

ATTEMPTS UPON THE LIFE OF THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND.

Another madman, or a monster without the excuse of madness, has attempted the assassination of the beloved Sovereign of the British empire. At six o'clock on Monday, the 30th ult., as her Majesty, accompanied by Prince Albert, was returning to the Palace in an open barouche, with outriders, an assassin presented a pistol, and discharged it at the Queen, from very nearly the same spot on Constitution Hill from which Oxford fired. The wretch was instantly seized by a soldier of the Scotch Fusilier Guard. He was at first supposed to be a foreigner, but it appears, unhappily, that he is an Englishman, named John Francis, son to a scene-shifter at one of the theatres. He is about 20 years of age.

The royal cortege, when the pistol was discharged, was fortunately proceeding at a rate rather more rapid than usual, and to that circumstance it is supposed her Majesty in a great measure owes the preservation of her life, as Francis was seen by a police-constable to take a deliberate aim. The act had been noticed by Prince Albert, who sat on the right hand of his royal consort, and who immediately rose from his seat. He pointed out the miscreant to one of the outriders, when the royal servant got off his horse to assist in his apprehension, but finding him secure in custody, again followed the royal carriage.

A respectable woman states that, just before the attempt, she heard the prisoner say to another man in a flannel jacket—"The Queen! why should she be such an expense to the nation? It is to support her in such grand style that our poor fellows have to work hard."

The barrel of the pistol was quite warm when taken from the prisoner. Of course at present there cannot be any evidence as to whether it was loaded with ball or slugs, but the impression is, that it was loaded with a ball. A search has been made, in order to endeavour to discover the bullet, if possible, but as yet the result has not been successful.

Colonel Arbuthnot and Colonel Wylde were close to the royal carriage when the pistol was fired. We understand the prisoner was so close to them that the smoke came into their faces, and that they are of opinion, if the shot had taken effect, it would have been more likely to have injured one of them than either her Majesty or her illustrious consort.

The prisoner had been under the notice of the police for a day or two, having been seen loitering about the parks; and on Saturday last he was observed by one of the police sergeants on duty to pull out of his pocket something that appeared like a pistol. This circumstance was mentioned, but the inference drawn from it was, that he contemplated suicide; therefore orders were given to notice his actions. The villain is a good looking young man, about five feet six inches high, and his countenance is rather of a placid and agreeable cast than otherwise; there is nothing ferocious in his looks. He is about the same sized person as Oxford, but rather stouter. He was respectfully dressed in a dark frock coat and dark check trousers. There seems to have been no difficulty in identifying the criminal, as by a curious accident it happened that more than one individual who were acquainted with his person were in the park at the time of his apprehension, and recognised him while being conveyed away by the police. Mr. Francis, senior, his father, who has been for many years stage carpenter at Covent Garden, is a person of irreproachable character, and states his son to have been always a steady lad, nor can he throw any light upon his motives to commit so heinous an offence. The proprietor of the Caledonian Coffee-house, which he has been in the habit of frequenting, gives a somewhat different account; describing him as apparently idle and reckless, but of a good disposition, and stating that he would sometimes sit for hours together daily over a cup of coffee. He has been for some time separated from his family, and in straitened circumstances, having failed in a foolish attempt to set up a tobacconist's shop; and for the last few days he had been quite out of work.

When the news was known to the citizens of London, it was in a state of the greatest excitement. The assassin was examined before the Privy Council, and conveyed the same night to Newgate.

The prisoner, who was narrowly watched, passed a very quiet night, and although often visited by the governor, he did not enter into any conversation, or make the least allusion to his diabolical offence, or the motives by which he was actuated. He was stripped, and most carefully searched when he arrived at the prison, but nothing was found on his person of a suspicious character. There is not the least impression that he is insane, or labouring under any aberration of intellect; but the contrary is evident, and he was as cool and collected as possible.

The house of the prisoner's father was minutely searched, but nothing whatever of a suspicious character was found. No paper or writings of any kind which could give rise to the least suspicion that the miscreant had any accomplices having been discovered, it is considered the rash act of an isolated individual.

It has been stated that her Majesty was not aware of the attempt having been made, until informed after her arrival at the palace, but an eye-witness informs us that he has no doubt that she observed the flash of the pistol, as she became so much agitated that she was only prevented from falling by Prince Albert supporting her.

As soon as the Queen and Prince Albert had returned to the palace, Count Mensdorf went over in one of the royal carriages to the Duchess of Kent, at Clarence House, St. James's; and after communicating in the most delicate manner what had occurred, instantly returned to Buckingham Palace with her Royal Highness, who was received by her Majesty (whose nerves did not appear in the slightest degree shaken) in the most warm, affectionate, and, at the same time, cheerful manner. The Duchess of Kent was, on the other hand, deeply affected, and fell upon her Majesty's neck, shedding a flood of tears. The Queen, however, gaily caressed her royal mother, and assured her that she had not sustained the slightest alarm or inconvenience, and that there were no grounds for alarm.

Her Majesty's evening party was put off by the Queen's command. The usual dinner party was given, at which the Queen and Prince Albert attended, who appeared cheerful and thoughtful; yet, a serious tone was manifest in the guests, although truly grateful for the escape of her Majesty.

The news of her Majesty's escape was received with the warmest demonstrations of joy at all the places of public amusement in the metropolis, and indeed throughout the country.

The Queen and her royal consort on the following evening visited Hyde-park.

On her Majesty entering the park the cheering from the gentlemen and the waving of handkerchiefs by the ladies were general, and not a head was covered during the passage of the Queen down the ride; indeed the delight of all classes, assembled apparently to offer homage to the illustrious presence of their Sovereign, can be but feebly described, and the rapturous acclamations that saluted the Royal ear were such as to affect her Majesty, who was evidently overcome by the loyal display of public affection evinced on the occasion.

Subsequently, the Queen and Prince Albert attended the performances at her Majesty's Theatre, and were very warmly congratulated.

As in the case of Oxford, the overt act of treason being a direct attack upon the life of her Majesty, the ordinary forms in cases of high treason will not apply, and the culprit will be tried in the ordinary form. If the pistol had not exploded, the offence of attempting to shoot, supposing the weapon to have been loaded, is one of equal magnitude as if it had been actually discharged, and the circumstance of the failure to explode would not, in the slightest degree, mitigate the character of the offence, or the punishment to which the party convicted of it would be liable, if found guilty.

It appears that an attempt had been made upon her Majesty's life on Sunday. A Mr. Pearson states that on Sunday, about two o'clock, while walking in St. James's park, he

saw the carriages containing her Majesty, Prince Albert, and suite, approaching from the Chapel Royal, and when near to the little gate leading out of the drive into the Green-park, he saw a young man who was standing near him, with his back to the rails, pull a pistol out of his breast, and, as the Queen's carriage passed, present the weapon at it, but whether he pulled the trigger he could not positively say. At any rate the pistol did not go off, and no sooner had the carriage passed, than the individual returned the weapon to his breast. Mr. Pearson having unfortunately a serious impediment in his speech, may account, in some measure, for his not having raised an instant alarm. He admits, also, that he at first considered the exhibition of the pistol was out of a frolic, and not seeing any policeman near, considered that the party would be out of sight before he could make persons understand his meaning.

On Monday night, after the removal of Francis from the Home-office to Tothill-fields Bridewell, Mr. Pearson was shown the pistol taken on the prisoner, when he expressed his firm belief that it was the same pistol which he had seen the individual pull out as above described, and on Tuesday morning, on being taken about 9 o'clock to the Bridewell, and shown the prisoner, he immediately identified him to be the person.

This attempt had been "hushed up;" and although it was known that something had occurred, few persons, even within the walls of the Palace, had been made acquainted with the circumstance. The second attempt, however, precluded all concealment, and considerable alarm was experienced at the determined spirit which had induced the miscreant again to endanger the life of our beloved Sovereign.

The prisoner was again examined before the Privy Council on Tuesday. The inquiry occupied until nearly four o'clock; at its conclusion a warrant was immediately made out and signed by the Secretary of State, fully committing the prisoner to Newgate, to take his trial at the next sessions of the Central Criminal Court, on a charge of having attempted to take away the life of her Majesty.

Both Houses of Parliament, the Court of Aldermen of the city of London, and the Common Council, have addressed her Majesty and Royal Consort, and addresses are pouring in from all parts of the country.

HER MAJESTY'S MASQUE.

On the 12th ult., Her Majesty's Fancy Dress Ball took place at Buckingham Palace. It was of the most magnificent and costly character, and perhaps no more splendid fête was ever given at the court of a British sovereign. Even to one accustomed to all the pomp and splendour of the British court, as manifested on state occasions, it must have excited both astonishment and delight, realising, as it did, the liveliest creations of the imagination, and presenting the descriptions of the ancient chroniclers bodily before us. The dresses, as might naturally be expected, were of the most gorgeous description; and those which did not dazzle with their magnificence, attracted the eye by their singularity, or amused the fancy by their quaintness. It would be quite useless to attempt anything like an enumeration of all the costumes which deserved notice; they were far too numerous, and we must content ourselves with noticing, as we have done below, such as, amongst so gay and brilliant a crowd, forcibly attracted the attention.

One of the most remarkable attractions of this unparalleled scene was the striking beauty of the female portion of the company. Never did England maintain its supremacy in female beauty more decidedly than on this occasion, when a galaxy of lovely women, attired in the most costly and becoming costumes, met to do honor to their fair and youthful sovereign. Anxious to evince their respect towards her Majesty, no expense was spared in the dresses of her honored guests; and when the vast treasures of jewels, descending, as heir-looms, in hereditary line, from our ancient aristocratic houses, and which were brought forth on this occasion, are considered, we cannot wonder that this fête was acknowledged by all present to surpass those of every other country. In vain would France, with all her tasteful elegance, compete with England for magnificence. Alas! revolutions, and the various vicissitudes to which our country has been subjected, have deprived us of the French noblesse; and embroidery and spangles, however admirably wrought, but ill supply their place. England has been exempted from such trials, and, consequently, our female aristocracy outshine all others in the richness of their jewels, as much as they do in that beauty for which they are allowed to stand pre-eminence.

The leading feature of the ball was the assembling and the meeting of the two courts of Edward and Philippa, (her Majesty and Prince Albert) and Anne of Bretagne, (the Duchess of Cambridge).

A separate entrance at the palace was set apart to the Court of Brittany, the Duchess of Cambridge assembling her court in one of the lower rooms of the palace, while the Queen and Prince Albert, surrounded by a numerous and brilliant circle, prepared to receive her Royal Highness in the Throne-room, which was altered so far as to be made as much as possible to harmonise with the period. The throne was removed, and another erected, copied from an authentic source, of the time of Edward III. It was lined (as well as the whole alcove on which the throne was placed) with purple velvet, having worked on it, in gold, the crown of England, the cross of St. George, and emblazoned shields with the arms of England and France. The state chairs were what may be called gothic design, and the throne was surmounted with gothic tracery. At the back of the throne were emblazoned the royal arms of England in silver. Seated on this throne, her Majesty awaited the arrival of the court of Anne of Brittany.

About half-past 10, the heralds marshalled the procession from the lower suite of rooms, and the Duchess of Cambridge appeared in a magnificent costume, led by the Duke of Beaufort, as Louis XII. equally magnificent, and followed by the rest of her court. These were divided by heralds and marshals into quadrilles, and marched in the following order:—After the royal party, consisting of Prince George, the Princess Augusta, &c., came the Highland Quadrille, the Greek Quadrille, the Hungarians, the Knights Templars, the Saracens. These, on reaching the Throne-room, passed before the Sovereign, making their obeisances, and then formed themselves for dancing, which immediately commenced.

The company danced in the ball-room as well as the throne room, in both of which quadrille bands were stationed. The entire suite of state rooms were so opened, and most brilliantly illuminated with chandeliers, candelabra and branches.

To meet the difficulties presented by the immense concourse of the noble guests of truly royal hospitality, and to allow room for scenic effect, extensive alterations had been made at the palace. Walls had been thrown down, and temporary accommodation prepared with the rapidity of magic, and with the most admirable result.

The body of the Throne-room was illuminated by wax candles in handsome glass-rod chandeliers, and lustres, and the upper part of it, where the Queen was seated, surrounded by her attendants, &c., was lighted by a body of 530 jets of gas. The light was so disposed as to throw its rays immediately upon the throne, while a rich star of cut glass discs encircled the light, producing a most brilliant and imposing effect. The gas was naptained, which imparted to it additional illuminating power.

The Marquis of Anglesey, Sir Robert Peel, the Earl of Carlisle, Earl Spencer, Viscount Melbourne, Viscount Palmerston, Duke of Buckingham, Earl of Minto, and Sir Allan Napier, were among the earlier arrivals.

The invitations given by her Majesty extended to at least 2,000 persons, and it would scarcely be an exaggeration to say, that it included the whole of the fashionable society of this country. Many foreigners of distinction were also present, including the whole of the *corps diplomatique*. A detail, however, of the names of all who were honored with invitations would be both tedious and uninteresting.

The dresses worn at this brilliant court pageant, were, as we have already remarked, of the most exquisitely beautiful and rich description. We give blow a few of the most conspicuous:—

Her Majesty, in the remarkable dress of Queen Philippa, commanded universal admiration, so much in the right of

her lovely appearance as in that of her august rank. The following description is given of her Majesty's dress:—

Over a skirt, with a demi-train of *ponceau* velvet, edged with fur, were a suit of brocade, blue and gold. This—disregarding the highest social station in the middle ages, when the costume of high and low, of age and youth, were not confounded—her Majesty alone wore at her ball. From the confounded—her Majesty alone wore at her ball, a band upper edge of the centre of the miniver stomacher, a band descended of jewels, laid on gold tissue, and the other parts of the dress, the armbands, &c., likewise studded with precious gems. The sovereign wore an ample mantle of *mat-splendide* brocade, gold and silver, with flowers of silver tues and brilliants, over a gold ground, whose marvellous tissue, made, as well as the blue and gold brocade, by the Spitalfields weavers, we have described in a previous number. The mantle was likewise lined with miniver. Her Majesty's hair, folded inwards *à la Clovis*, bore the light crown of graven gold we have also formerly described. Her Majesty wore but one diamond on her head. This gem, value 10,000*l.* looked at a distance like a star by its vivid brilliancy.

Prince Albert's handsome features, and noble manly carriage, set off the costume of the chivalric Edward, and added the charm of reality to that of illusion.

The magnificent costume of his Royal Highness was a truly regal habiliment; it was composed of a mantle or cloak of scarlet velvet, of the finest British manufacture, bordered by a broad gold figured lace, set on each side with large pearls, upwards of one thousand in number; it was lined throughout with ermine, a band of purple velvet connected the cloak when on; the band being studded with large fine diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, and the centre stud, which was larger than the others, contained an enormous turquoise, of a most brilliant colour; twelve smaller studs of diamonds and emeralds ornamented the band, which was also beautifully embroidered with gold; on each side, the band was fastened by a massive gold *aissette*, set with brilliants, rubies, emeralds, and other precious stones. The robe was a long lace garment, peculiar to those worn by the higher classes during that reign; it was of a rich blue and gold brocade, of the most costly description, and was expressly manufactured for this costume. It reached from the neck, which is bare, to the ankles, the close collar round the neck being of purple velvet, and the opening on the left neck being also bordered by the same, on which were embroidered sapphires, topazes, turquoises, rubies, and emeralds. The opening above-mentioned was for the purpose of displaying the garter worn by his Royal Highness. Hose of scarlet silk, with shoes *en suite*, richly jewelled. Head-dress, a regal coronet of gold, set with precious stones of great value.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, as well as her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, and the Duchess of Saxe Weimar, showed excellent taste in sinking their ranks, as far as costume was concerned, on this occasion, and in appearing only as ladies of rank of the 15th century.

The Duchess of Kent wore a robe *à queue* in Genoa velvet, opening on each side, light blue velvet appearing in the openings, which were trimmed with pearls, long *cordelliers* in pearls, relieved by bouquets of diamonds; the stomacher entirely covered with pearls and diamonds. The coiffure, sky blue, with pearls and diamonds.

The Duchess of Gloucester wore a light maroon velvet dress, open in front, over a dress of gold brocade, the dress trimmed with bands of gold, tight sleeves in white, and flowing sleeves of velvet open at the fore arm, having brooches of precious gems.

Vain would be the task to point out half the ladies, who chiefly attracted the attention of the company; but three sisters, of a family famed for the loveliness of its daughters, captivated all eyes. We refer to the Countess of Chesterfield, the Hon. Mrs. Anson, and Miss Forrester, three sister graces. The Countess represented Donna Florida; Mrs. Anson represented La Duchesse de Launbourg; and Miss Forrester, as Blanche de St. Pol, appeared to singular advantage.

A costume which attracted much attention was that of her Grace the Duchess of Beaufort, who appeared as Isabella de Barga, embroidered with bouquets of flowers, with gold stems; and the tablier, stomacher, and under sleeves of crimson velvet studded with pearls and diamonds. The loose sleeves were formed of the same costly materials, and ornamented with aiguillettes of silver.

The entire scene, indeed, as our readers will no doubt imagine from the foregoing account, was one which will long live in the memories of those who witnessed it; and we sincerely trust that, as this long-talked-of masque has realised, in point of splendour and gratification, all, and more than all, that was anticipated of it, it has also realised that which ought ever to be one of the chief objects of an occasion on which such immense sums of money are expended upon all that is gorgeous and ornamental, viz: the relief of some of the painful distress which pervades the greater part of our manufacturing poor.

OLD MORTALITY AND THE BONAPARTE FAMILY.

The above celebrated personage has been immortalized by the author of "Waverley," in his first series of "Tales of My Landlord," and some particulars of him and his family may prove acceptable to some of our readers. The following announcement appeared very recently in several of the daily Journals:—

"Died, at Baing, parish of Stratton, Ayrshire, 26th of January, Margaret Paterson, in her 97th year. She was the oldest parishioner, and daughter of the celebrated Robert Paterson, the original of Sir Walter Scott's 'Old Mortality.'"

Previously to entering into particulars, it may be necessary to observe, that many of the Waverley novels, as they are called, owe their origin to the suggestions and researches of a highly meritorious individual, who, though a poet of no inconsiderable merit, is best known to the world by his correspondence with Sir Walter Scott, who greatly valued, and duly acknowledged the assistance derived from his assiduous researches. In the works of Scott, honourable mention is frequently made of Mr. Train, a Supervisor of Excise, in reference to the many literary and antiquarian favours received from him; and Mr. Lockhart, in his "Life of Scott," fails not to acknowledge the services rendered in terms due to their importance, one of which may be quoted. In describing Mr. Train's first interview with Sir Walter, he says—"To this intercourse with Mr. Train we owe the adoption of Claverhouse's period for the scene of some of his first fictions." Be it observed, that in his labours for the then "Great Unknown," through a period of nearly eighteen years, he was actuated by no selfish or mercenary motive; enthusiastic admiration of his transcendent genius alone prompting to the toil. His first interview with Sir Walter was at Edinburgh, in 1816, when, after a cordial reception and entertainment, Mr. Train says—"Having to leave town next day, Sir Walter said I might rise early, and amuse myself in his library till breakfast, which I accordingly did. His library was then very extensive; but he made large additions to it afterwards. His pictures on canvass then consisted chiefly of a full-length portrait of himself, a fine view of the island of Staffa, with an original painting of the celebrated Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee. I was examining this picture with much attention, when Sir Walter entered the room. 'Claverhouse,' said I, 'appears much more mild and gentle than one could suppose, from reading the accounts of his actions, as detailed by Wodrow, Cruickshanks, or any other ecclesiastical historian who has treated of the period in which he lived.' 'No man,' replied Sir Walter, 'has been more traduced by historians, by following out the superstitious belief that he rode a goblin galloway, was proof against shot, and in league with the devil!' I asked Sir Walter, 'if he might not, in good hands, be made the hero of a national romance, as interesting as either Wallace or the Pretender?' 'He might,' was the reply; 'but your western zealots would require to be that the subject pleased him, I added—"And if the story was delivered as if from the mouth of 'Old Mortality,' in a manner somewhat similar to the 'Lay of the Last Minstrel,' it would certainly heighten the effect of the tale." 'Old

Mortality, man; who was he?' said Sir Walter, hastily, his eye brightening at the same time. And I shall never forget the intense anxiety he evinced whilst I related briefly all the particulars of that singular individual I could then recollect. Proud of the kind reception I had met with, I returned to Galloway, resolving to use every means in my power to serve him, by collecting traditional stories of every description, but more particularly what related to the Covenanters and to 'Old Mortality.'"

Mr. Train, speedily fulfilling his promise, transmitted an interesting account of "Old Mortality," and several other matters of value, to the author of "Waverley;" in return for which, Sir Walter, writing some time after, and apologizing for not sooner thanking him for "the very curious communications, from which he had derived both instruction, and amusement, says, 'You will be surprised to find 'Old Mortality' has got into print. As a trifling return for your attention, and presuming that the tales will interest you, I send a copy for your amusement.' Such was the origin of the "Tales of My Landlord." In acknowledgment of some of the kind communications, Sir Walter, in 1829, says in a letter, "Your valuable communication arrived in clipping and adds highly to the obligations which your kindness has so often conferred upon me. I shall hardly venture to mention the extraordinary connexion between the Bonaparte family and that of Old Mortality, till I learn from you how it is made out; whether by continued acknowledgment and correspondence between the families of the two brothers (of which, Sir Walter, writing some time after, and apologizing for not sooner thanking him for "the very curious communications, from which he had derived both instruction, and amusement, says, 'You will be surprised to find 'Old Mortality' has got into print. As a trifling return for your attention, and presuming that the tales will interest you, I send a copy for your amusement.' Such was the origin of the "Tales of My Landlord." In acknowledgment of some of the kind communications, Sir Walter, in 1829, says in a letter, "Your valuable communication arrived in clipping and adds highly to the obligations which your kindness has so often conferred upon me. 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