portion of the once beautiful but now singularly unsightly valley of the Molendinar, it will substitute a spacious and bustling thoroughfare for a hideous agglomeration of old quarries, ruined mills, and pigsties, and will help to affect, in regard to the north side of the Cathedral, a transformation as remarkable as the reconstruction of Drygate has produced on the south.

SALE OF WOMBWELL'S ROYAL No. 1 MENAGERIE AT EDINBURGH.

One of the most remarkable sales ever witnessed in Great Britain took place yesterday in the Waverley Market, Edinburgh. Wombwell's Royal No. 1 Menagerie was dispersed at the hands of Mr R. Buist, auctioneer; and the collection of wild beasts, birds, and reptiles which has delighted the youth of the United Kingdom for four generations is now no more. Wombwell's, although not the first peripatetic zoological collection, was certainly the largest, and the one which did more to familiarise the minds of the masses of our people with the denizens of the forest than all the books of natural history ever printed, during its wandering existence of nearly seventy years. In the last decade of the eighteenth century, an Italian named Polletto first entered on the then novel and bold speculation of forming in this country a small collection of wild animals, which he conveyed from town to town for exhibition at fairs; but in crossing the Channel to Ireland he and his collection were lost during a severe storm in the Irish Sea. Except the lions in the Tower, and a few animals at the various ports, no collection of wild beasts was formed till George Wombwell organised his. Wombwell was born in 1777 at Dudnorend, four miles from Saffon Waldon, Essex, and followed the trade of a shoemaker in early life. He was always fond of animals and birds, and his shop in Soho, London, whence he removed, was surrounded by highly-trained pets. Making a visit one day to the Docks, he saw a pair of boa-constrictors, which were among the first of these ophidian monsters imported into England. He purchased them for £75 and commenced their exhibition, and so successful did the speculation prove that he discarded his last and turned showman. With acquisitions from various sources he shortly filled a caravan, and the novelty attracting crowds, he continued increasing his specimens till at last his collection filled no fewer than fourteen large waggons. Even then he was not content, but added each new importation to the country if money could purchase it. With the shrewdness which characterised Mr Wombwell throughout life, he soon perceived that a travelling menagerie of more than fourteen waggons would not pay, and when the collection exceeded this number, he formed a second menagerie, known as Wombwell's No. 2, and eventually a third. Of course, having commanded success, he found a host of followers, perhaps the most formidable of whom was a menagerist named Atkins. Wombwell and Atkins regularly attended, for many years, St Bartholomew's Fair, and great was the rivalry between the two establishments. One year Wombwell, finding a paying business doing in the North, resolved he would not attend St Bartholomew's Fair; and Atkins hearing of this, advertised far and near that his wild-beast show alone would be seen at the fair—Wombwell, by his absence, confessing that his collection was inferior to his (Atkin's.) Wombwell, happening to be in London inquiring after animals, saw Atkins' announcement, and at once made up his mind to refute the insinuations of his rival by appearing, as usual, at the great fair. This was on the 17th August, and the fair opened on the 1st September. Nothing daunted, Wombwell engaged a carriage and four, drove post to Newcastle-on-Tyne, where his menagerie then was; arrived there on the 19th, and ordered a start for London to be made that evening. Roads were not so good then as now, but, by dint of tremendous exertions, Wombwell's collection arrived in time to open at the fair in London on the 1st September—at the cost, however, of the life of the elephant, which had been overworked, and died in the morning of their arrival in London. Atkins, finding the indomitable Wombwell had not allowed him to be "cock of the fair," was rather chopfallen, but immediately brightened when he heard that the opposition elephant had died. He immediately got a large canvas painted—"The only live elephant in the fair," which he was sure would give his show the superiority over Wombwell's. The latter, however, on seeing his opponent's notice, determined not to be outwitted, and a few minutes afterwards, a large scroll, bearing the words, "The only dead elephant in the fair," was hung from the front of Wombwell's collection. The public, of course, recollecting that they could see a living elephant almost every day, flocked to see the dead one, and during the fair time Atkins' concern was nearly deserted. Mr Wombwell was extremely enterprising. He purchased for his collection the first rhinoceros ever imported into this country, and also the first pair of giraffes. For the latter he paid £1800, and he ordered a special carriage to be built for their exhibition, but before it could be finished his costly purchases died. A short time after he bought a lot of four giraffes, for which he paid £2000, but all of them died within four months. It is said that, by disease and death, Mr Wombwell lost during his career animals to the value of £15,000. His ambition was to possess the largest and best travelling menagerie in the world, and as he had realised a handsome fortune he spared no expense in acquiring new or rare animals. In 1825 Mr Wombwell revived at Warwick the sport of lion and dog fighting, which had been the favourite amusement of James I. and his courtiers in the Tower. This circumstance at the time created considerable excitement and comment; but as erroneous versions of the affair have been published it may be well to give the authentic narrative as related by the late Mr Wombwell. Some gentlemen in Warwick who possessed several celebrated bull-dogs which had distinguished themselves in bull baiting, offered to wager that their dogs could successfully fight two lions which Mr Wombwell then possessed. Mr Wombwell accepted the wager, and the dogs were sent into the den with the lion called "Nero." This animal, it must be remembered, was very tame; and indeed so lamblike in temper was he that the public were allowed, on payment of twopence, to enter his den and get a ride on his back—a privilege of which large numbers daily took advantage. Well, "Nero," when he saw the bull-dogs enter his den, slunk away to a corner, and would not be tempted to fight. The dogs were then drawn and placed in the den of the second lion, called "Wallace." In this lion the dogs found a different customer to deal with, and in a short time the six famed bull-dogs were successively killed. Such an exhibition would not now be tolerated, but it must be remembered that in 1825 bull-baiting, badger-drawing, and cock-fighting were common sports of the people. The only other great event in the seventy years' history of the menagerie was the death of the Lion Queen in Chatham about 1851. The Lion Queen was a niece of Mr Wombwell's, and had been accustomed to the animals all her life. Yielding to the injudicious solicitations of some visitors, she one day went into a tiger's den when the animals were excited by feeding. The tiger sprung at the poor girl, and seized her by the neck, but immediately let her go. When taken out of the cage the Lion Queen was dead, although it was said to have been more from sheer fright than from actual injuries caused by the tiger. Mr Wombwell was himself a man of indomitable will and great courage. He thought nothing of entering the den of the most ferocious beast; and he invariably, when any of his animals were sick, got beside them and administered with his own hands his unfailing remedy, a dose of castor oil. In two articles of dress he was particular, almost to eccentricity. He would only wear the finest linen ruffled shirts, and he would never put on a pair of mended boots. His boots at all times had to be kept scrupulously clean, but of the remainder of his wearing apparel he was absolutely careless, and we have been assured on the best authority that at his death it was not worth more than five shillings. He was married, but never had any family. Mrs Wombwell managed the financial affairs of the concern, and there was one stretch of twenty years during which that good lady never was away from or slept out of the menagerie. Mr Wombwell had a real love for the showman's hard but free life; and although he had long realised a handsome fortune, he refused to retire, and at last he died in the living caravan of the show in Northallerton in November 1850, at the age of seventy-three years. Mrs Wombwell carried on the No. 1 collection, and he left No. 2 and No. 3 respectively to his niece and nephew. On the 1st January 1866, Mrs Wombwell handed over her menagerie to her nephew and niece—Mr and Mrs Alexander Fairgrieve, Edinburgh—by whom it was conducted till its dispersal yesterday. Under its later proprietorship, the collection lost none of its reputation—the beauty, variety, and number of the specimens being invariably maintained; and it may be mentioned as an interesting fact that almost every animal exhibited, except the elephant and rhinoceros, bred within the show. In the course of its existence the menagerie was four times patronised by the royal family.

A sale of wild beasts is an event so novel and out of the way that it excited considerable attention not only in Edinburgh, but all over the country. The day was fortunately fine and bright, and a large crowd collected early in the forenoon in the Waverley Market, to witness the elephants and camels take their last constitutional walk as belonging to Wombwell's Menagerie. The pavilion itself was, despite the half-crown charge, well filled long before the hour announced for the commencement of the sale, and in the afternoon it was quite crowded by an assemblage of all classes, who watched the proceedings with great interest. Considering the class of animals to be disposed of, buyers were numerous, and from various and distant quarters. Perhaps the most prominent was Mr Jamrach, the most extensive dealer in wild animals in the world; while next to him was a quiet modest-looking gentleman, who turned out to be the great Jamrach's almost equally great rival, Mr Rice. Then there was Mr Wm. Cross, the well-known naturalist and animal dealer, from Liverpool, who was a spirited bidder; Mr Ferguson, the representative of the famous Van Amburgh, who has now three menageries in America; Mr Jennison, proprietor of the Bellevue Gardens, Manchester; Mr Jackson, of the Zoological Gardens, Bristol; Professor Edwards, Jardin des Plantes, Paris; and a number of proprietors of travelling collections. Exactly at a quarter-past twelve Mr Buist ascended his rostrum, and announced the conditions of the roup, which was to be without reserve. A commencement was made with the monkeys, which were recommended as pets for the drawing-room and for the kitchen, as lively, frisky, intelligent, cleanly, beautiful, and half able to speak. For some of the rarer species competition was brisk, and the mandril and anubis baboon ran up to £30 and £10, 10s. respectively. The knight of the hammer capped the whole of the many clever things he has done by selling the devil for sixty-five shillings, and his Tasmanian majesty will now be confined to Mrs Day's peripatetic establishment. An interesting, and, on the whole, a very beautiful lot were the birds. The black vulture took precedence of the rest of the feathered tribe, and bids being scarce, bidders were assured with all confidence that he was worth a guinea for his plumage, and a sovereign to eat afterwards—to those who cared for roast vulture. He was acquired, we dare say, scarcely for these purposes, by the London dealer for £3, 10s. The oldest inhabitant in the establishment was the condor, who had been attached to Wombell's Menagerie for forty years, and despite his age he fetched £15. It was suggested that some gentlemen should try ostrich feather farming in this country by an investment in the emu, but no one seemed enterprising enough to desire the sight of a five or six feet high bird looking into his breakfast-room in the morning asking for a picking, so Mrs Day picked him up for £7. The brace of pelicans which used to amuse the children by racing for fish, and which were bought at the late Earl of Derby's sale, were secured by Mr Jamrach at £6, 15s. each. The parrots and cockatoos provoked lively competition, and the majority of them were purchased by local fanciers. One beautiful lemon-crested cockatoo ran up to £8, but this enhanced price was due to his excellent talking abilities. The ocelot was recommended to the attention of small show-keepers on the ground that "he had all the beauty of the tiger and leopard, could be bought for an old song, and made a capital subject for a magnificent large picture for the outside of the show." Such a rare acquisition for a "sell" was, with evident propriety, bought by Van Amburgh, the prince of Yankee menagerists, at £6, 10s. The same gentleman secured three fretful porcupines "in fine plumage," which, it was said, would entitle the purchaser to quote Shakespeare every morning at breakfast. It was jocularly said that a well-known Edinburgh hairdresser desired much to make an investment in the bears, but Professor Edwards was more anxious to re-stock the Jardin des Plantes, despoiled of its magnificent collection during the siege of Paris, and he secured the Polar bear for £40, while the Thibetian Sun and the brown bears were sold respectively to Mr Jamrach and Mr Bostock for £5, 5s. and £7. Three performing leopards, beautiful glossy lithe animals, were purchased by Mr Jamrach for £60; and the same gentleman secured the magnificent performing tigress "Tippoo" for £155. The companion of the latter, and a more valuable, though scarcely a more beautiful animal, named "Poonah," was seized with cold last week and died. Mr Rice, London, was the largest purchaser of this class of animals. He secured the lion "Wallace," with which Lorenzo used to perform "Androcles and the Lion," for £85; the three-year-old "Duke of Edinburgh," for £140; a pair of lionesses three and a-half years old, "Princess" and "Alexandra," at £80 each; "Nero," seven and a-half years old, at £140; and a pair of eighteen months old lions, "Prince Arthur" and "Prince Alfred," at £90 each. Mr Rice also purchased a zebra at £50; the young organ-grinding and whistling elephant at £145; and a male dromedary at £30. When "Boss," a three-year old lion, was put up, and there were no bids beyond £10, he of the hammer said that at that figure it would be a good investment for an Edinburgh shopkeeper to put in his window or at his shop door. The lion had hurt his eye on the bars of his cage, and only brought £20. The black-maned lion "Hannibal," 6½ years old, said to be the finest and largest in Britain, was started at £50, and the bidding was comparatively slow for a time. On reaching £225, Mr Buist said he was ashamed of such a ridiculously small price being offered for the finest lion in the world, and he was sure that "Hannibal" was as disgusted as he was, and would turn his back on the crowd. Sure enough, the animal did at that moment deliberately turn round, and the amusing episode created some liveliness in the bidding. "Hannibal" was eventually knocked down for £270, to be sent to the Zoological Gardens in Bristol. Competition for the large performing elephant was limited, and this was the only animal which was sold much below its value. For a time the bidding rested at £380, till a suggestion was made that a prominent butcher should invest and introduce a new elephant sausage. The vision of Mammoth sausages quickened the offers, and at last, by dint of perseverance, the figure reached was £680, at which price Mr Jennison secured it for Bellevue Gardens. The small musical elephant, which, as before stated, sold for £145, not to make minced collops, was bought by Mr Fairgrieve from the gentleman who yesterday repurchased her, at something like £600. The camels and dromedaries were an interesting lot, and realised prices ranging from £14 to £30. Dr M'Kendrick bought the baby camel at £9, 10s. The total amount realised for the animals was about £2900. On the whole, the sale, according to good judges, was an excellent one. Many of the animals drew more than their market value, and others perhaps below it, but the prices ranged good throughout. The material of the Menagerie, including waggons, &c., will be sold to-day. The following are details of the prices:—

Racoon (Procyon lotor)—Earl of Roseberry, 20s. Agouti (Dasyprocta Agouti)—Mr Bell, Langholm, 10s. Do.—Mr Bell, 10s. Dasyure (Dasyurus viverrinus)—Mrs Day, menagerie, 7s. Gennet Cat (Gennetta Tigrina)—Mr Jamrach, London, £1, 5s. Tasmanian Devil (Diabolus Ursinus)—Mrs Day, £3, 5s. Diana Monkey (Cercopitheous Diana)—Dr M'Kendrick, Edinburgh, £7. Capucin Monkey (Cebus Apella)—Mr Rice, London, £1, 10s. Mandril (Cynocephalus Maimon)—Mr Rice, £30. Mandrill—Mr Rice, £5. Anubis Baboon (Cynocephalus)—Mr Rice, £10, 10s. Do.—Mr Rice, £8, 10s. Hamadriad Baboon—Mr Jennison, Bellevue Gardens, Manchester, £3, 10s. Chacma Baboon (Cynocephalus porcarius)—Mr Rice, £2. Drill Monkey (Papio Leucophœus)—Mr Jamrach, £5, 5s. Dog-face Baboon (Cynocephalus Babouin)—Mr Rice, five at £3 each. Black Cat—Dr M'Kendrick, 5s. Black Vulture (Catharista Jöta)—Mr Rice, £3, 10s. Condor (Sarcorhamphus gryphus)—Mr Rice, £15. Emeu (Dromæus Novæ Hollandiæ)—Mrs Day, £7. Pelican (Pelicanus onocrotalus)—Mr Jamrach, £6, 15s. Pelican—Mr Jamrach, £6, 15s. Scarlet Macaw (Macrocercus)—Mr Rice, £3, 10s. Scarlet Macaw—Mr Cross, Liverpool, £3, 15s. Blue and Yellow Macaw—Mr Rice, £4. Slender Beak Cockatoo—Mr Rice, £1, 3s. Do., with cage—Mr Rice, £1, 3s. 3½ Pairs Warbling Grass Parakeets, with cage—Mr Rice, £2, 2s. 1 King's Parrot, with cage—Mr Sanderson, £1, 17s. 6d. 1 Pennant's Parrot, with cage—Mr Jenkinson, Broughton Street, 30s. Rose-breasted Cockatoo, with cage—Mr Rose, 25s. Purple Capped Lory (Lorius domicellus), with cage—Mr J. Stewart, £2, 10s. Golden-headed Parakeet, with cage—Mr M'Gregor, builder, £2, 10s. Indian Parakeet, with cage—Mr Peacock, Edinburgh, 30s. 1 Pair Lemon-crested Cockatoos (Phyctolophis.)—Mr Jenkinson, £2, 8s. 1 Do.—Mr Liddell, West Port, £2, 14s. White-crested Cockatoo—Mr Dewar, £1, 13s. Lemon-crested do.—Mr Scott, Edinburgh, £8. 1 Green Parrot—Mr Buist, £2, 2s. 1 Rose-breasted Cockatoo—Mr Young, 30s. Nylghau (Portax picta)—Van Amburgh, £26. Nylghau—Mr Jennison, £10, 10s. Llama (Lama Peruviana)—Mr Jamrach, £15. Boomer Kangaroo (Halmaturus)—Mr Rice, £12. Wolf (Canis Lupus)—Mr Bostock (travelling menagerie), £1, 2s. Do.—Mr Bostock, £1, 2s. Do.—Mr Bostock, £1, 2s. Ocelot (Felis pardalis)—Van Amburgh, £6, 10s. African Porcupine (Hystrix cristata)—Van Amburgh, £5, 10s. Do.—Van Amburgh, £5, 10s. Do.—Van Amburgh, £5, 10s. Wombat (Didelphus Ursina)—Van Amburgh, £7. Leopard (faulty)—Mr Simons (menagerie), £8. Brown Coati-Mondi (Nasua rufa)—Professor Wyville Thomson, £1, 10s. Common Jackal (Canis aureus)—Mr Simons, £1, 6s. Saddle-back Jackal (Canis Mesomelas)—Professor Edwards, Paris Jardin des Plantes, £3. Thibetian Sun Bear (Helarctos Tibetanus)—Mr Jamrach, £5, 5s. Polar Bear (Thalarctos maritimus)—Professor Edwards, £40. Brown Bear (Ursus Arctos)—Mr Bostock, £7. Performing Leopard (Felis leopardus)—Mr Jamrach, £20. Do. Leopardess—Mr Jamrach, £20. Do. do.—Mr Jamrach, £20. Do. Hyena (Striata)—Mr Bostock, £3, 5s. Do. Wolf—Mr Bostock, £1, 10s. Do. do.—Mr Bostock, £1, 10s. Lion, "Wallace," 7½ years old—Mr Rice, £85. Royal Bengal Tigress "Tippoo," in cub, 3 years old; magnificent animal, with a splendid performance—Mr Jamrach, £155. Lion, "Duke of Edinburgh," 3 years old (Felis leo)—Mr Rice, £140. Lion, "Boss," 3 years old (faulty)—Mr Jamrach, £20. Lioness, "Princess," about 3½ years old—Mr Rice, £80. Do., "Alexandra," do.—Mr Rice, £80. Do., "Victoria," 4 years old, in cub to Lion "Hannibal"—Mr Jennison, £105. Black-maned Lion, "Hannibal," 6½ years old, the handsomest and largest Lion in Britain—Mr Jackson, Bristol Zoological Gardens, £270. Lion, "Nero," 7½ years old, very fine—Mr Rice, £140. Leopardess (aged)—Mrs Day, £6, 5s. Lion, "Prince Arthur," 18 months old, son of "Hannibal"—Mr Rice, £90. Lion, "Prince Alfred," 18 months old, son of "Hannibal"—Mr Rice, £90. Spotted Hyena (Crocuta maculata)—Van Amburgh, £15. Burchell Zebra (Equus Zebra)—Mr Rice, £50. Gnoo (Connochetes Gnu)—Mr Rice, £85. Male Tusked Elephant (Elephas Indicus), about 7 feet 6 inches high, nearly eight years old, growing fast, has tusks nearly 20 inches long, and is, without exception, a handsome, most docile, and clever performing elephant—Mr Jennison, Bellevue Gardens, Manchester, £680. Female Elephant, about 5 feet 6 inches high, very clever performer on the organ, &c., can travel from thirty to forty miles a day—Mr Rice, £145. Two Boa Constrictors—Mr Stevens, showman, £12. Malabar Squirrel—Mr T. Peacock, Edinburgh, £5. Male Bactrian Camel (Camelus bactrianus), 7 feet high, 12 years old—Mr Morgan, Edinburgh, £19. Female do., in calf, 6½ feet high, 10 years old—Mrs Day, £30. Female do., in calf, 6½ feet high, 5 years old—Mr Edmonds, menagerie, £23. Male do., 5 feet high, 1½ years old—Mr Bostock, £14. Female do., in calf, 5 feet high, 1½ years old—Mr Bostock, £14. Male Dromedary (Camelus dromedarius), 7½ feet, 5 years old—Mr Rice, £30. Female do., 6½ feet high, 14 years old—Mr Bostock, £21. Male Camel calf, born February 6, 1872—Dr M'Kendrick, £9, 10s. Spotted Carriage Dog—Mr Brown, Gymnasium, 20s. Indian Goat—Mr Liddle, £1, 7s.

The Society of Biblical Archæology has lately received from Captain F. Prideaux a rich present for its library, in the shape of an ancient Sepher-Torah, dating from the tenth century. This MS. is the only copy of the Pentateuch as used by the Aden Jews, descendants of the pre-Mahometan inhabitants, which has yet reached this country.

Fighting in Venezuela.—The *Opinion National* of Caracas, up to the 8th March, is full of the triumphs of the President, Guzman Blanco. On the 7th February he completely destroyed the oligarchical army of Apura. On the 18th of that month he was received with the utmost warmth by the people of Valencia, and he himself reached Caracas on the 22d. On the 1st March the news of the capture of Ciudad Bolivar by the friends of Guzman was received. Since then all Guayana appears to have submitted. Caracas gave the President a brilliant reception on the 6th March, and peace seems completely restored throughout the Republic.

Swiss Emigration Statistics.—Reports have been furnished by the different cantons in Switzerland, with the exception of Uri, Valais, Solothurn, and Geneva, of the number of emigrants that have left them during the past year, the total being 3494 persons. In 1869, the number was 5206, and in 1868, 5007. 289 were from Zurich, 758 from Berne, 245 from St Gall, 381 from Aargau, and 754 from Tessin. The other cantons have sent much smaller numbers. Out of the number, 2377 emigrated to North America, 170 to the Middle States, and 781 to the South; 71 went to Australia, 12 to Asia, 74 to Africa. There remain 9 emigrants whose destination is unknown.

Mdlle. Nilsson.—The Swedish songstress took leave of the New York public on the night of the 24th ult., in the last act of the opera of "Hamlet," and owing to the circumstances, but, according to the *Herald*, not to the beauty of the piece, immense enthusiasm was evoked. Mdlle. Nilsson made her début in New York on September 17, 1870, and sang during the season in 120 concerts. On October 23 of the following year she made her first appearance there in opera, "Lucia di Lammermoor" being the one chosen, and has since sung in 100 operatic performances. She is engaged as the principal attraction at Drury Lane, London, during the approaching season. Then she proceeds to St Petersburg, and the *Herald* says "her engagements in Europe are of such a nature that it is extremely doubtful if she will return to America before many years are over. She will then re-appear under another name, we suppose, as her marriage takes place in Paris early next fall."

American Exaggeration.—It is curious to note the wonderful comments of the American press on the Washington Treaty misunderstanding, and the state of feeling evoked in this country as seen across the Atlantic. The *Herald* informs its readers that "misrepresentation followed misrepresentation (by the British press), until England was roused as one man—angry, defiant, and ready for war. The Channel and Mediterranean fleets were set in motion, business was paralysed, and more money really lost by that reason than would pay the whole Alabama claims." In a flourish of heraldic rhetoric, it goes on to say, "The spectacle of any nation arising in anger, and speaking as one man in defence of the country and the flag, is the most sublime that can be seen on this earth, and there was something terrible and thrilling in this people of England in the attitude of angry emotions. . . . But America was insulted, outraged, cruelly wronged. That was nothing." America, however, we are told, notwithstanding this terrible hubbub amongst us, "has been calm, confident, patient. The contrast will do us great honour. The lesson it teaches is, that England should take pains to know a little more about America." The *Herald* ought to take the lesson itself, and learn to know a little more truthfulness about England.