

taken from him, or, as we should say 'his gown pulled over his head,' a loss that did not affect his resolution in the least. I am glad to relate that Ruby's father, returning about this time with great honour, declared, when he heard of the affair, that the young man's conduct was worthy of the greatest respect, and insisted that his diploma should be returned to him."

The above extract will give some idea of the entertaining style which characterised the lecture, upon which evidently great pains and scholarship had been bestowed.—*Daily Press*.

Clippings.

The British Bq. *Argonaut* sailed from Cardiff Sept. 13th. Westerly winds down to the parallel of Cape Finisterre. From thence easterly winds took us to the N. E. Trades which were fresh and steady, but lost them upon sighting San Antonio. Fair run across the variables. Entered S.E. Trade on parallel of 2° 18' South; they were light and fine throughout. Ran down our Easting in Lat. 42° S., passing Tristram d'Acunha on 31st Oct. and rounded Cape on Nov. 8th, up to which time we had moderate breezes from southward and eastward. Nov. 15th weather began to be very unsettled, with heavy squalls, thunder, lightning and rain, at which time several sails were lost. This continued up to time of sighting Amsterdam, which was passed on the eve of Nov. 24th. Nov. 25th during a heavy gale from S.W., a sea broke on board and stove in gig and pinnace; wind and sea increasing; hove to on starboard back; 27th more moderate; put ship on her course again, from thence light S. Westerly winds till 14th Dec. (15° 53' Lat. and Long. 115° 59' E.) experienced a succession of heavy gales. At daylight of 16th Dec. it fell suddenly calm, barometer having fallen to 28° 50'; at 8 a.m. the wind burst on us from S.W. and blew a violent hurricane, vessel under close reefed main-top-sail; the heaviest of the wind lasted about 4 or 5 hours when it gradually moderated. Afterwards moderate winds and fine weather till off Sandalwood Islands, which we sighted on 20th Dec. and passed through Gilolo passage on 27th. Experienced light airs and calms from eastward for 10 days, after which N.E. trades which were very unsteady and squally. Passed Loochoo Jan. 17th, from which time we had a succession of gales from northward up to the North Saddles on Saturday last, when we got a pilot, and sailed up to Woosung and brought up at 8 p.m. Jan. 25th.

THE HUMOURS OF THE HONG LIST.

The following article, from the *China Mail*, so well states our own case, with regard to the compiling of the "Desk Hong List," that we cannot refrain from giving our readers the benefit of it.

When the Prophet Job expressed a wish that his enemy would write a book, he might have made his remark far more bitter by suggesting that he should compile a Directory. As the newspaper is to the business circular, so is the Directory to the ordinary book. We refer, of course, to the personal trouble and vexation involved in the compilation, and not to the brain work. Books are, as a rule, written by people who take an interest in their work, quite apart from its practical out-turn in dollars and cents. The directory compiler finds but a very limited field for the exercise of anything but plodding industry, even temper, and discretion. He finishes his work upon a long array of names with two cheering convictions—that errors will almost certainly be found in it, and that for "disconnected reading" a directory is worse than a dictionary. It has occurred to us that our readers may derive some amusement, as they almost certainly will some information, from a light sketch of some of the difficulties which beset the Directory-maker.

Of course the first and most common annoyance arises from people who won't send in their returns. They are of various classes and act from different motives. The first may be called the "don't care" people. Though constantly obliged to refer to the useful works they are too lazy to aid (for

they never make an effort to recollect anybody's address), they receive the notice asking for particulars of their names, professions, &c., and throw it contemptuously aside. "They don't care twopence" whether their names appear or not; "They are not going to be bothered" &c. But sublime is the wrath of one of these self-same individuals when say, John W. B. Smith, who has just been admitted a partner in the firm of Hookem, Slingem & Co., appears as a clerk under the initials of I. M. P. Smith. He swears at the carelessness or worse of those confounded directory fellows, who must have put him in wrongly on purpose. Everybody at the open port of Wanglan knows that he is a Taipan and signs J. W. B. How is it possible that publishers at Hongkong or Shanghai should be ignorant of these facts? Almost worse, however, than our friend Smith, is our correspondent Jones. He is not quite so lazy, as he does condescend to glance over the return sent him. He notices that his own name has J as an initial instead of I, and corrects it with a sharp note at foot begging that such "uncalled for carelessness" may not again occur—quite oblivious of the fact that his hand-writing is not copper-plate and that last year nobody in the office could decide which letter he meant. But with all this, Jones is one of the "don't-cares" as regards the rest of the return. He thinks that the names of the other men in the house are correctly entered, isn't going to take any trouble to ensure their accuracy. So Jones posts the return to the publisher, and besides not paying the postage, puts it in an envelope, thereby quadrupling the stamp. Jones is with us a very constant correspondent.

Next to the "don't cares" we may place the "over particular" men. They ignore, too, such trifles as postage, but are very particular in stating their full names. Thus, John James William McGoggins Robinson intimates that, unless his full name be inserted he shall not subscribe for a copy. That it can be any object to the printers to condense this high-sounding cognomen, he cannot imagine. Under the same head we may include the man who attempts to run in a ten-line advertisement of his business, gratis, under his name. Thus, we occasionally receive notices that "John Jehu, Broker," is "Agent for Messrs. Jones and Corkodale and Sons, manufacturers of patent pegtops, and sole licensees of the new anti-freezing friction rollers, of 10.09, Bishopsgate Street, Without," with a request that this may follow his name in the alphabetical list. He looks upon an omission to oblige him as a most mean and objectless proceeding on the part of the publishers. Next to the "over particular" man is the "swell." The swell may be (generally is) somebody whose importance is as yet unrecognized of gods or men. Did the rest of the world think as highly of him as he thinks of himself, he would occupy a niche just above Palmerston and Bismark. But it is pleasant to be able to shew his self-appreciation to those who are far too occupied to do more than give a passing laugh at his airs. Our "swell" writes to the publishers of a directory and informs them that "having received their application, he has to state that he gives them permission to insert the public company he represents in their list." To assert that no permission of his was needed for the purpose would probably strike him as most outrageous.

Another difficulty which besets the directory compiler arises from the carelessness with which leading houses register the names of their employes. Thus, we find that the representative of the eminent firm of Mardon, Thatcher & Co. at Cow-e-chow is put down as "Brown, B." Later returns (in fact very late returns) received after this name has gone to press, disclose the fact that the said representative's name is "Browne de Browne, Esq.,"—and that he is painfully anxious to have his name "spelt with an e" as well as to have the aristocratic "de" inserted before it. Now, in this case, de Browne is right, but it scarcely lies with a publisher to reprint some eight pages because a "de" has been accidentally omitted. Carelessness of this sort is more common than most people suppose. We could name several eminent houses whose returns are contradicted by the signature of the employes on their lists. If, however, difficulties of this sort abound with European and American houses, they become indefinitely multiplied when Parsee, Indian, or Mahomedan houses are

in question. To those unacquainted with the firms, it becomes a hopeless matter to decide whether Alleybhoy Can Mahomed should be entered as "Alleybhoy C. M." or "Mahomed, A. C." The only resource is to print them as received and hope that they are right, though experience generally proves that they are wrong. More embarrassing than all, are those who persist in letting their names figure in several firms at once. It is morally impossible that a man can be at two ports, say, a butcher at one, and a pilot at the other. Yet if the Directory returns are to be believed, such cases are possible, as no "absent" marks the fact that merely an interest is, in the one case, retained. The compiler again is frequently troubled by what may be termed the comets and shooting stars of the directory system. Thus Jones de Jones appears in 1870, disappears in 1871, and reappears in 1872, with an angry note, asking why he is thus treated. The obvious reason given—that he omitted to send any return—is considered "a mere excuse." So too with the "shooting stars" of the directory firmament. That eminent lawyer Buzfuz transfers his oratory from the Manilas to Shanghai and is quite aggrieved to find that the inner consciousness of the directory people has not made them aware of the fact. One way and another the work involved in getting together the necessary names, sorting and arranging them, is, even in so small a community as that of China, well nigh hereulean. Those who hereafter consult the directory issued from this or contemporary offices may advantageously bear the facts we have sketched in mind. No doubt directories are published for the pecuniary benefit of their projectors. But cabs are built on the same principle, and the man who wantonly threw all sorts of obstacles in the way of the builder, by neglecting to forward his word or paint or cloth, would rightly be deemed an obstructor of public convenience. Perhaps some of our readers may recognize their own portraits under the fictitious names given. If they do, we trust that they will quietly take the hint, secure in the knowledge that none but ourselves can possibly have any idea to whom we are referring.

The New York *Nation* gives the following account of the inauguration of the statue of Sir Walter Scott at that City. A bronze statue of Sir Walter Scott, copied from that surmounting the Monument at Edinburgh, was erected in the Central Park on Saturday last, beside the Mall, and a few yards from that of Shakespeare. The funds were raised by the Scotchmen of this city, and one of their number, Mr. Wood, presented it, in a brief speech, to the Park Commissioners, Mr. Andrew H. Green receiving it, and Mr. Bryant closing the proceedings with an address. There was a large body of spectators present, the Scotch element predominating, and a company of the 79th Highlanders furnished a guard of honor, and five pipers marched round the monument furnishing a pibroch. There was nothing new to be said about Scott, and nothing new was attempted. The scene itself was one of the greatest tributes that could be paid to the memory of a great man. The spectacle of Lowland Scotchmen—that is, of Anglo-Saxon Presbyterians—clad in Highland kilts and tartan, is to the historical observer one of the strangest spectacles to be seen anywhere, and it is all or nearly all Scott's doing. It is true that Lowland Scotchmen have glorified the kilt and tartan on many famous fields, but it was Scott who made them proud to wear them as a national costume. It is in reality the most Celtic of costumes; it was "the garb of old Gaul" 2,000 years ago, and, down to the close of the last century, it was in the eyes of Scotchmen the dress of blackguard cow thieves and horse thieves, and the sight of a pair of bare legs sticking out of a petticoat made elders swear. The great "Wizard of the North," however, took it, waved his wand over it, and ever since the Johnstons, and Thompsons, and Robinsons are as eager to wear it as the Campbells or McIvors, and have made it thoroughly respectable, though it must be admitted their knees look a little too white in it.

FOOCHOW SHIPPING.

Arrivals during the week ending 17th January 1873:—Marie Louise, from Hongkong to Sydney; Hai-loong, from Hong