

Miss Julia Pastrana, the embalmed nondescript : exhibiting at 191, Piccadilly.

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MISS JULIA PASTRANA,
THE ENBALMED NONDESCRIBT, EXHIBITING AT 191, PICCADILLY.

vessels which had run the blockade, of all those that had been taken in the attempt, and of all that had gone into the port of Nassau laden with contraband stores, contrary to the Queen's proclamation. This was a blow at the assumed neutrality of the British Government, and The O'Donoghue said so. His resolution was seconded by Mr. M'Evoy, but ultimately it was withdrawn. Mr. Lyard said the Government had not the return, and if they had it was not likely they would give it; and the Solicitor-General said the mover and seconder of the resolution had quite misunderstood the tenor of the Queen's proclamation, which threw on neutral British vessels the risk of taking part with a belligerent.

THE BUDGET.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer has given notice that his financial statement will be made before Easter.

THE DISTRESS IN IRELAND.—Yesterday week, in the House of Commons, Mr. Maguire directed attention to the existence of serious distress in Ireland, and adduced facts in support of the statements he had made on a former evening, and of his own veracity, which had been impeached on that occasion by the Chief Secretary.—Sir R. Peel reminded the House that that was the third time within a fortnight that Mr. Maguire had brought this question before the notice of the House, and that the latest they had heard did not come from the landed proprietors, the tenant farmers, the representatives of popular constituencies, or the people themselves, but simply and solely from a few persons in Ireland represented by the member for Dungarvan. So far from the cry of distress being true, he believed that upon the whole the condition of the country was sound and satisfactory.—Mr. Dawson denied that the suffering was either so general or unusual as to demand the intervention of Parliament.—Considerable discussion ensued, and the subject dropped.

SQUABBLE BETWEEN SIR ROBERT PEEL AND THE O'DONOGHUE.—In the House of Commons, on Monday, the benches were crowded at a few minutes after four o'clock by an excited assemblage of members, who had been drawn together at that early hour in anticipation of "a scene" arising out of language used in debate by Sir Robert Peel on Friday week, which had been considered personally offensive by The O'Donoghue, and had prompted that honorable member to commit a breach of privilege by dispatching "a friend" to the right hon. Baronet to demand apology or satisfaction. Lord Palmerston's rising to his feet had the effect of hushing the uproar that prevailed during the time of private business, and breathless silence at once succeeded. The noble Lord observed that he had to bring before the House a question of great importance, affecting, as it did, one of their greatest privileges—that of perfect freedom of speech. Some expressions in the speech of Sir Robert Peel on Friday last, upon Mr. Maguire's motion, had given offence to the hon. member for Tipperary (The O'Donoghue), and the consequence had been a "message" from that hon. member to Sir Robert, who, at his (Lord Palmerston's) own suggestion, had referred the gentleman who conveyed the message to him. Lord Palmerston reminded the House that by its rules it was competent to any member to question what another member might say in the House, but not out of it, and that this was one of the most important privileges of Parliament. Having brought the matter to their notice, he left the House and the Chair to deal with it.—The Speaker said a distinct breach of the privileges of the House had been committed by The O'Donoghue, and it was his (the Speaker's) duty to call upon him to express his regret and to give an assurance that the matter should go no further.—Major Gavin, who had acted as the "friend" of The O'Donoghue, quoted the words used by Sir R. Peel, which he had been of opinion required "explanation," and stated the course he had advised his friend to take, and his own proceedings thereupon.—The Speaker said that, according to the rules of the House, if any expression used in debate was objected to, the objection must be made at once; that the time had now gone by; and he repeated his call upon the hon. member.—The O'Donoghue said he should regret deeply to violate the privileges of the House, that language had been used personally offensive to him, and tending to damage his social position, and that—though this assurance required a gentle pressure from the Chair—the affair should go no further.

THE FRENCH NAVY.—On Monday, in the House of Commons, Lord Palmerston said that some hon. members appeared to think that he was very much deceived last year when he stated the number of iron ships which the French Government had either completed or were building. He could assure hon. members that if there was any illusion on the subject it rested with them, and although he did not wish to repeat every year the name of each ship, and the place at which it was being built, he could assure the House that twenty-six ships were either built or being built last year by the French Government, and that, so far from their having been any diminution since, the Government had recently ordered ten more.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.—In the House of Commons, on Monday, Lord C. Parnet, in moving the Navy Estimates, said that the total amount asked for the year 1862 was £11,791,395; being a diminution of expenditure, compared with 1861-2, of £346,281. The actual decrease in the number of men was 2200, the number of men and boys to be voted this year being 76,000 against 78,200 last year. The number of boys was the same. He next stated the number of vessels on the home and foreign stations, the total force afloat being 100 vessels. The total number of men to be maintained afloat was 64,200. The loyal Naval

Reserve, whose noble conduct he eulogised, amounted to 10,100 men, and the cost, including all items, was £13 per man annually. He calculated that the future cost on account of pensions would be £3 per man. Adding to this force that of the Naval Coast Volunteers, he thought we were coming to a satisfactory state as to the force at home and our reserves. He next approached the subject of iron-cased ships, and the progress made in their preparation. There were fifteen in progress, eleven of which would be completed this year, one next year, and the whole number in 1864. With regard to their cost, that of the Warrior was £354,885, without the armament, which cost £13,000. The reports which the Admiralty had received of the qualities of that vessel justified him in saying that she was fit to go round the world; the sinister reports respecting her he believed to be totally without foundation. In one part of his speech he said, "Everybody will remember the controversy as to the construction of Captain Coles, with respect to which extensive experiments were carried on last year. We put it on an old floating-battery—we tried firing from it, and then firing at it; the result was, that it stood the most complete battering without showing any considerable signs of weakness. The Admiralty have since gone carefully into the matter, and we are now preparing an improved cupola, a double cupola to carry two guns; and we propose to construct a ship to carry six of these cupolas. She is to be of 2529 tons, of 600-horse power, and is to carry twelve breech-loading Armstrong 100-pounder guns; the length is to be 240 feet, with a draught of water of about 20 feet. We consider this a very important experiment. These vessels on Captain Coles' plan are very remarkable, as they are to have no masts, but to trust entirely to their steam, and are especially designed for coast defence."—After some discussion, the first vote of 76,000 seamen in the fleet and coastguard service was agreed to, as were also the following votes:—Wages for seamen and marines, £3,078,121; victuals for ditto, £1,302,093.

THE PROPOSED ROAD THROUGH KENSINGTON GARDENS.—In the House of Commons, on Tuesday, Mr. Cowper renewed his motion for leave to bring in a bill to amend the London Coal and Wine Duties Continuance Act, 1861, to authorise the formation of a road between Kensington-gore and Bayswater, and to apply the proceeds of the metropolis improvement fund account towards defraying the cost of the construction of such road. The right hon. gentleman, in reply to the apprehension expressed on a previous night that the proposed road would not be completed in time for the Great Exhibition, stated that an eminent contractor had undertaken to execute the work within three months, on the condition of not receiving one farthing if he did not at the end of that time deliver up the work in a perfect and complete state. Should the House consider a permanent road undesirable, however, he had no objection to introduce provisions in the bill for making it temporary. A long discussion ensued, in which so strong an opposition was shown towards the bill that Mr. Cowper ultimately agreed to withdraw it. The hon. gentleman said, however, that he should follow out the other branch of the subject—namely, the arrangement to be made for the temporary passage of vehicles—by proposing an estimate for the sum that would be necessary for that purpose.

MISS JULIA PASTRANA, THE NONDESCRIP.

In July, 1857, there was exhibited in London a very remarkable person, apparently a young lady, possessed of a comely figure, and who was dressed à la Fanny Elstler in the calèche—a short skirt, silken hose, and scarlet boots—displayed an ankle and other developments that for symmetry might be the envy of many a successful ballet dancer. She sang well, both in Spanish and English, danced with spirit and grace, conversed fluently, appeared to be clever at a repartee, and fully to appreciate a bon mot. She quite entered into the spirit of the exhibition, so to speak, and was never so lassy as when her "levées" were well attended. She appeared to be good-tempered and docile. So far there was nothing, of course, remarkable. But the body thus described had a head which might well excite astonishment. It was not the head of a negro, nor of a white man, nor of an orang-outang, nor of a Chinese, nor of a hippopotamus, nor of a lascar. Nevertheless, it partook of some of the marked features of the whole of these, together with others that cannot be reconciled with any hitherto ascertained laws of physical conformation. There was a head certainly, but, instead of being inclosed in a thick scalp, it was encased all over in flesh nearly an inch thick, and covered with long black hair. The forehead was sloping, the eyelids thick and heavy, with the dull, swelled appearance presented by the eyes of the hippopotamus in Regent's Park. The nose was broad, shaped like nothing human, and devoid of cartilage from the junction with the forehead. The jaws projected like those of the baboon species, and contained two sets of gums. In the forward upper gums were two short tusks; and in the back gum there were full-grown molar teeth, but no front teeth; but in the back gum there were some human teeth, and the lower lip projected about an inch beyond the jawbone. The tongue was like nothing in ordinary animal economy. It was simply a spongy mass, apparently perforated in all directions, and without shape or form. The whole of the face was covered with hairs of different lengths, and round the chin and cheeks there were a full beard and whiskers that a Crimean hero might be vain of possessing.

As to her origin, the statement that is generally credited concerning her is as follows:—

In 1830 several Digger women went up from Copala, in Mexico, to a small pond on the side of the mountain in order to bathe, according to the custom of the country. On returning home they soon after missed one of their companions. All endeavours to find her proved fruitless, and it was believed that she was drowned, until six years afterwards a Ranchero who was hunting for his cattle in the mountains heard a voice in a cave which he took to be that of a Mexican woman. He went down to Copala and got a company of men, who went up and surrounded the cave, and by great stratagem succeeded in recovering the lost woman. She stated that she missed her way, and had wandered to the top of the mountain, when she fell into the hands of a rival tribe of Digger Indians, who kept her closely confined in a cave for the whole time from her capture to her recovery by the Mexican Ranchero. The place, however, where she was found was some hundreds of miles from any human beings, whether Digger Indians or others, and in a region of country abounding in monkeys, baboons, and bears. She was at the time suckling this child, then about two years old. The woman professed to love this child dearly, though she disclaimed being its parent. The child was christened Julia Pastrana, and, its supposed mother being dead, she was allowed to remain in the family of Pedro Sanchez, Governor of the State of Sinaloa, in a domestic capacity. She remained in his family until April, 1864, when she was brought to the United States for exhibition, and has since appeared in all the principal cities and towns, exciting the greatest curiosity, especially among the medical faculty and naturalists.

The last chapter in this strange history has been thus described in a letter to the *Field*:—

"Having received an invitation to examine a great natural curiosity described as 'The Embalmed Non-descript,' now exhibiting at 191, Piccadilly (in the rooms lately occupied by the talking fish), I hastened to ascertain its nature. Immediately on viewing it I exclaimed 'Julia Pastrana!' 'Yes, sir,' said the proprietor of the exhibition, 'it is Julia Pastrana.' It may be remembered that some time ago (in 1867) a woman, said to be a native of Mexico, was exhibited in Regent-street who was remarkable for the immense quantity of long black hair that grew on and about her face. An idea was also attempted to be promulgated that she was not altogether human. Her name was Julia Pastrana. It appears that she died two years since at Moscow, in Russia, and that she was embalmed there by Professor Seckaloff, and the mummy thus prepared is now being exhibited. Having had some experience in human mummies, I was exceedingly surprised at what I saw. The figure is dressed in the ordinary exhibition costume used in life, and is placed erect upon a table. The limbs are by no means shrunken or contracted, the arms and chest, &c., retaining their former roundness and well-formed appearance. The face is marvellous; it is exactly like an exceedingly good portrait in wax, but it is not formed of wax. The closest examination convinced me that it was the true skin, prepared in some wonderful way; the huge deformed lips and the squat nose remain exactly as in life; and the beard and luxuriant growth of soft black hair on and about the face are in no respect changed from their former appearance. There is no unpleasant odour, or other disagreeable concomitant, about the figure; it is almost difficult to imagine that the mummy is really that of a human being, and not an artificial model. Mr. Bartlett, the eminent taxidermist (who has prepared most of the gorillas and other large animals now at the British Museum, Crystal Palace, and elsewhere), was with me, and gave me his opinion as a taxidermist of long and great experience. He agrees with me that it is the most wonderful specimen of the art of preserving ever brought before the public notice, and both he and I are at a loss to know the means which have been employed. F. T. BUCKLAND, 2nd Life Guards, Athleteum Club."

Sporting News.

THE MATCH FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP between Jem Maco and Joe Goss is off, in consequence of the severe injuries received by Joe in his late fight with Ryall. Jem Maco is therefore again adult, and rumours of all kinds are floating about as to who will be the "coming man."

RUNNING-MATCH BETWEEN DEERFOOT AND BRIGHTON.—The sporting public of the metropolis flocked on Monday afternoon to Mr. Roberts's inclosed pedestrian-ground, Thistle-grove-lane, West Brompton, to witness the second appearance of Deerfoot this season in a ten-mile encounter with John Brighton, of Norwich, the four and ten mile champion, who ran within three yards of Deerfoot in a ten-mile race on the 2nd of December last at Leeds, the time being 53 min. 10 sec. The stake was £50, and to accomplish the task allotted to them they had to make the circuit of the course forty times. The race was appointed to commence at four o'clock, and shortly after that time the men appeared on the ground, and the betting took a wide range at 6 to 4 and 2 to 1 on Deerfoot. The race was a very spirited one. Deerfoot, when within 120 yards of home, was leading by twelve yards, when Brighton put on the steam, but it was too late, and Deerfoot went in the winner by three yards. Time 53 min. 7 sec.

UNCLAIMED DIVIDENDS.—By a return recently printed it appears that on the 6th of January the unclaimed dividends at the Bank were £263,924.