAS AND BRA-

FOR ST. THOMAS AND BRAZIL ZII. UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

Regular Mail Steamers easiing on the Ed of every month .

MERRIMAGW, Captain Wier.

SOUTH AMERICA, Captain E. L. Tinklepaugh.

NORTH AMERICA, Captain E. B. Sloeum.

These splendid steamers sail on schedule time, and call at St. Thomas, Para, Pernambuco, Bahis, and Rie de Janeiro, going and returning.

For engagementa of freight or passage apply to .

WM. R. GARRISON, Agent.

14 No. 5 BOWLING GREEN, New York.

FOR NEW ORLEANS DIRECT. THE CROMWELL LINE.
Steamships of this Line will leave Pis.
No. 9, North River, at 3 e'clock P. M. or No. 8, North Rever, and Galveston at GEORGE WARHINGTON, Gagor.

MARIPOSA, Kemble.

Freight taken for St. Louis, Mobile, and Galveston at through rates. Cabin passage, 259.

For passage (first and second class) or freight apply to H. B. GROMWRIL & CO., No. 86 WEST Street.

U. S. MAIL TO HAVANA.—
ATLANTIC MAIL STEAMSHIP OO sailing regularly EVERY TUESDAY at 50 dook P. M., precisely, from Pier No

North River.

MORO CASTLE, Captain R. Adam,
COLUMBIA, Captain R. Van Sice.
RAGLE, Captain M. R. Greene.
For freight or passage apply to
S. G. WIRELER, Jn., President,
14

No. 5 BOWLING GREEN, New York.

E ASTON & ME MARKON AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS
No. 2 COENTIRS SLIP, New York,
No. 18 SOUTH WHARVES, Philadelphia.
No. 48 W. PRATT Street, Baltimore.
We are prepared to ship every description of Freights
Philadelphia, New York, Wilmington, and intermedia
points with promptness and despatch. Canal Boats as
Steam-lugs furnished at the hortest notice.

CTEVENSON, BRO., & GILS. No. 132 S. SECOND Street.