



"BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER."

"WHAT IS THE MATTER, DE MOWBRAY? YOU SEEM SAD AND DEPRESSED!"

"HOW CAN I HELP IT, MY DEAR FELLOW? IT'S THE ANNIVERSARY OF A SAD EVENT IN OUR FAMILY. YOUNG AUBREY DE MOWBRAY (A YOUNGER SON, BUT A TRUE DE MOWBRAY) FELL THIS DAY, BY THE HAND OF A LOW-BORN SAXON, AT THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS!"

[De Mowbray weeps.]

CHRISTMAS ABROAD.

In Poland they fasten up all the back doors, in the presence of unimpeachable witnesses, with gilt-headed nails, and burn branches of laurestinus and lavender, liberally steeped in brandy, before the houses of the wealthier inhabitants, to the music of castanets and hautboys.

In Greece the boys (if under twelve) and girls are allowed to remain in bed an hour later than usual; and the most muscular men in each parish take it in turns to sit astride the church weathercock and proclaim the hour from four A.M. to four P.M., when they adjourn to the house of the Chief Architrave, and are regaled with sweetmeats and syllabubs at the expense of the rate-payers.

In Asia Minor the streets are strewn with crocuses and snowdrops at daybreak, and soft music is played at intervals, by wind instruments, in the piazzas and arcades without intermission.

In Illyria the principal dish is an Ibex roasted whole, stuffed with pistachio nuts, truffles, olives, ortolans, oysters, forcemeat balls, plovers' eggs, and Sultana raisins, and served up with a sauce consisting of cream, currant jelly, port wine, prunes, sweet almonds, and the best Maraschino.

In Sweden, all the dogs, cats, and domesticated poultry, have blue ribbons tied round their necks by the local Magistracy, to which little silver bells are subsequently attached by the unmarried ladies. A procession is then formed, headed by the hand-bells and companies of minstrels, answering in some respects to our Waits, but dressed in scarlet and orange, which makes the circuit of the town walls till the clocks strike twelve, when the torches are all extinguished, and the crowd go home to sup off curlews and cranberry tart.

In Savoy, the curious old custom of charming the spider—handed down from pre-historic times—is still kept up with much pomp and ceremony. Deputations from all the principal Guilds and Corporations attend, with flags and banners emblazoned with green spiders on a gold ground, and for many days beforehand the passes and

REQUIEM ON THE RHINOCEROS.

ZOOLOGY, that modern Muse,
In Regent's Park bewails her loss,
Hark how, whilst tears her eyes suffuse,
She mourns her gone Rhinoceros:

"Your holly with your cypress twine,
And blend your mistletoe with yew.
That loved Rhinoceros of mine
Has paid the debt to Nature due.

"As 'twere a seven-fold shield, his hide
Was proof 'gainst human thrust or throw.
But that fell shaft which Death hath shied
Lays Hog in toughest Armour low.

"Yet shall the Prince of Pachyderms,
Although his vital spark hath fled,
Become a banquet for the worms,
As useless creatures do when dead?

"The Lion's or the Tiger's maw
Sarcophagus more meet would be,
Unless the medicine-men foresaw
That with his tomb he'd disagree.

"But wheresoe'er his flesh have gone,
We'll piously preserve his bones,
Of him at least the skeleton
Shall ne'er descend to Davy Jones.

"And fare his carcase how it may,
No greedy grave shall gorge his skin,
It shall be stuffed and stowed away
A fit Museum's walls within.

"His snout, now sunk in brief repose,
Again in mimic life shall rise,
And so the horn upon his nose
Continue pointing to the skies."

TIT FOR TAT.

A "NATIONAL Federation of Employers" has been formed for defensive purposes against the designs of Trades' Unions. When Extortionists combine, Employers should unite.

gorges re-echo to this quaint ditty (sung to a street-organ accompaniment)—

"The Spider we charm,
To keep us from harm,
From warlock, and weevil, and drought;
From the sting of the bee,
And the foam of the Sea,
From toothache, lumbago, and gout."

And then they join hands and dance round the blazing yule log.

A Rare Waterfowl.

At a public meeting on Monday last week at Plymouth, convened by the Mayor, the medal of the Royal Humane Society was presented on behalf of that Association by the BISHOP OF EXETER to a young lady, MISS REYNOLDS, for having, in August last, saved a girl from drowning by swimming out to her assistance. This act of courage recalls to mind the similar exploits achieved by the brave GRACE DARLING, whose name has a sense in which it may be considered applicable to MISS REYNOLDS, with this addition, that a young lady who has saved life by personal swimming deserves moreover to be accounted a regular duck.

A Motto Vindicated.

"MR. VERNON HARCOURT, the new Solicitor-General, has received the honour of knighthood."

"SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT observes that," &c.—*Times, passim.*

"SIR WILLIAM now, he talks like other folks,
But the prænomen this remark provokes—
Why "WILLIAM," and not "VERNON?" Every fool
His *ver non semper virescit* learned at school:
So HARCOURT flourishes, and merit's crowned,
And withering VERNON flutters to the ground.