

OUR NEW GOVERNOR.

THE following sketch of the early history of Lord Ranfurly's family, taken from Carpenter's 'Peerage of the People,' may be of interest.—Mr Thomas Knox, a descendant of one of the early adventurers into Ireland, represented Dungannon in the Irish Parliament, and was rewarded pretty liberally by 'the heaven-born Minister' for the influence he afforded him in carrying the measure of the union between the two countries. Two of his sons, Thomas and Vesey, were appointed Prothonotaries in the Irish Court of Common Pleas; another son was transferred from the worst bishopric—Killala—to the second best in the county Limerick; another was appointed to the Deanery of Down; and a fifth was made a General on the Staff. No other family in Ireland—the Beresfords alone excepted—have received so much of the public money as have the family of the Knoxes. But a few words about the Prothonotaryship of the Common Pleas. The office was, of course, a mere sinecure, the duties being discharged by deputy, who handed over to his principals £12,000 a year, upon the average, without subjecting them to any other trouble than that of receiving the money. (They had in all £235,127 7s 3d). While these Knoxes were in office Mr Peel filled the situation of Secretary for Ireland, and a communication was made to him by a gentleman named Ball, who was practising as an attorney, that frauds on the revenue to an enormous extent were annually committed in the Prothonotaries' office. Mr Peel, in a letter which can still be produced, replied that if the statements made by Mr Ball proved to be well founded, 'neither family, rank, nor influence' should prevail upon him to screen the parties. An inquiry was instituted, and Mr Ball's statements were more than borne out by the results. It was ascertained that a practice had long prevailed in the Prothonotaries' office of recording the judgments of the Court on parchments without any stamps, although the usual payments, including the charge for stamps, were demanded and received. Thus large sums belonging to the public revenue were abstracted and transferred to their own pockets by these trustworthy officers! But these frauds, enormous as they were, constituted but a small part of the evil. The most dreadful grievance was the insecure state in which the practice had placed the property of all those persons for whom judgments had been entered; for in consequence of the records being destitute of the stamps required by law, they were not legal instruments, and their effects became null and void. Any man who had obtained judgment on a bond, and afterwards came into possession of an estate in virtue of such judgment, might be turned out of his property, after his security was cancelled, on account of the illegality of the instrument which purported to convey it to him! Every individual, in fact, against whom a judgment had been entered, might have had it reversed upon this ground. The Commissioners of Inquiry found piles upon piles of parchments containing the records of cases adjudged in the court upon which there was not a single stamp; and the calculation that was made—although it did not go to the whole extent of the case—showed that the revenue had been defrauded of at least half a million of money! Mr Ball, who had brought this enormous atrocity to light generously refused compensation for the discovery, and insisted that the affair should be investigated in Parliament, that the delinquents might have their merited reward. This was promised by Mr Peel, and letters under his own hand show that he was fully satisfied of the enormity of the case. The inquiry was, however, postponed from time to time, one excuse after another being suggested, until at length he resigned the Secretaryship of Ireland, and entered upon that for the Home Department. Mr Ball followed him to England, and tried various means to extort from him the fulfilment of his pledge. Persecution, however, was all this worthy man could realise, in return for his generous exertions. He was reduced to poverty and want; and one morning his room was entered by two men, who placed upon him a straight waistcoat and conveyed him to a private mad house, where he died within a few weeks afterwards. It was impossible, however, after the circumstances which were brought to light by the commissioners of inquiry that the patent office should be continued to Messrs the Hon. Thomas and Vesey Knox. The patent was rescinded, and the office swept of the parties inculpated in the proceedings we have detailed. The reader will, of course, expect that they were transported—if not hung—or if not so, that they were sent to the treadmill for life—or, at the least, to wander about as vagabonds, to be shunned and abhorred by honest men. No such thing. This is not the fashion in which great public delinquents are dealt with. Thomas and Vesey Knox, the prothonotaries, were rewarded with a pension, for their lives, of £7,150 3s a year; Mr George Hill, their deputy, was granted a patent place in the same office; and their latter, the member for Dungannon, was elevated to the Peerage of Ireland, as Baron Wells, and subsequently created Viscount Northland.

THE ADVANTAGES OF REST.

THERE is no better preventive of nervous exhaustion than regular, unhurried, muscular exercise. If we could moderate our hurry, lessen our worry, and increase our open-air exercise, a large proportion of nervous diseases would be abolished. For those who cannot get a sufficient holiday the best substitute is an occasional day in bed. Many whose nerves are constantly strained in their daily vocation have discovered this for themselves. A Spanish merchant in Barcelona told his medical man that he always went to bed for two or three days whenever he could be spared from business, and he laughed at those who spent their holiday on toilsome mountains. One of the hardest-worked women in England, who has for many years conducted a large wholesale business, retains excellent nerves at an advanced age, owing to her habit of spending one day a week in bed.

RIVAL EXPLORERS.

AT the time that the Duc de Chartres' son started on his trip to Abyssinia, the French Government sent out a special mission to King Menelik, under M. Bonvalot, who had been Prince Henry's companion in his explorations in Central Asia, Tonquin, and Thibet. It was supposed (says the Paris correspondent of the *Standard*) that the two missions were practically the same; but this was speedily denied by the French Government, who showed their disapproval of Prince Henry's expedition by recalling from Djibouti an infantry subaltern who had been granted special leave to enable him to accompany the Prince on his travels. A new complication has now arisen. M. Sabatier, an artist attached to the Prince's expedition, relates that a serious quarrel has taken place between the Prince and M. Bonvalot. The latter, with the members of his mission and M. Sabatier, embarked at Marseilles on board the *Irraouady*-Messageries Maritimes steamer. Prince Henry joined the vessel at Suez; but to the surprise of the passengers, instead of being warmly welcomed by his old fellow traveller, M. Bonvalot adopted a frigidly distant demeanour towards him.

The whole party landed at Djibouti. There M. Bonvalot was received by the French officials, who provided him and his companions with quarters, while Prince Henry was ignored. The rival explorers and their friends, however, took their meals at the same hotel, until, on February 24th, there occurred what M. Sabatier terms a painful incident. An Abyssinian interpreter of M. Bonvalot's was, it seems, guilty of some rudeness to M. de Poncius, one of Prince Henry's companions. M. de Poncius complained to M. Bonvalot in a very polite letter, in which he asked him, in the name of solidarity among white men, among Frenchmen, to reprimand his

LEARN a lesson for the season from the south of France. In the flower season at Cannes plates of glass are thinly covered with clarified inodorous fat, and upon or under this fat the flowers are placed, and the power this substance has to absorb and retain perfume is astonishing. On these sheets of glass the most delicate odours are thus fixed almost as securely as on the collodion prepared plates, the most delicate pictures are retained. In this way the jessamine, the violet, the tuberose, and orange perfume travel across France and arrive in England as pure as the day they were given forth from the flowers themselves. The emancipation of the odour from its imprisonment is very simple. The fat, cut into small cubes, is placed in spirits of wine, and the delicate essence immediately deserts the coarse fat for the more spiritual solvent. M. Piesse, in his interesting work on perfumery, says that 'while cultivators of gardens spend thousands for the gratification of the eye, they altogether neglect the nose. Why should we not grow flowers for their odours as well as for their colours?' And, we may add, the ladies may utilize some of our own waste garden perfumes very easily and with pecuniary advantage to themselves. Heliotrope, the lily of the valley, honeysuckle, myrtle, clove, pink, and wallflower perfumes, such as we get in the shops, are made up odours, cunningly contrived from other flowers. Yet they may be made pure with a little trouble. 'I want heliotrope pomade,' says M. Piesse, in despair. 'I would buy any amount that I could get.' And the way to get it is very simple. If there is a gluepot in the house, and it happens to be clean, fill it with clarified fat, set it near the hearth, or any other fire, just to make the fat liquid, and throw in as many heliotrope flowers as possible; let them remain for twenty-four hours, strain off the fat and add fresh ones; repeat this process for a week and the fat will have become a pomade a la heliotrope. The same process may be gone through with all the other flowers mentioned. A lady may in this manner make her own perfume, and we may add, in the words of M. Piesse, 'one that she cannot obtain for love or money at the perfumer's.'



man. What the offence of the Abyssinian interpreter may have been is not specified; but M. Bonvalot not only declined to reprimand his man, but after breakfast went up to M. de Poncius and told him, according to M. Sabatier, that 'this negro's manners were very good, and that it was no business on his part to teach him civility.' He added that M. de Poncius had acted wisely in not striking the Abyssinian, as the latter would surely have killed him. Then, getting excited, M. Bonvalot added that the two expeditions would meet during the inland journey, and that the Prince's party had better be careful as to how they behaved, and on taking his departure he remarked that his interpreter was 'worth more than all the Prince of Orleans' companions—nay, than the Prince himself, whom he regarded as a contemptible person, for whom he (M. Bonvalot) entertained the most profound contempt.' M. Sabatier vouches for the textual accuracy of these strong expressions, and adds that all those present looked at each other as though they were thunderstruck.

It appears from the sequel that Prince Henry wished to call out M. Bonvalot and fight him then and there, but he was prevailed upon to defer the duel until both parties shall have returned to France. M. Bonvalot transferred himself and his party to another *table d'hôte* for the remainder of his stay, and no intercourse took place between the two expeditions.

TO 'ENTRAP A PERFUME.'

AIR IN CROWDED ROOMS.

A WRITER in the *Nineteenth Century* says:—'Within doors we find that the number of micro organisms suspended in the air depends, as we should have expected, upon the number of people present, and the amount of disturbance of the air which is taking place. In illustration of this the following experiments, made at one of the Royal Society's conversations, held at Burlington House last year, may be mentioned. At the commencement of the evening, when a number of persons were already present, and the temperature was at 67deg. Fahr., the two gallons of air examined yielded 326 organisms; later on, as the rooms became densely crowded, as indicated by the temperature rising to 72deg. Fahr., the number reached 432. The next morning, on the other hand, when the room was empty, the air yielded only 130, but even this is doubtless in excess of the number which would be present in the room in question under normal conditions, in which, judging from experience, I should expect to find about 40 to 60 in the same volume of air.'